1 The Feudal System

a Fill in the simple diagram below to summarise the feudal system.
Use the elements provided. See also the diagram at Link 2 above.

- lords/barons
- grant(s) land to (x3)
- peasants/villeins
- provide grain and labour
- provide knights, money
- knights
- king
- provide military service

b Use the diagram above and the description provided at both links to write a short description of the feudal system in the scroll below. Here are some sentence starters:

- The feudal system was a hierarchy or ranking system in which...
- Each group in the society...
- The role of the lords/knights/peasants was to...
2 The Life of Peasants

Read through the text at Link 1 and fill in the details below, using the words that fit into each space. You will have to piece together some details yourself.

back-breaking • daub • dawn • hard • harvesting • honey • one-third • potatoes • ploughing • sowing • tomatoes • wattle

a The work of a medieval peasant was __________ and __________.

b The day’s work began at __________. The work was based on the seasons, with the __________ being done in autumn, the __________ in spring and the __________ in August.

c Peasant huts were made of __________, a bendable wooden weaving frame, and __________, constructed from straw and animal dung.

d About __________ of a peasant’s cottage was devoted to space for stabling the animals.

e Peasants mainly ate vegetables and rough flat bread. Their vegetables included leeks, carrots and peas – but NOT __________ and __________. These plant foods are native to the Americas.

f __________ was a rare luxury and highly valued for its sweetness.

3 Peasant Housing

After you have read Link 1 and watched the short video at Link 3, write at least 6 pieces of information on the picture of a “cruck house” below: e.g. comments relating to construction, materials, inner layout, cooking, advantages and limitations as a place to live.