

Unit 2 Feudalism Vocabulary

Feudalism – a system of government in which land is exchanged for loyalty and services

Manor – the estate over which a lord had control; also the lord's house on an estate

Fief – a plot of land exchanged for loyalty to a ruler

Homage – honor or respect given to someone of higher social status

King and Queen – the leaders of a feudalistic society who pledged to protect and be loyal to the Vassal

Vassal – a person who received land from a ruler and in return promised aid and loyalty (lord, duke, count)

Lord – a superior member of the feudal society who had control over a manor

Lady – the wife of a lord; often took control of the manor in a lord's absence

Peasant – a farm worker

Serf – a farm worker who was bound to live and work on his lord's land

Three-field system – a method of farming where crops were rotated yielding greater output annually

Fallow – an unplanted field, the third year in the *three-field system* when a field is left to recover

Knight – a military servant of a feudal king or lord

Code of Chivalry – a set of rules for knights

Tournament – a staged battle fought by knights for money and honor without the intention to wound or kill

Pageboy – a young boy in his first stage of training as a knight

Squire – a personal servant to a particular knight

Fortress – a large fortified place, which includes a castle and often a town

Castle – a large building often surrounded by a fortress

Keep – a square structure, designed to be the strongest part of a castle where inhabitants could retreat to in the event of an attack

Courtyard – the open space inside a castle's keep

Drawbridge – a bridge made to be raised up, let down, so as to permit or hinder passage

Moat – the ditch surrounding a castle, filled with water when the castle was on a stream or river

Siege – an army attack in which it would surround a castle so that no food, weapons or supplies could reach the people inside

Siege tower – a tall, wooden tower that rolled on wheels and could hold soldiers to enter a fortress

Battering ram – a method of attack in which soldiers used a huge log to bang against castle doors until they broke open