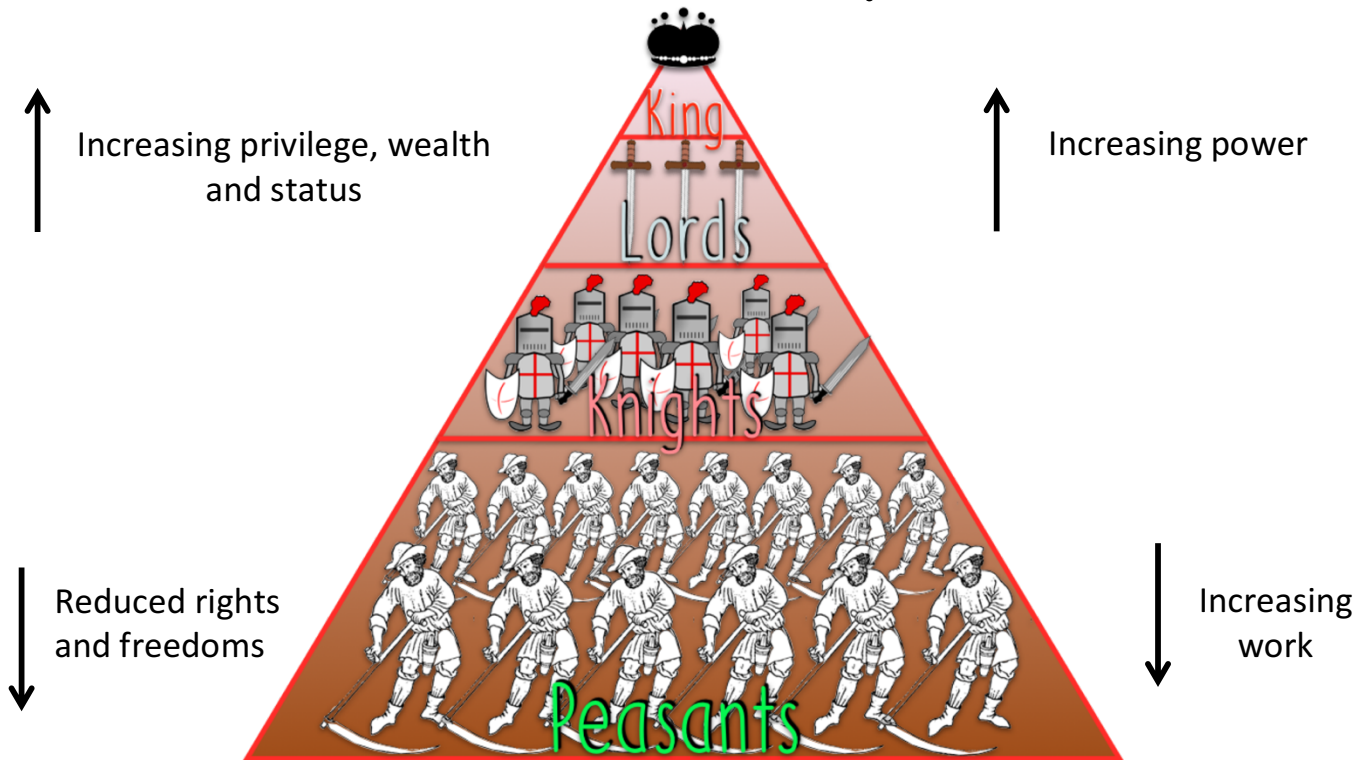


The Feudal System



Quick Revision

Look at the diagram above and recall what you already know about this social structure. Then fill in the sentences below, using the words provided. Each word occurs only once.

heredity • hierarchy • king • knights • land • mobility • peasants • ranked • serfs • stability

- a** The feudal system was a social .
- b** A hierarchy is a social structure in which people are according to power, status, occupation or wealth.
- c** The largest group in this social hierarchy was the .
- d** The were more numerous than the lords or barons.
- e** The lords or barons had to swear fealty (or loyalty) to the .
- f** Bonded peasants were known as .
- g** In return for , each group in this social structure was obliged to provide labour, taxes or military service to the group above it.
- h** It was difficult, if not impossible, to change one's status or position, which principally depended on one's birth. In other words, one's position was determined by .
- i** This meant that the system lacked social .
- j** In theory, however, the system provided some level of order and .

A SWOT ANALYSIS

The Feudal System

Place each item below into the appropriate cell of the table. Some have already been entered Colour code or simplify each idea to save time. Then add some points of your own.

- lack of social mobility
- the system may permit a stable and orderly society
- ~~a king dying without an heir may lead to instability~~
- ~~a chance to develop a system of agriculture~~
- people's position is not based on merit, but on family ties or birth
- the death of labourers during a plague might undermine the structure
- ~~lack of growth and diversity in society~~
- everyone knows their place and carries out their role
- not an equal or just society

S = Strengths
(Advantages)

W = Weaknesses
(Disadvantages)

Lack of growth and diversity in society



O = Opportunities
(Possibilities for improving
aspects of life)

Chance to develop a system of agriculture

T = Threats
(Dangers and potential problems)

Instability at the top might undermine the
stability of the system