

476 – 1350 AD

The Dark Ages/Middle Ages

What was the cause of the Dark Ages?
Why do we call them dark?



The Dark Ages

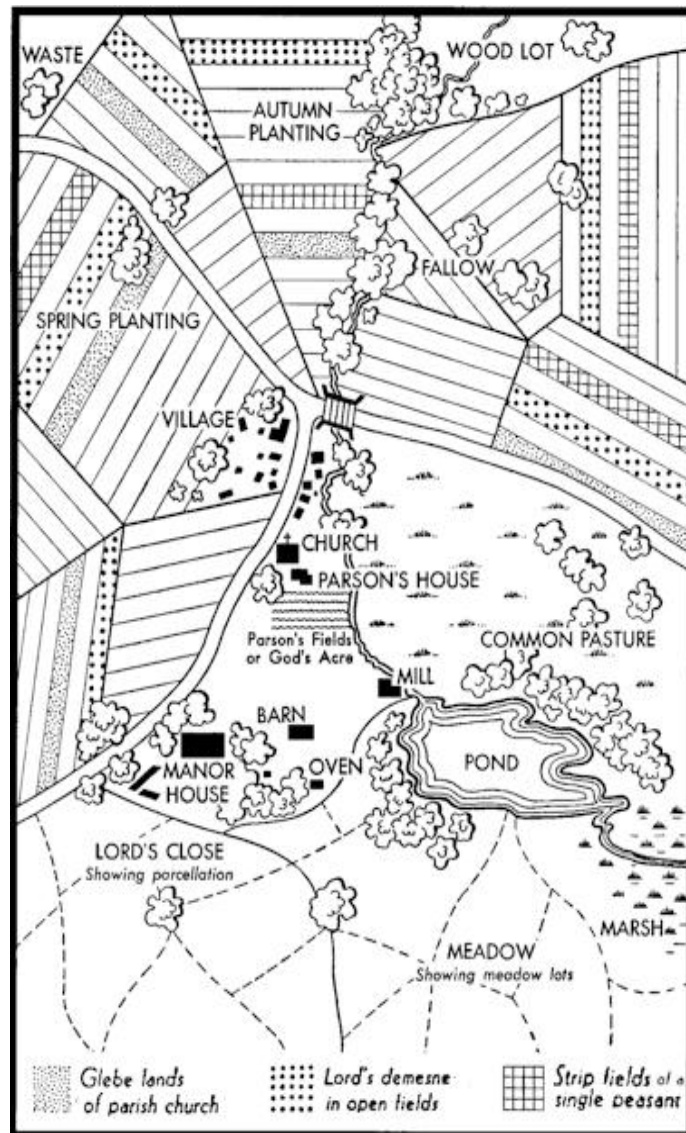


No more large cities, trade, education

- With all the disease, riots, outside attacks and starvation people fled the cities of the once strong Roman empire.
- In Europe, people now lived on **manors** (self-sufficient communities) consisting of a **castle, church, village and surrounding farmlands.**

Manorialism

(Medieval Economic System)



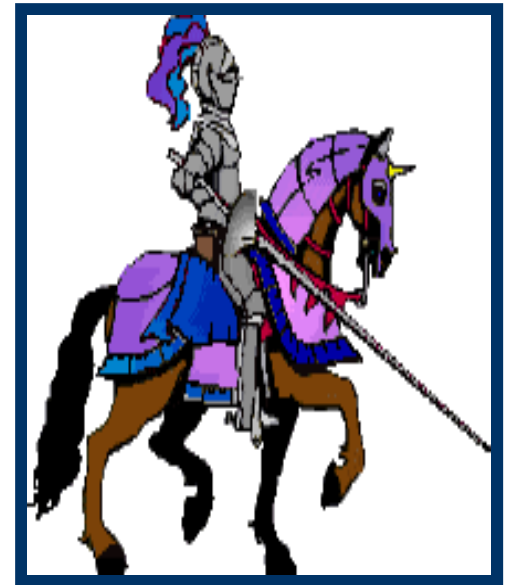
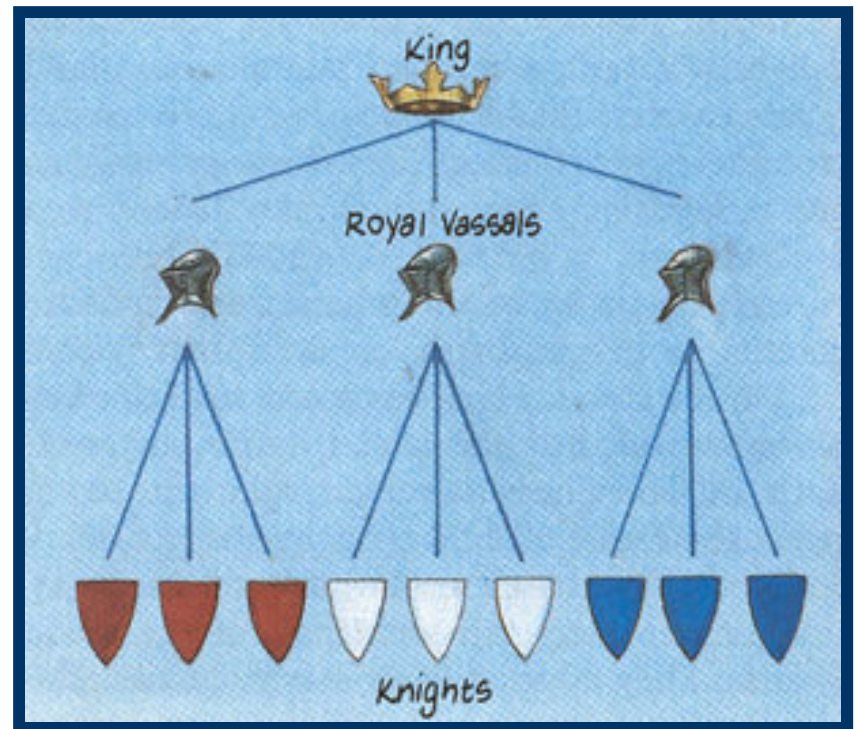
Most people lived on a **manor**, which consisted of the castle, the church, the village, and the surrounding farm land.

For safety and for defense, people in the Middle Ages formed small communities around a central lord or master.

These manors were isolated, with occasional visits from peddlers, pilgrims on their way to the Crusades, or soldiers from other fiefdoms.



Feudalism: Land for Military Service



Feudalism

(Medieval Political System)

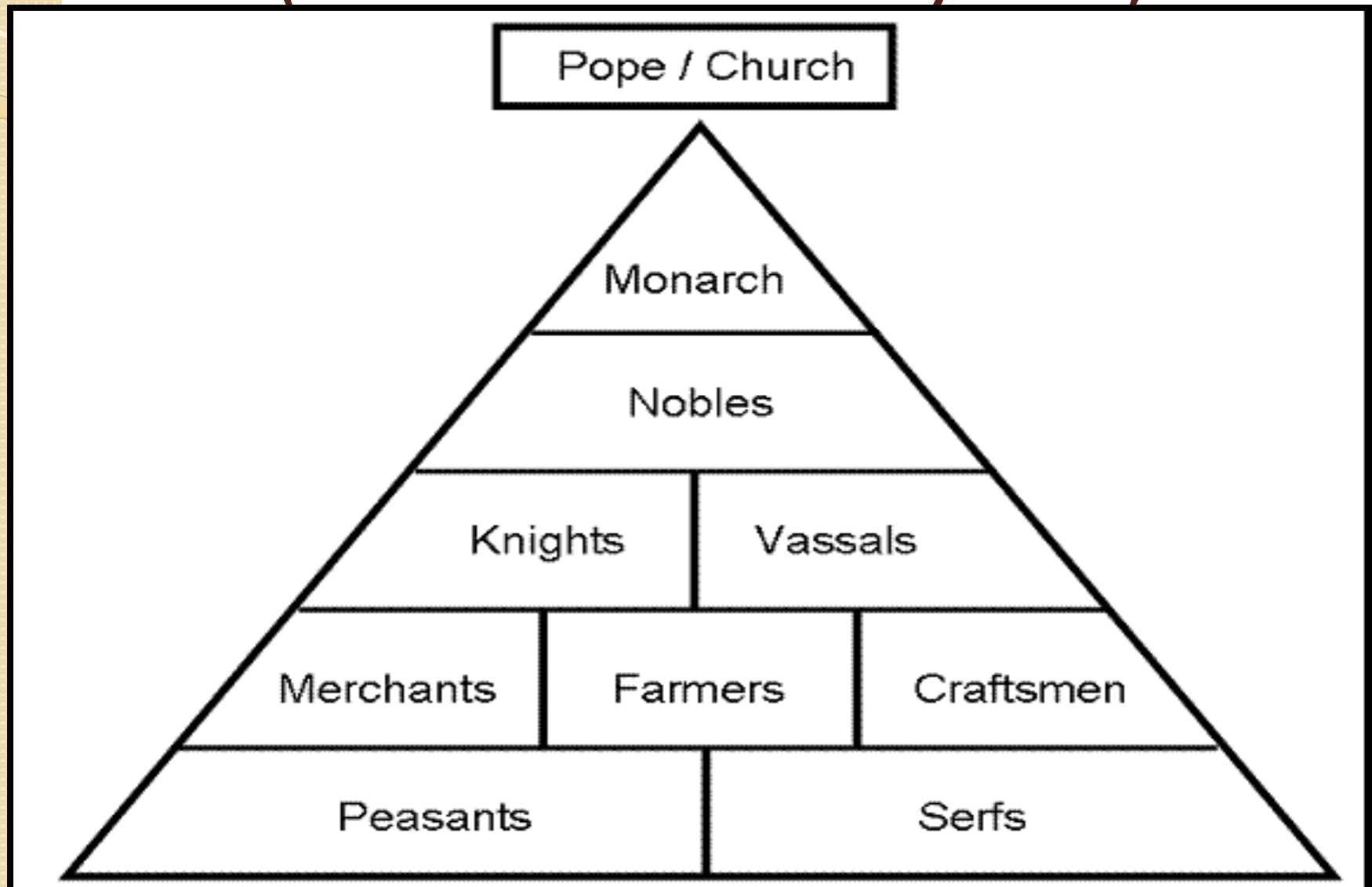
- The **kings** had lots of land; he gave land to lords in exchange for protection and money.
- **Lords** gave their land to **knights** in exchange for protection & money.
- Land given to knight for service was called a **fief**
 - Anyone accepting fief was called a **vassal**
 - Person from whom he accepted fief was his **lord**
- **Knights** let **serfs** work the land and he would protect them.
- **Serfs** got food and shelter.

Result: each person had rights and responsibilities

Historians call system of exchanging **land for military service** the **feudal system**, or **feudalism**

Feudalism

(Medieval Political System)



What is Chivalry?

A code of honor

