

Name: Answer Key

Date: _____

Social Studies – Feudalism Study Guide

Directions: Write the definition for the following vocabulary words.

1. Feudalism - a system of government in which land is exchanged for loyalty and services
2. Fief - a plot of land exchanged for loyalty to a ruler
3. Vassal - a person who received land from a ruler and in return promised aid and loyalty.
4. Siege - an army attack in which it would surround a castle so that no food, weapons, or supplies could reach the people inside.
5. Lord - a superior member of the feudal society who had control over a manor.
6. Serf - a farm worker who was bound to live and work on his lord's land.
7. Manor - the estate over which ~~manors~~ ~~exchanged for loyalty~~ and a lord had control
8. ~~Feudalism~~ ^{Fallow} - an unplanted field, the 3rd year in the 3-field system, left to recover
9. Castle - a large building often surrounded by a fortress

10. Fortress - a large fortified place, which includes a castle and often a town
11. Code of Chivalry - a set of rules for knights

12. Lady - a wife of a lord; often took control of manor in lord's absence

13. Tournament - a staged battle fought by knights for \$ and honor w/o intention to kill

14. Siege Tower - a tall, wooden tower that rolled on wheels & could hold soldiers to enter a fortress

Directions: Fill in the blank.

The feudal system had a hierarchy of people. The leaders were the King and Queen. They ruled over huge pieces of land similar to today's countries. Under them were the Lords and knights. They were sometimes referred to as vassals and they were powerful because the king gave them large pieces of land to manage called fiefs. Those fiefs were divided up into manors where many people would work together in a community. Serfs and Peasants would work for the lords and ladies and do various jobs.

A knight in training was sent away at the age of 7 or 8 to live with a relative and serve as a pageboy. Pageboys waited on tables, practiced riding skills and fighting with toy swords. At age 12, a pageboy became a squire, a personal servant to a knight. A squire helped the knight into his uniform, cared for his horse, and cleaned his weapons. Between the ages of 16 and 20, a squire would become a knight. Once a young man became a knight, he had to be ready for wartime. They were loyal to the lords and their job was to protect the lord from his enemies. To stay in shape, knights competed in tournaments to practice their skills, earn money, and gain honor.

Directions: Answer the following question with a list.

What are the features of a good castle?

- Moat
 - Walls
 - Towers
 - Drawbridge
 - Keep
 - Courtyard
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