

The Feudal System and the Life of Peasants

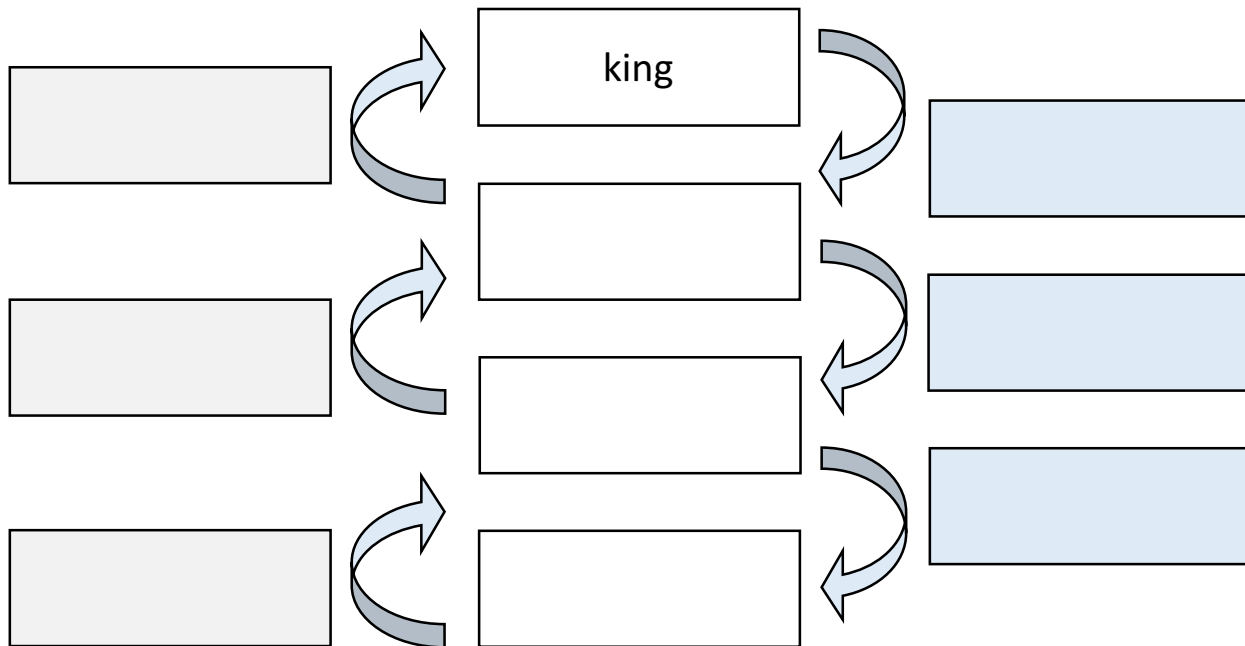
[LINK 1](#) – BBC Bitesize • [LINK 2](#) – The Feudal System • [LINK 3](#) – Making a Peasant Cottage

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...

A scroll with horizontal lines for writing a description of the feudal system.

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.

