

UNIT 2 FEUDAL SOCIETY

TAKS 1. Feudalism

1. Feudalism

Around the year 1000 Europe was not unified , it was formed by different kingdoms: kingdom of Franks, the Holy Roman Empire, muslim and christian kingdoms in the Iberian peninsula, the Papal states, the Slavic countries, the kingdom of Hungary and the British, Saxon and Scandinavian kingdoms in Great Britain.

Europe was a political and cultural diversity however there were some common elements which unified European people:

- 1.Christian religion and the same culture .
- 2.Trade that allowed communication among the different areas.
- 3.The same social system called feudalism.

Feudalism was the political, economic and social system during the Middle Ages. The feudalism lasted from the 9th to the 15th century and it was based on land possession and personal relationships of loyalties and protection between lords and vassals.

2. Origin of the feudalism .

From 9th to 10th centuries Europe had new invasions:

- 1.The Vikings, afterwards they were called Normans, came from Scandinavia and plundered coastal areas of Europe.
- 2.The Magyars came from steppes and founded Hungary.
- 3.The Slaves, from the Russian plains, settled in eastern Europe and the Balkans.
- 4.Muslims threatened the South of Europe and Mediterranean coasts.

Life in Europe was very unsafe and kings did not have enough power to protect their lands so they awarded lands to their noblemen and church people as payment for their military services (soldiers, building of fortress...). In this way noblemen became the king's vassals and helped them to protect their kingdoms in exchange for lands.

3. The fief

A fief was an area of land given to a vassal from a lord (the lord could be a king or a noble). Its size could vary largely from huge extensions and whole provinces to small areas.

Each fief had a castle where the lord lived also there were villages and churches even monasteries .

The fiefs were divided in two parts:

1. **Demesne**. it was the territory the lord used and had several parts.

- a. A castle residence of the lord.
- b. Lands for cultivation and there were forests and rivers too

2. **Holdings**. They were the rest of the fief and were composed of small plots rented to the peasants. They had to give part of their harvest to the lord and had to work some days a year in the demesne. They had to pay for using the facilities of the fief: forests , mills, ovens, bridges, water ...



EXERCISES.

1. Answer the next questions

- a. What is Feudalism?
- b. What was Feudalism based on ?
- c. How was Europe around the year 1000 A.D?
- d. Which elements unified Europe?
- e. Which peoples invaded Europe from 9th to 10th century?

2. Say if the next sentences are true or false

- a. Scandinavian people created kingdoms in Great Britain
- b. Feudalism lasted from 9th to 10th century
- c. Christianity was the only religion of Europe during the Middle Ages.
- d. Magyars were settled in Northern Europe.
- e. Europe was a very safe place in Middle Ages.
- f. Feudalism system was based on relationships of dependence.
- g. The fief and the demesne are the same.

3. Match

Vikings	Russian plains	Coats of southern Europe
Magyars	Scandinavia	Balkans
Slaves	Arabia	Coastal areas of northern Europe
Muslims	Eastern Europe	Hungary

4. Make definitions of the next words:

- a. Demesne:
- b. Loyalty:
- c. Fief:
- d. Monastery
- e. Harvest:
- f. Forest:
- g. Oven :
- h. Mill:
- i. Well:

5. Read this text . Fill in the blanks with the correct words and translate it.

wheat , several, rent, seeds , vassals, demesne , castle, peasants

Ethelberto, lord of Wessex , went from his _____to the village. He needed a lot of men to work in his _____. It was time to sow_____, barley and oat. Most of peasants were working in his_____, that year was being very cold so they had to dig very deeply to bury the_____. Ethelberto was a very good lord and his _____had to pay a cheap_____, for this reason a lot of_____, vassals of other lords, wanted to live in this fief .

When Ethelberto arrived to the village his soldiers started to ring the bells, it was the call for his vassals. They knew they should abandon their holdings and go to the lord's lands to work for _____days until their job was made.

TASK 2. Medieval society.

Medieval society was organised into three groups or states: knights, clergymen and peasants. Each state had different duties. Nevertheless the knights and clergymen had a lot of privileges for that reason they are called privileged states. On the contrary, peasants and craftsmen had no privilege so they were called no privileged

1. Privileged states.

Nobility and clergy were privileged states because they had not to pay taxes, owned most of the land and had different judicial systems.

They were a small minority of the population.

a. Nobility owned many lands and its main job was to fight.

b. Clergy owned main lands too and its main job was to pray.

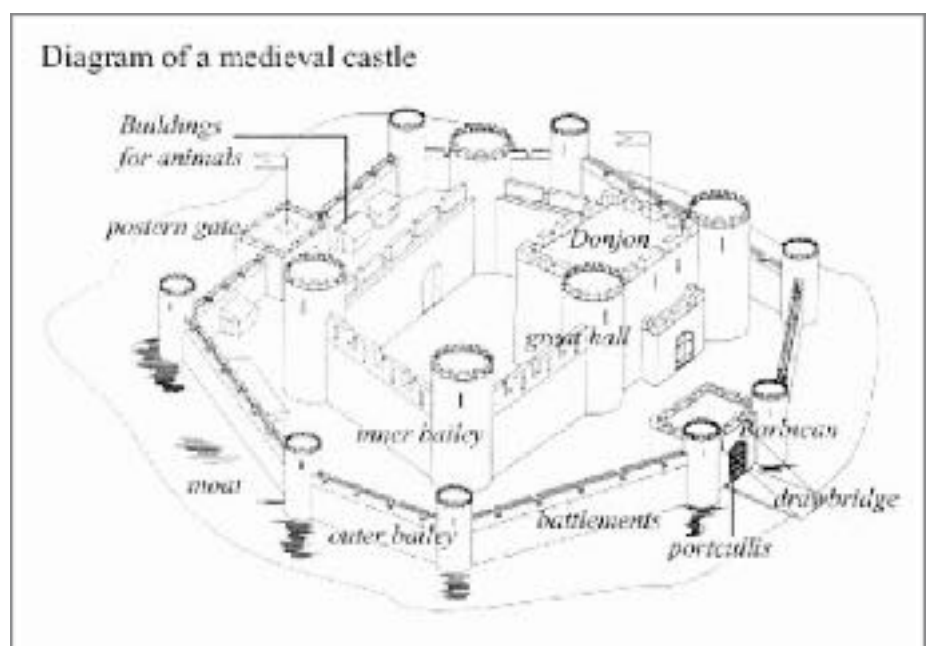
The remainder population, the common people or common sense, was not privileged, its main job was to work. They were peasants, craftsmen or merchants. Most of the peasants were serfs, people who had not rights and lived and worked on lord's lands.

1.1 The Nobility

The knights were noblemen. They were different types of knights, some of them were rich and powerful and others were modest knights and depended on rich noblemen.

They used to fight on horses and wore an armour and used swords, lances, maces and protected themselves with shields.

Noblemen were linked through vassalage. It



section

started with a ceremony where a knight swore fidelity to a lord, from this moment the knight had to pay homage (he must helped the lord in military matters) . On the other hand the lord protected the knight and gave him lands and a castle where the knight could live.

The great noblemen swore fidelity to the king and he rewarded them with large fiefs.

EXERCISES

1. Answer the next questions

- a. How many groups are there in the medieval society ?
- b. Why were nobility and clergymen privileged states?
- c. What kind of people belonged to the common sense?
- d. What meant to be a serf ?
- e. What were the main job of nobility ?

2. Say if the next sentences are true or false.

- a. Craftsmen must no pay taxes
- b. Main occupation of peasants was to pray
- c. A knight wore an armour when he had to fight
- d. Noblemen were linked through vassalage
- e. Vassalage started with a fight
- f. Knights lived in monasteries

3. Match the following words about castles with its meaning in spanish

Inner bailey	Puente levadizo
Outer bailey	Torre de homenaje (torreón)
Postern gate	Foso
Moat	Reja levadiza
Donjon	Almena
Battlement	Barbacana
Portcullis	Patio exterior
Drawbridge	Puerta trasera
Barbican	Patio interior

8 Matching questions

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <input type="text"/> Portcullis | <input type="text"/> a |
| | A defensive gatehouse at the entrance of a castle |
| 2. <input type="text"/> Drawbridge | <input type="text"/> b |
| | A deep, wide trench surrounding a castle, fort, or town, typically filled with water and intended as a defense against attacks. |
| 3. <input type="text"/> Barbican | <input type="text"/> c |
| | The medieval word for a castle tower; also known as the "keep" |
| 4. <input type="text"/> Battlement | <input type="text"/> d |
| | Sliding iron door hung over castle entrance |
| 5. <input type="text"/> Moat | <input type="text"/> e |
| | A defense wall with alternating high and low sections |
| 6. <input type="text"/> Postern gate | <input type="text"/> f |
| | A bridge that can be raised or lowered to prevent or allow passage. |
| 7. <input type="text"/> Donjon | <input type="text"/> g |
| | Courtyard in a medieval castle within the walls where soldiers and animals could live |
| 8. <input type="text"/> Bailey | <input type="text"/> h |
| | Back gate, supposedly a secret. It could be used to escape from an attack. |

4. Fill in the blanks with the following words: **owned , armour, clergymen , castles , peasants, states, swore, vassalage, knights.**

- a. _____ wore an _____ when they fought.
- b. _____ started with a ceremony .
- c. Knights _____ fidelity to a lord .
- d. Nobility _____ a lot of lands.
- e. _____ had no privileges.
- f. Medieval society was divided into three _____.
- g. Knights lived in _____.

h. Knights and _____ had a lot of privileges.

1.2 Clergymen

Christianity was the most popular religion in Europe and it was one of the elements which made the biggest contribution to the formation of a common civilization.

In this way pilgrimage ways like Saint James' way were very important to spread christian culture.

The Pope from Rome had an important role in political evolution of Europe because he could excommunicate a king.

The Church was divided into two groups:

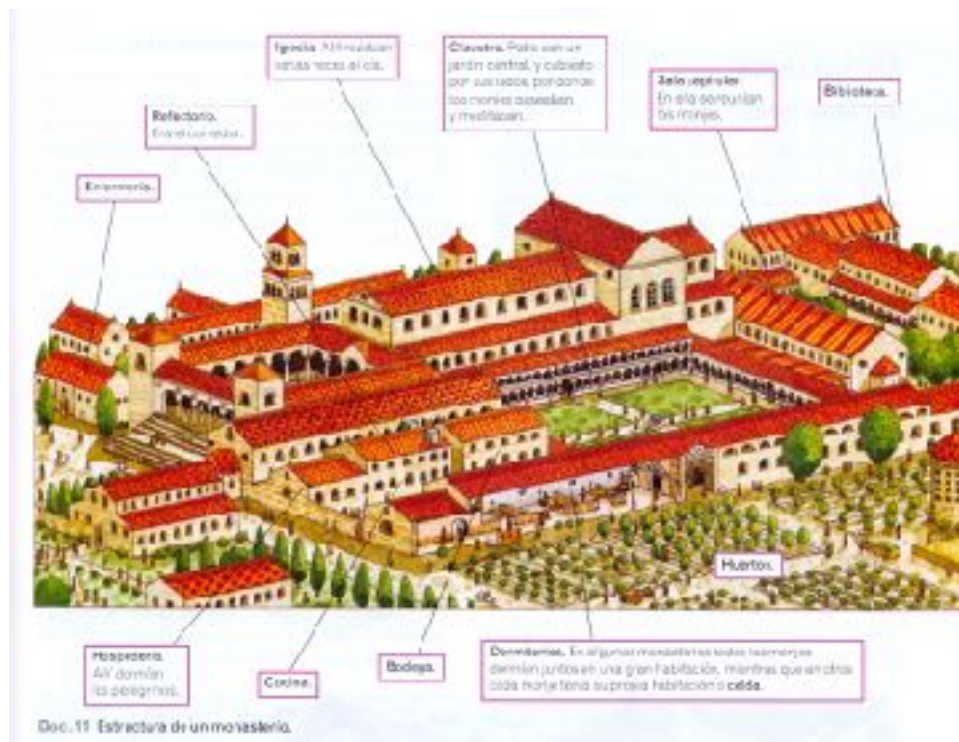
Secular clergy . Priests were part of this group . Each priest had a parish. They were organised into dioceses and a bishop was the leader of each of them.

Regular clergy. It was formed by members of religious orders like monks and nuns. They followed their order's rules.

The most important religious order in the Early Middle Ages was the Order of Saint Benedict.

Nuns lived in convents and monks in monasteries

Culture was protected in monasteries and many books was written in them.



Fuente: editorial Santillana

EXERCISES .

1. Answer the next questions
 - a. What is the Saint James' way ?
 - b. What is a bishop?
 - c. What is a monastery?
 - d. What is a monk?
 - e. What is a nun?
 - f. Why was the Pope so important in political matters ?
2. Read the text and answer the questions.

The way of Saint James.

The Way of St. James or St. James' Way (Spanish: El Camino de Santiago, French: Chemin de St-Jacques, German: Jakobsweg, is the pilgrimage route to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain, where tradition has it that the remains of the apostle Saint James are buried.

The Way of St James has existed for over a thousand years. It was one of the most important Christian pilgrimages during medieval times, together with Rome and Jerusalem, and a pilgrimage route on which a plenary indulgence could be earned.

Legend holds that St. James's remains were carried by boat from Jerusalem to northern Spain where he was buried on the site of what is now the city of Santiago de Compostela.

The Way can take one of any number of pilgrimage routes to Santiago de Compostela. Traditionally, as with most pilgrimages, the Way of Saint James began at one's home and ended at the pilgrimage site. However a few of the routes are considered main ones. The most famous route was called the French way and from different European cities went to Santiago crossing the Pyrennees and through the North of Spain. Medieval culture came into Spain thanks to this way.

During the Middle Ages, the route was highly traveled.

- a. Why did people go to Santiago ?
- b. What were the most important cities of pilgrimage for Christian people in medieval times
- c. What mountain range does the Saint James' way cross?
- d. What is the main route to Santiago?
- e. Why was the Saint James' way so important?

3. Match

Regular clergy

Monks and nuns

Secular clergy

Priests and bishops

4. Match the concepts

1. Guest house
 2. Dormitories or bedrooms
 3. Cloister
 4. Church
 5. Nursing or infirmary
 6. Library
 7. Refectory
 8. Chapter house
 9. Kitchen
 10. Cellar
- a** Rooms where monks slept
- b** Building where monks prayed several times a day .
- c** Dining room in a monastery.
- d** Room where books are kept
- e** Room where patients were treated and looked after.
- f** Room where monks have their meetings and discuss important matters
- g** A covered walk that surrounded a courtyard in a monatery, it is used for praying or thinking
- h** Room where pilgrims could sleep.
- i** Room where drinks and foods are stored in a cold enviroment.
- j** Room where foods are made.

2. Non privileged states: common people or villains.

These people were peasants, craftsmen, and merchants (traders). Ninety percent of the population were peasants and lived in small villages, in huts of mud and wood.

There were some different kinds of peasants:

Freemen. They worked in the lord's lands but they had to pay a rent to the lord or even they had their own lands. They were free and could take personal decisions how get married or build a new house...

Serfs. They were ruled by lord's authority and depended on him completely. They had no rights and they could not leave the fief.

Generally their lives were bad and the lord used to exploit them. They used to eat vegetables and rarely ate meat or fish.

EXERCISES

1. Answer the next questions

- How many people were peasants in the Middle Ages?
- Where did peasants live in the Middle Ages?
- What type of peasants were there in the Middle Ages?
- Who were the freemen?
- Who were the serfs?
- What did peasants use to eat?

2. Make sentences with the next words

- common /were/ and merchants/ people/ Peasants
- in huts /in small / lived /of wood./ Peasants / villages
- a rent / had to pay /Freemen / to the lord.
- depended on/ completely / Serfs/ the Lord
- in the Middle/ no rights/ Serfs / Ages . / had

3. Fill in the blanks with the next words: **freemen, peasants, serfs, fief, freemen, land, lord.**

Peasants worked the _____ of the lord, however there were _____ who had their own land. These were _____ and they did not depend on a _____. Other peasants worked lord's lands and they were _____ too but the most of peasants were _____ and had no rights. They depended on the lord completely and could not leave the _____.

4. Say if the next sentences are True or False. Correct the wrong ones.

- a. Freeman can not married without permission of their lord.
- b. A serf is a person who has no rights.
- c. Common people were the half of the population .
- d. Serfs were not peasant because they had no rights.
- e. All the freemen worked in the Lord´s lands.
- f. Freeman lived in castles like noblemen.
- g. Generally life of peasants was bad.
- h. Common people used to eat meat every day.
- i. Common people rarely ate vegetables.
- j. Peasants used to live in huts.