

## Middle Ages Key Points

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Events Leading up to the rise of Feudalism:

Barbarian Invasions  
and the fall of the  
Roman Empire

Germanic  
Kingdoms  
& Charlemagne

Disunity  
and  
Invasion

Rise  
of  
Feudalism

### Feudalism:

1. William the Conqueror (formerly Duke William of Normandy) fought the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and defeated Harold of Britain. This is shown on the famous Bayeux Tapestry. William rewarded high-ranking soldiers by giving away Harold's lands and making the soldiers nobles. Nobles swore loyalty to King William and promised mounted fighting men (knights) in return. This system is called Feudalism.
2. Feudalism was a system of government that divided the power among nobles who received land in return for providing the services of knights to the king.
3. Land grants were called FIEFS. People who received fiefs were called VASSALS. Vassals gave smaller fiefs to other vassals in order to keep them in supply of knights. Each lord ruled his vassals as he was ruled by his lord. Knights would swear oaths of fealty to their lords. A single man might be both a lord and a vassal.
4. Feudalism did not bring peace. Vassals sometimes grew more powerful than their lords. Vassals fought other vassals. Revolts occurred. Everyone had their own small fighting forces of knights. Castles were designed as fortresses, not for comfort.
5. Manors were large farm-estates, usually owned by kings or important nobles. Royal households would travel from manor to manor throughout the year. This way the resources were not depleted at any one manor. Later royal folk built castles for the same reason- they were just stronger!
6. Peasants who worked on the manor lands were SERFS, owned workers, or sharecroppers. They lived in small villages on the manor estate. It was a very hard life, but was the most common occupation.
7. Most of Europe was Christian. Many monasteries and convents were established.
8. As time passed, cities began to grow. They were crowded and dirty. People had a trade or a business if they lived in the city. This signaled an end to the early middle ages (about 500-1000), also known as the Dark Ages.

\*\*\*\*\* Please see reverse for assignments\*\*\*\*\*

Assignments:

Assigned: Feb. 16, 2009

Due: \_\_\_\_\_

•Read the handout provided from Chapter 4 “The Rise of Latin Christendom” in *Medieval Civilization*.

Relevant website:

<http://www.historyguide.org/anc>

<http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/themes/politicalsystems/feudalism.cfm>

**HIERARCHY of FEUDAL SOCIETY ASSIGNMENT** - Due: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Create a diagram depicting the hierarchy of early medieval (feudal) society. Include the following: king, lords and lesser lords (including Barons, Dukes, Princes, Counts, Earls...), knights, serfs (peasants). Include a brief description of each position.

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•Read the handout provided from “The Age of Chivalry” in *Medieval Civilization*. Also, read pages 263-265 in *Across the Centuries*.

Some relevant websites include:

<http://library.thinkquest.org/10949/fief/medknight.html>

<http://www.knightsandarmor.com/>

[http://www.britainexpress.com/History/Knights\\_and\\_Fights.htm](http://www.britainexpress.com/History/Knights_and_Fights.htm)

<http://www.middle-ages.org.uk/knights-code-of-chivalry.htm>

**KNIGHT/CHIVALRY ASSIGNMENT** - Due: \_\_\_\_\_

2. **IN YOUR OWN WORDS, describe the life of a medieval knight including the code of chivalry that knights were to follow.** (Revised Directions) Include the stages in becoming a knight. Describe the code of chivalry that knights were to follow. Remember, you must express everything in your own words- no copying directly from internet. Be sure your paper is no larger than a size that can easily fit into your world history notebook. You may fold it once.

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•Read “Clergy” page 268, in your social studies textbook, *Across the Centuries*.

•Also read “The Power of the Church” pages 282-288 in *Across the Centuries*.

Some useful websites on this topic include:

[http://edhelper.com/ReadingComprehension\\_35\\_794.html](http://edhelper.com/ReadingComprehension_35_794.html)

<http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/history/middleages/church.html>

<http://home.earthlink.net/~torenhudson/ushist1/mediev1.html>

<http://home.earthlink.net/~torenhudson/ushist1/mediev1.html>

**MEDIEVAL CLEGGY HIERARCHY ASSIGNMENT** - Due: \_\_\_\_\_

3. In a hierarchal diagram, rank the various clergy (people) involved in the medieval church. Write a paragraph describing how/why the church was so powerful during this time.