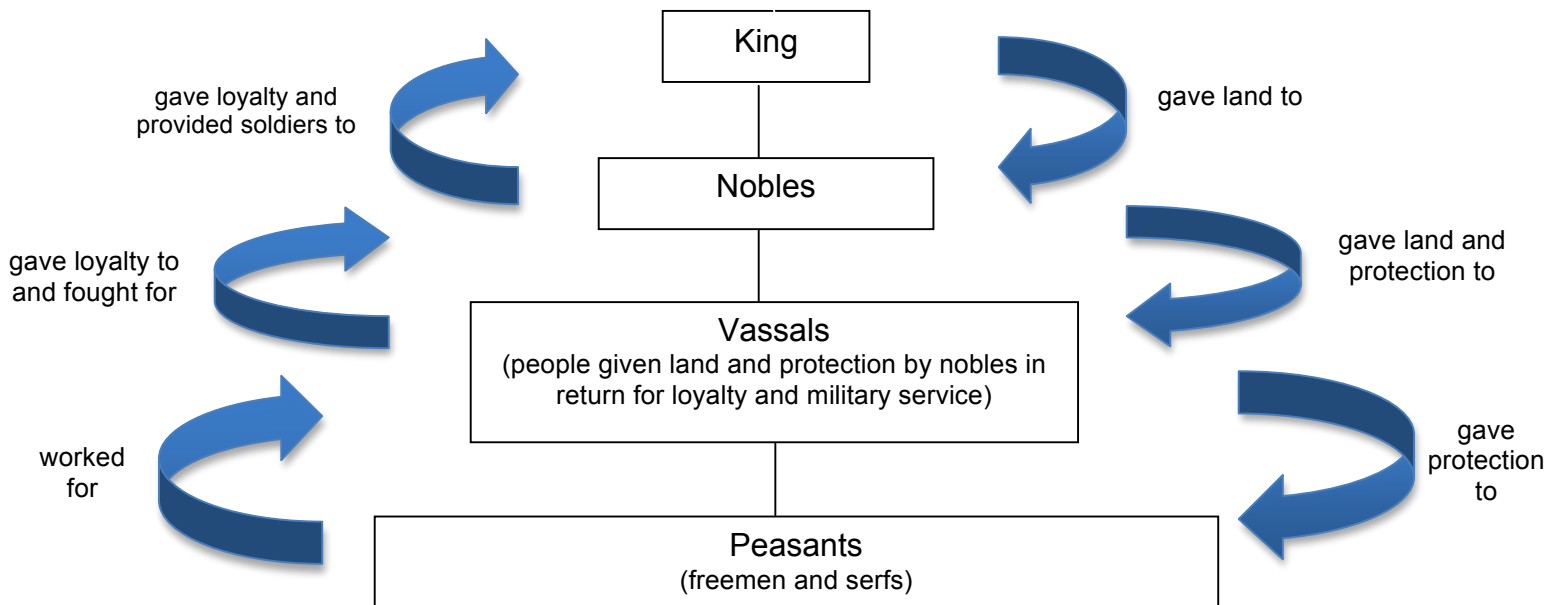


The Middle Ages Feudalism in the Middle Ages

Feudalism was a political and military system that provided some **stability**¹ during the Middle Ages. The Middle Ages began after the Roman Empire collapsed. There was no strong **central**² government left in Western Europe. Many little kingdoms formed. They often battled each other and created a lot of **chaos**.³ Feudalism helped **establish**⁴ order by creating a system in which different classes of people supported each other in different ways. The following is a chart showing the structure of the feudal system.

STRUCTURE OF FEUDALISM



¹ **stability** – a steady, unchanging state or quality

² **central** – located in the center; main

³ **chaos** – disorder, extreme confusion

⁴ **establish** – to set up on a firm and lasting basis

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What was feudalism?

- a. a type of government in which people elected their leaders
- b. a trade agreement among the countries of Western Europe
- c. a political and military system in the Middle Ages
- d. a religion practiced by many people in the Roman Empire

2. According to the chart, nobles gave land and protection to

- a. the king
- b. themselves
- c. peasants
- d. vassals

3. Based on the chart, which of the following groups was probably LEAST powerful?

- a. nobles
- b. vassals
- c. peasants
- d. royalty

4. Read the following sentence: “The Middle Ages began after the Roman Empire collapsed. There was no strong central government left in Western Europe.”

In the passage, the word **collapsed** means

- a. fell apart
- b. came to power
- c. exploded
- d. expanded

5. The main purpose of the passage and chart is to

- a. compare and contrast feudalism with democracy
- b. explain and illustrate how feudalism worked
- c. inform people about the dangers of medieval life
- d. provide a list of rules for establishing a government

6. Based on the chart, who had the most power in the feudal system?

7. Why might the author have used a chart to help explain feudalism instead of just writing about it?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

_____ a strong central government, Western Europe fell into chaos.

- a. Because of
- b. As a result of
- c. Without
- d. Although

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

During the Middle Ages, vassals fought for nobles in exchange for land and protection.

Who? vassals

(did) What? _____

Why? _____

When? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** peasant: someone who owns or works on a small farm; someone without much money and social standing.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____