

Bell Work

You are a peasant in the Middle Ages, living on the land of a noble. Although you and your family work very hard for many hours of the day, much of the food you grow goes to the noble and his family. Your house is very small, and it has a dirt floor. Your parents are tired and weak, and you wish you could do something to improve your lives.

Is there any way you could change your life?

Objective & Standard

I can describe the development of feudalism and manorialism during the Middle Ages

SPI 7.33 Describe the development of feudalism and manorialism, its role in the medieval European economy, and the way in which it was influenced by physical geography (the role of the manor and the growth of towns)

Violence all Around

Invaders threatened the population of Western Europe.

- **Magyars** invaded from the area around modern-day Hungary. They raided into Germany, Italy, and other parts of Western Europe.
- **Muslim invaders** came from the South. They conquered the Iberian Peninsula and the island of Sicily.
- **Vikings** were the greatest and boldest of the invaders. They originated in Scandinavia in Northern Europe. Vikings were ruthless and they targeted monasteries, farms and villages. They chose these targets because they were usually poorly defended.



European Invaders

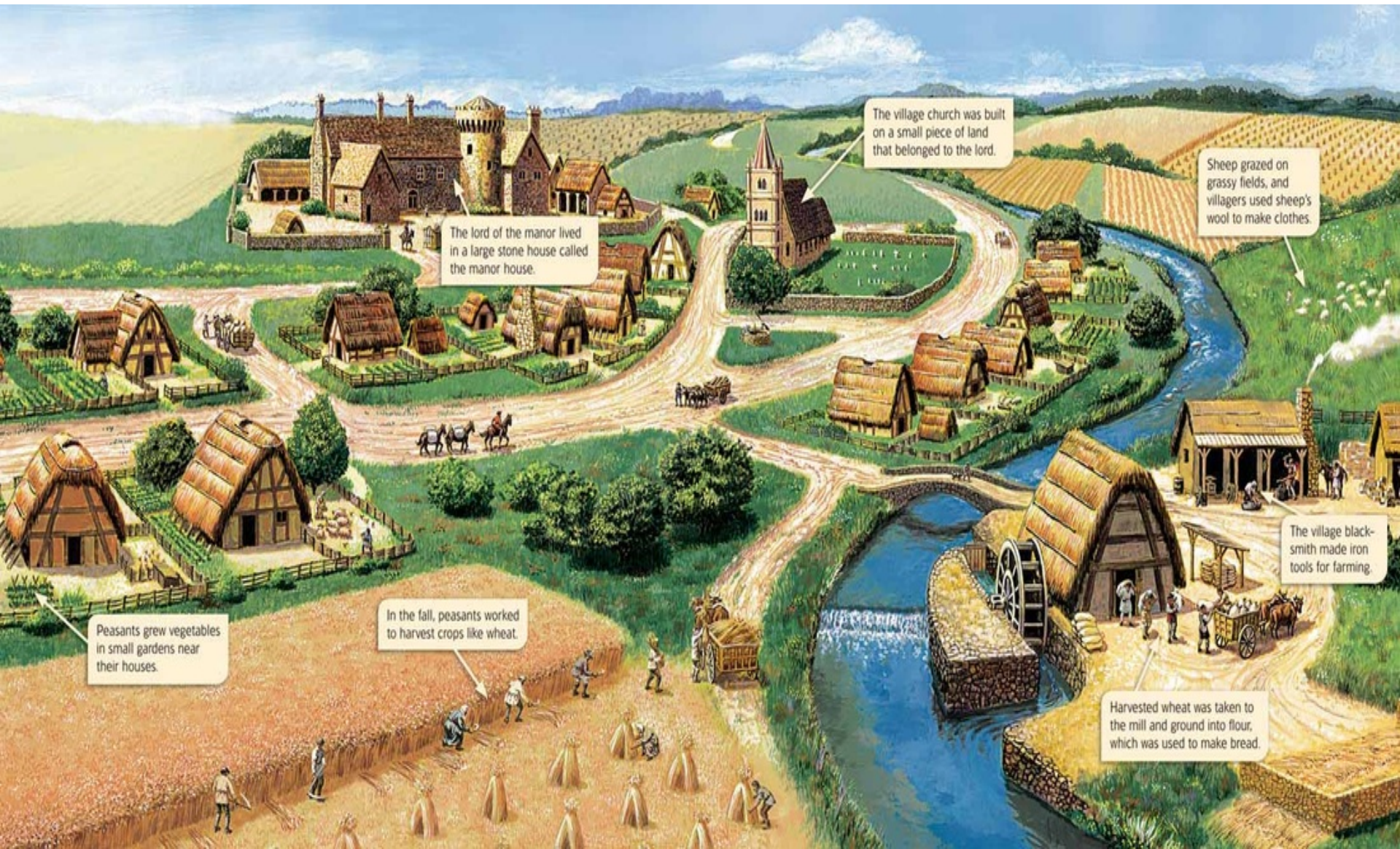


Describe the Vikings invasion routes.

Ineffective Kings

- Kings were powerless against these invaders.
- The invaders were swift and the kings could not mount a defense before the invaders had come and gone.
- As a result, the responsibility for protection fell to local lords. These lords promised to protect the people and their homes in their area .
- In return the people pledged their service and loyalty to this lord.
- This system of loyalty and protection became known as feudalism.

Manorialism



The village church was built on a small piece of land that belonged to the lord.

The lord of the manor lived in a large stone house called the manor house.

Sheep grazed on grassy fields, and villagers used sheep's wool to make clothes.

The village blacksmith made iron tools for farming.

Harvested wheat was taken to the mill and ground into flour, which was used to make bread.

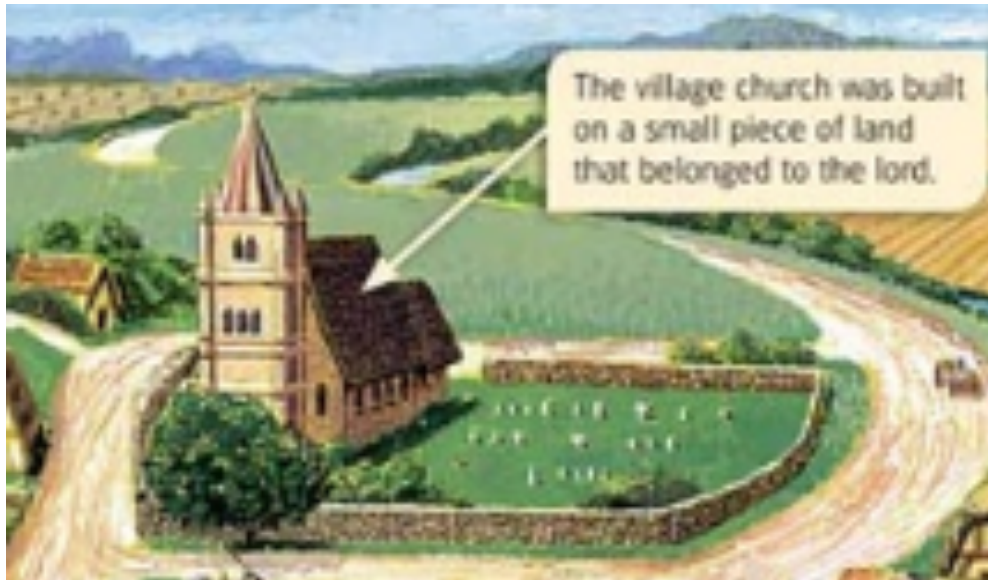
Peasants grew vegetables in small gardens near their houses.

In the fall, peasants worked to harvest crops like wheat.

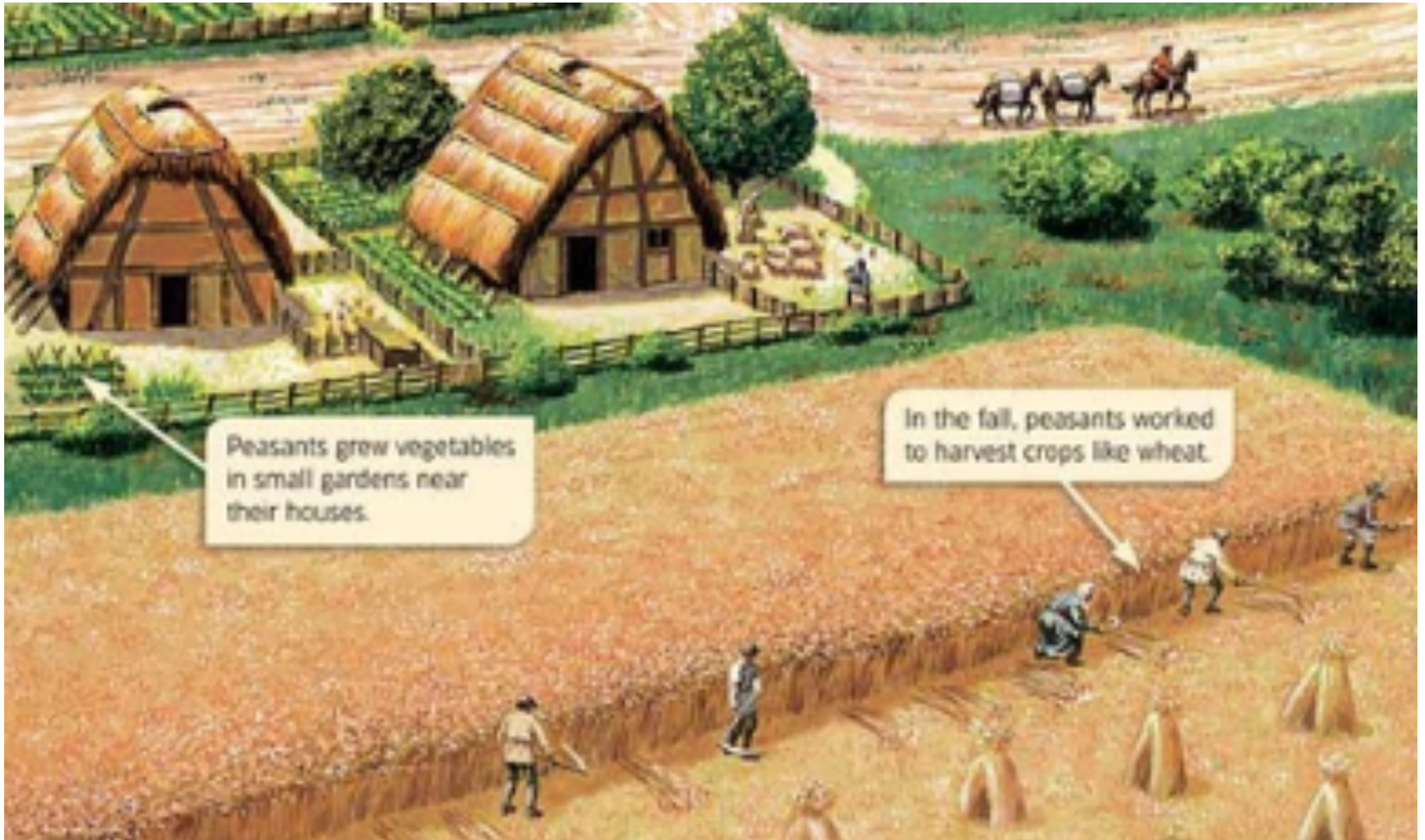
Manor System

- The manor system was where the majority of people lived during the Middle Ages.
- Since much of Europe was devastated by war, powerful lords and ladies built fortified castles where they could live, along with their respective staff. These massive plots of land became known as manors.
- A manor was *self-sufficient*, meaning that everything needed to survive could be located on the property.
- For example, manors had housing for all the people who worked for the lord and lady, food sources, water sources, and specialty shops. Please look at the following diagram, which depicts a typical medieval manor (next slide).

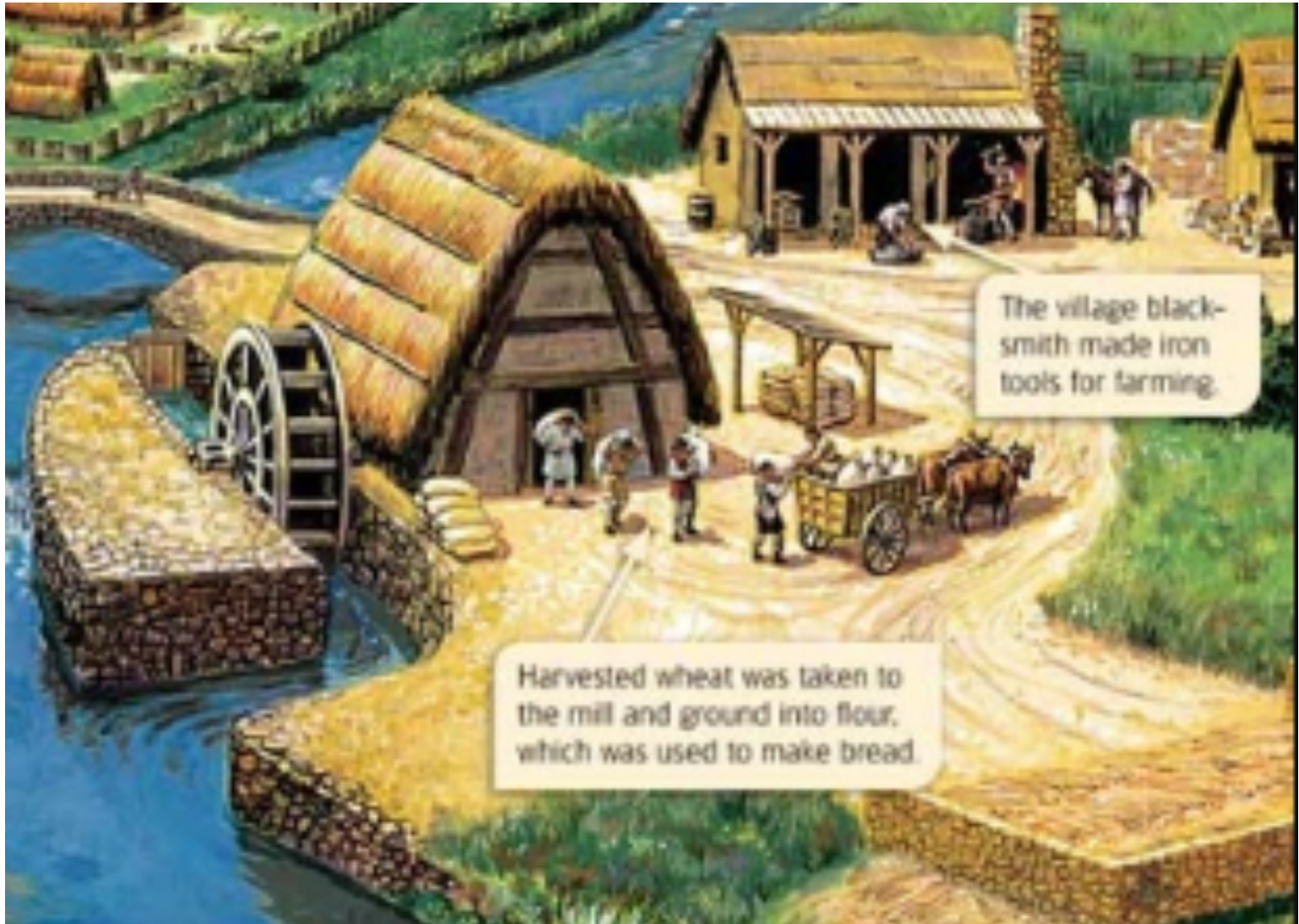
Life on a medieval manor



Life on a medieval manor



Life on a Medieval Manor



Manorialism Questions:

1. Why do you think most manors were located along a river or stream?
2. Which social group had the best housing?
3. Which social group had the worst housing?
4. Which social group needed to leave the manor on a regular basis?

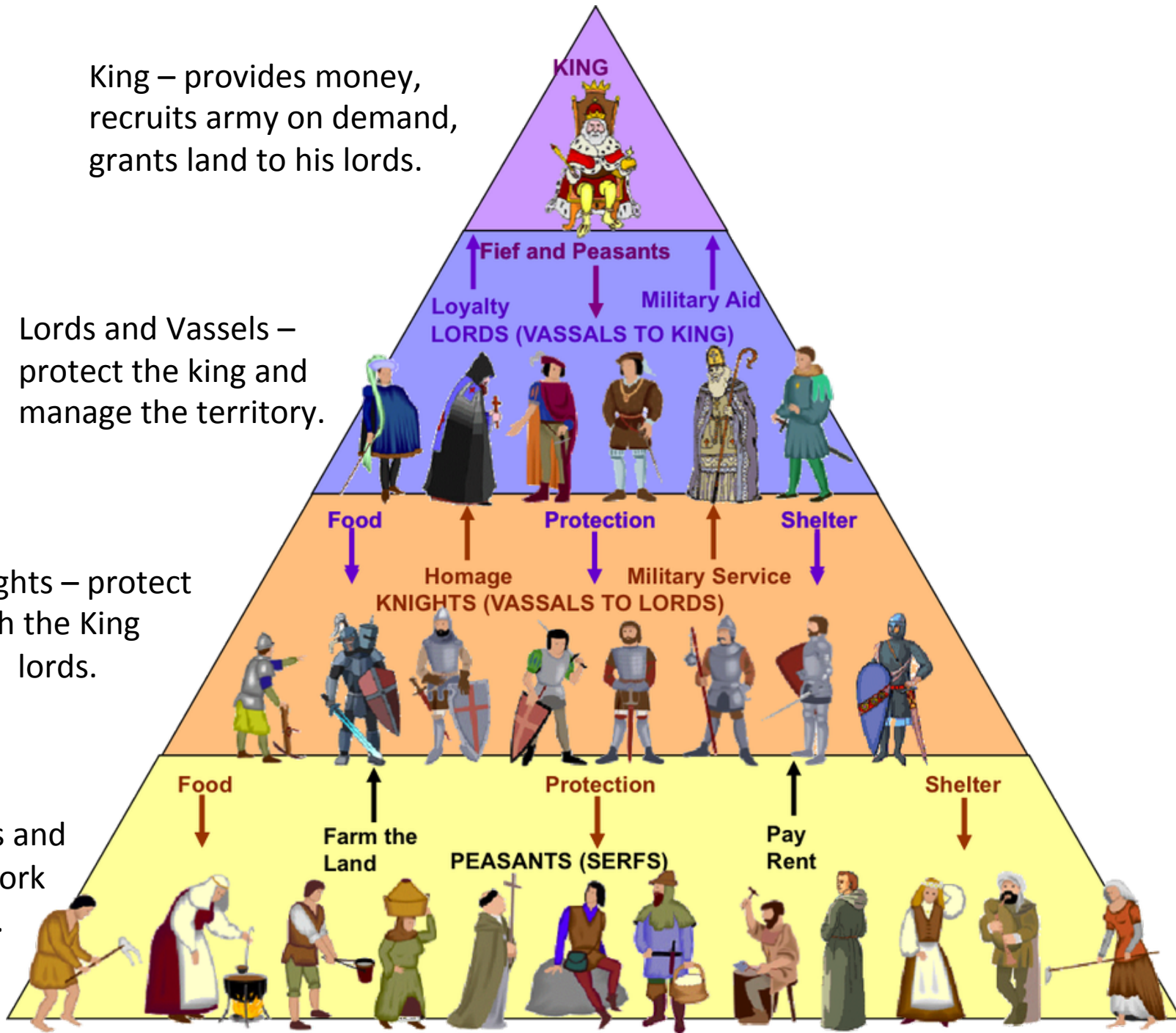
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King – provides money,
recruits army on demand,
grants land to his lords.

Lords and Vassals –
protect the king and
manage the territory.

Knights – protect
both the King
and lords.

Peasants and
Serfs –work
the land.



Reading & Assessment

1. **Read** the article about feudalism and manorialism.
2. **Answer** the 10 questions after reading the article.

Middle Ages Feudalism Quiz

1) Who was the top leader in the land with the feudal system?

- The king
- The prime minister
- The president
- The serf

2) What was life like for the majority of the people that lived in the Middle Ages under the feudal system?

- They lived in nice castles
- They were soldiers who fought invaders
- They hung out at the local pub
- They worked hard as peasant farmers

3) What building, owned by the local lord, was the center of daily life in the feudal system?

- The church
- The capital building
- The forum
- The manor

4) Who was the leader of the Catholic Church in a kingdom?

- The pope
- The priest
- The bishop
- The pastor

5) The Bishops of the Catholic Church were typically poor and had little power in the kingdom.

- True
- False

Middle Ages Feudalism Quiz

- 6) Who owned everything in a village, including the crops, town, and peasants?
- The king
 - The lord
 - The bishop
- 7) Who reported directly to the king and ruled large areas of land called fiefs?
- The lord
 - The bishop
 - The baron
 - The cardinal
- 8) What was the responsibility of the Baron?
- To provide soldiers to the king when needed
 - To swear loyalty to the king
 - To oversee the lords on their land
 - All of the above
 - None of the above
- 9) When a king died, who would typically take over the throne?
- His wife, the queen
 - The bishop
 - The lord
 - His firstborn son
- 10) What did the peasants get in return for serving and working for their local lord?
- Protection from invaders
 - A long happy life
 - The right to vote for the king
 - Lots of food and the weekends off