



What is Feudalism?

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What is Feudalism

- **Main Idea (Objective):**



- Feudalism developed in Europe during the Middle Ages and was based on landowning, loyalty and the power of armored knights and their mighty steeds!

What is Feudalism

- Lecture Focus (Essential Question):



- What do you think it would be to live in a country where the government has fallen apart? We are going to learn how the fall of Charlemagne's government changed life for the people during the Middle Ages.

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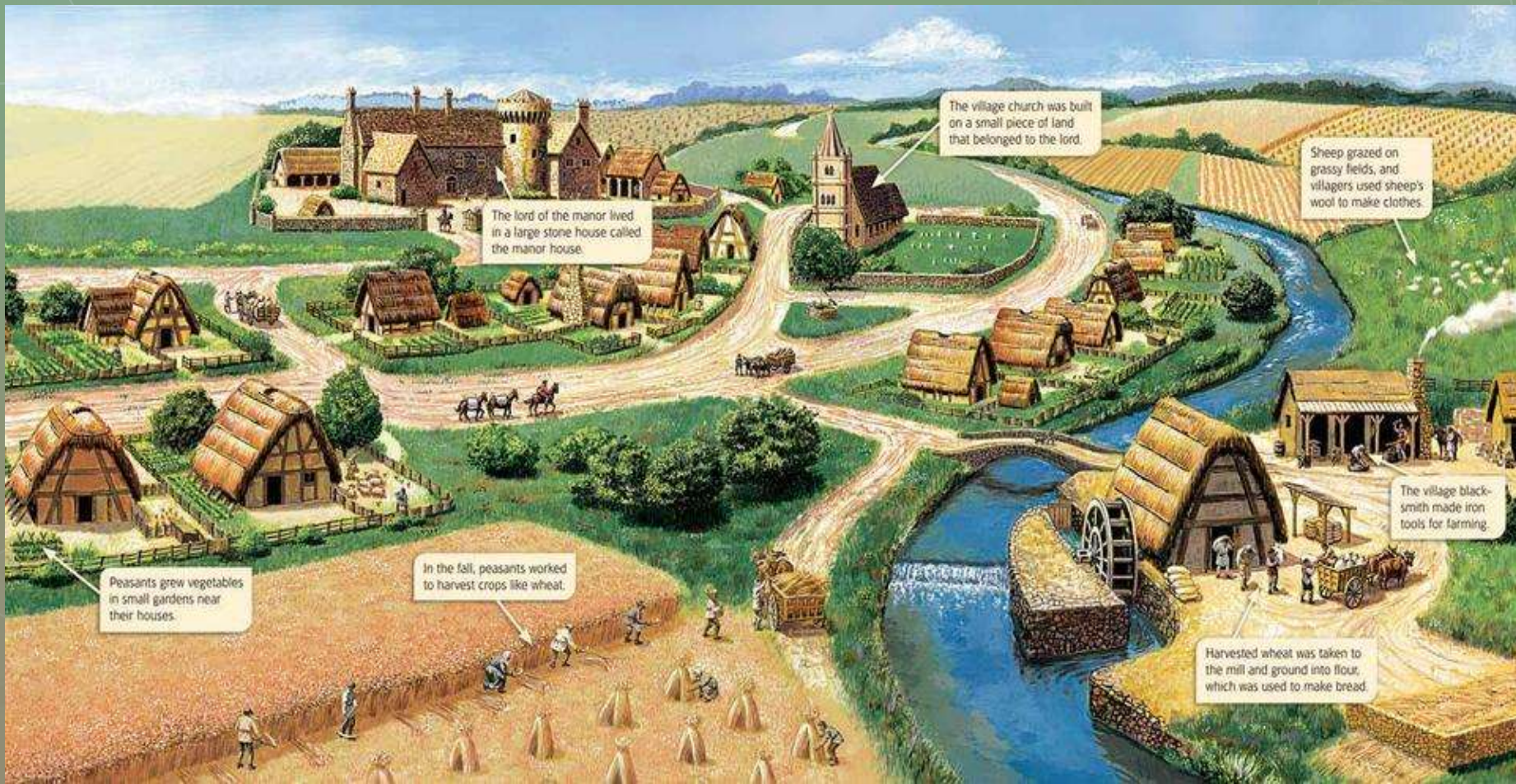
What is Feudalism

- When Charlemagne's grandfather, Charles Martel, needed an army to fight the Muslims invading France, he began giving **Estates** to nobles willing to fight for him.



- **Estate** – Large farms.

What is Feudalism



What is Feudalism



What is Feudalism



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What is Feudalism

- The nobles used the resources generated by the estates to obtain horses and weapons.



- Although Martel did not realize it, he was using a new way of organizing society that would eventually spread across most of Europe.

What is Feudalism

- When Charlemagne's empire collapsed, Western Europe lost its last strong central government.



- Landowning nobles became more and more powerful without a government to tell them what to do.

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What is Feudalism

- These landowners gained the right to collect taxes and to enforce laws on their very large estates.



- When invaders spread ruin throughout Europe, the peasants and farmers could not rely on Kings...instead they looked to nobles for protection.

What is Feudalism

- During the 800's C.E., this shift of power from Kings to nobles led to a new social order known as **Feudalism**.



- Under Feudalism, landowning nobles governed and protected the people in return for services, such as fighting in a noble's army or farming the land.

What is Feudalism

- By 1000 C.E., the kingdoms of Europe were divided in thousands of feudal territories.



- Some of these territories were large, most however were very small, smaller even than the city states of Greece and early Rome.

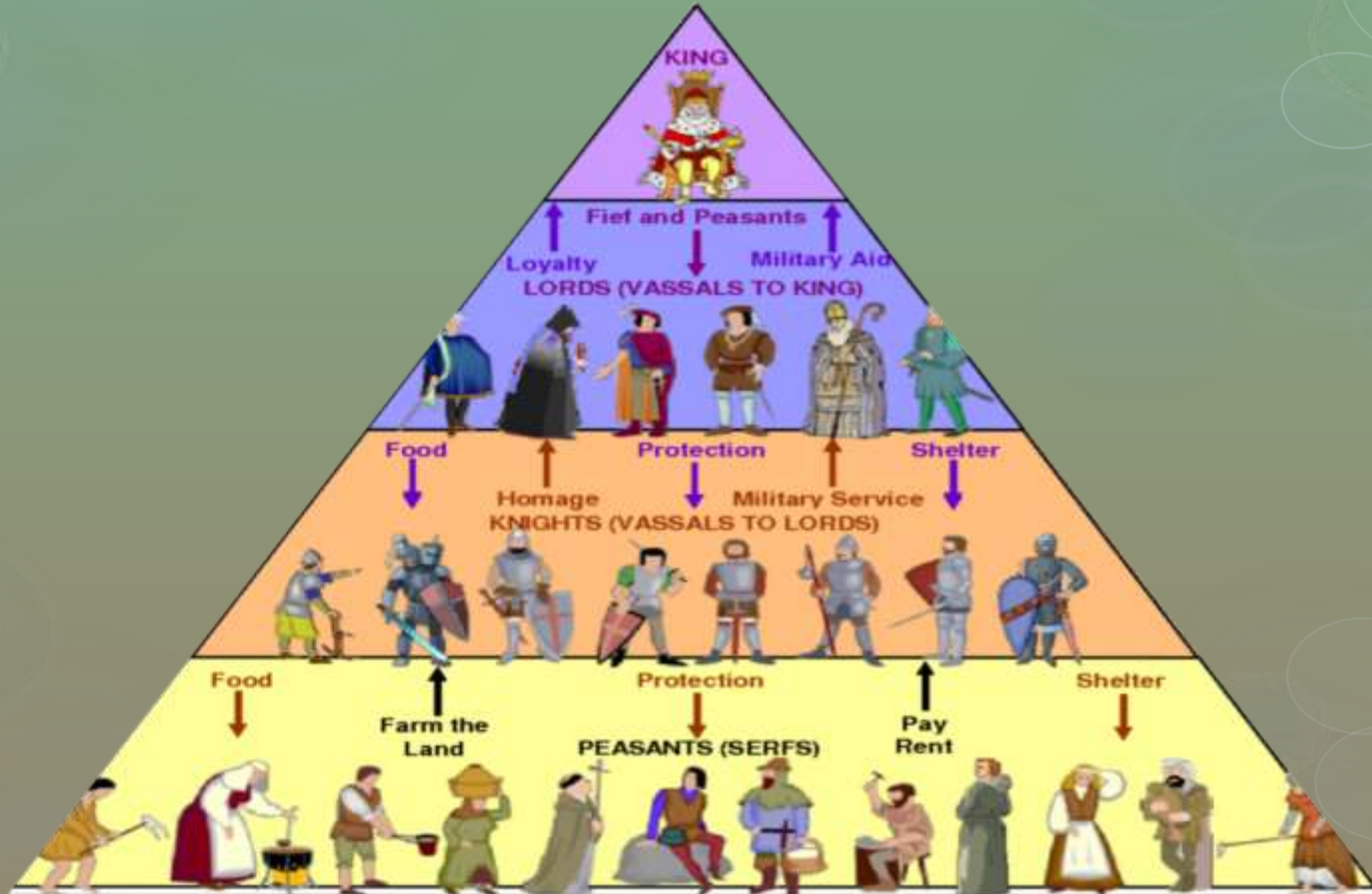
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What is Feudalism



- At the center of each, however, was not a city but rather a noble's castle or fortress.

What is Feudalism



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What is Feudalism

Questions:

- 1) What is the definition of Feudalism?
- 2) Why were Kings unreliable before Feudalism?
- 3) By 1000 C.E. Europe was divided into thousands of Feudal territories, what did these territories look like? How were they arranged?

What is Feudalism

Questions:

1) What is the definition of Feudalism?

- Nobles protected the people in return for joining the army and farming the land

2) Why were Kings unreliable before Feudalism?

- They could not protect people from invaders.

3) By 1000 C.E. Europe was divided into thousands of Feudal territories, what did these territories look like? How were they arranged?

- Some of these territories were large, most however were very small with a castle in the center

The Role of Vassals and Knights

- Feudalism was based on ties of loyalty and duty among nobles.



- Nobles were both **lords** and **vassals**.

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The Role of Vassals and Knights

- **Vassal** – Was a noble who served a lord of a higher rank.



- In return, that lord of a higher rank protected the **Vassal**.

The Role of Vassals and Knights

- The tie between a lord and his Vassal was made known in a public ceremony.



- The Vassal put his hands together and placed them between the hands of his lord...then the Vassal swore an oath **"To keep faith and loyalty to you against all others."**

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The Role of Vassals and Knights

- A Vassal showed his loyalty by serving in his Lord's army.



- In return for the Vassal's military service, a Lord granted his Vassal land and permission to rule the people who lived on this land.

The Role of Vassals and Knights



- The grant of land to a Vassal was known as a **Fief**.

The Role of Vassals and Knights

- These Vassals who received the **fief** were commonly referred to as **Knights**



- **Knights** – Were essentially warriors in heavy armor who fought on horseback.

The Role of Vassals and Knights

- Knighthood was a recognized title... elite warriors were subject to certain responsibilities and expectations.



- Today, the idea of knighthood has branched out in several directions.

The Role of Vassals and Knights



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The Role of Vassals and Knights



The Role of Vassals and Knights



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The Role of Vassals and Knights

- Where royalty still exists today, the title of knight has become a payment of distinct recognition for service or achievement.



- As a remnant from earlier times, the title can sometimes be inherited through bloodline as well.

The Role of Vassals and Knights



- There are religious or civic organizations whose members move up through the hierarchy and achieve the title of knight. (**14th century seal of the Teutonic Knights**)

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The Role of Vassals and Knights

○ **Star Wars** introduced the concept of the **Jedi Knight**, a science fiction version of the mystic warrior, a combination of knight, samurai, Kung-fu master and intergalactic policeman.



○ The idea immediately captured popular attention, to the point where Jedi based groups sprang up on the Internet to recreate a new idealism.

The Role of Vassals and Knights

- In England today a person has to do something extremely important to become a Knight...the ceremony is called **Accolade**



- It can be in government, business, the arts, charity, science, education, athletics...

The Role of Vassals and Knights

- A "Knighthood" or a "Damehood" (female equivalent) is one of the highest honors an individual in the United Kingdom can achieve.



- While in past centuries knighthood used to be awarded solely for military merit, today it recognizes significant contributions to national life.

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The Role of Vassals and Knights

- Recipients today range from actors to scientists, and from school head teachers to industrialists.



- A knighthood cannot be bought and it carries no military obligations to the kingdom.

The Role of Vassals and Knights

- Knights also followed a medieval code of conduct called **Chivalry**.

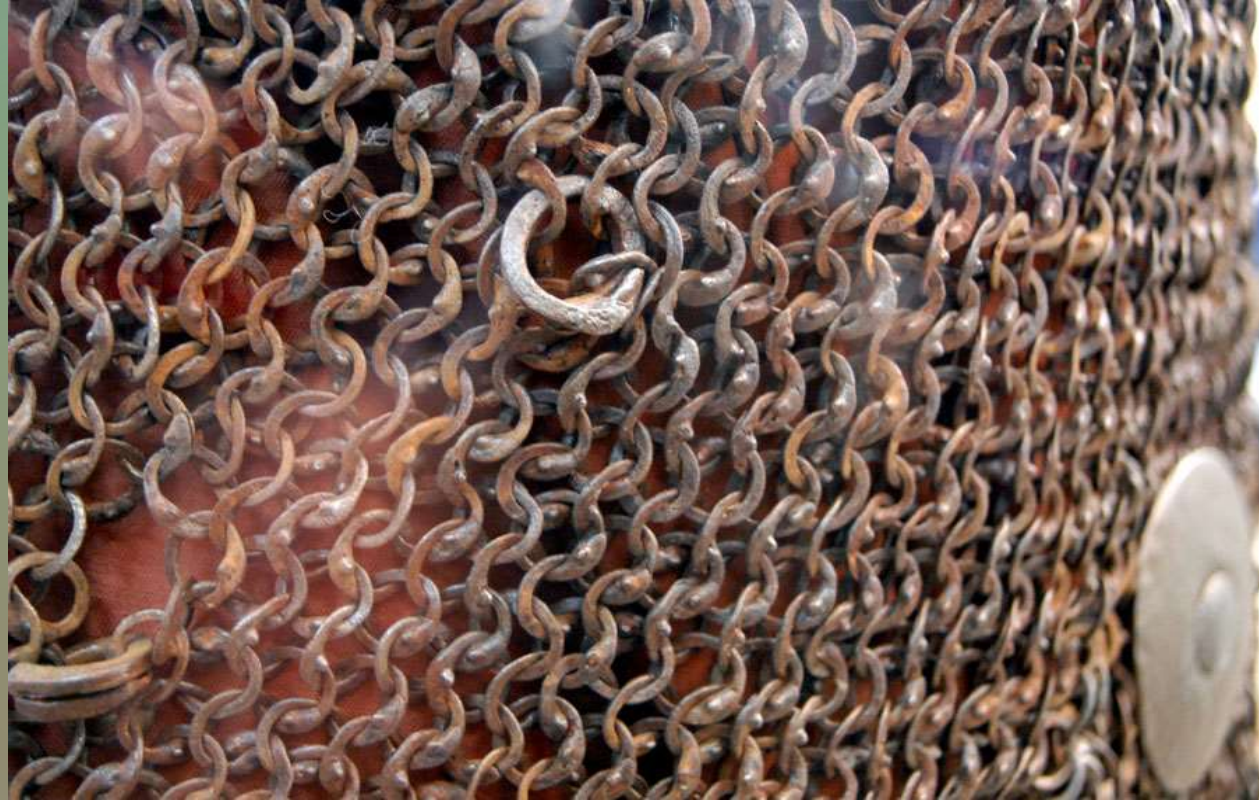
Der Schenke von Limpurg 1224



- **Chivalry** - The qualities of a knight in the Middle Ages, including bravery, honor, courtesy, respect for women, protection of the weak, generosity, and fairness to enemies.

The Role of Vassals and Knights

- Up until the 700's C.E., nobles and knights in Western Europe mostly fought on foot.



- They wore coats of **Mail**, which was armor made from metal links and carried a sword and in some cases a shield.

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The Role of Vassals and Knights

- Soon a new invention changed warfare forever, the **Stirrup**, made it possible for an armored man to sit on a horse and charge while holding a lance or a long spear.



- From the 700's to the 1200's, armored Knights using these weapons and horseback riding skills were the most powerful soldiers in Europe.

The Role of Vassals and Knights

- Europe was not the only place with a feudal society.



- As you learned, Japan had a similar system with the Samurai class from about 800 C.E. – 1800 C.E.

The Role of Vassals and Knights

- Powerful nobles in Japan owed only a loose loyalty to the Japanese Emperor.



- The nobles in turn relied on the Samurai for protection.

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The Role of Vassals and Knights

- Like the Knights, the Samurai owed loyalty to their lords and provided military service for them in exchange for land.



- Also like the Knights in Europe, the Samurai wore armor and fought brutally on horseback and followed an ethics code called "Bushido".

The Role of Vassals and Knights

Questions:

- 1) Explain what a Vassal is?
- 2) The oath between a Lord and a Vassal was important, what did this oath state?
- 3) What was the grant of land to a Vassal for military service called?
- 4) What is a Knight?
- 5) What code did Knights follow and what did it say a knight should do?
- 6) What new invasion changed warfare forever during the Medieval period in Europe?

Questions: The Role of Vassals and Knights

1) Explain what a Vassal is?

A noble who served a lord of a higher rank

2) The oath between a Lord and a Vassal was important, what did this oath state?

"To keep faith and loyalty to you against all others"

3) What was the grant of land to a Vassal for military service called?

Fief

4) What is a Knight?

Warriors in armor who fought on horseback

5) What code did Knights follow and what did it say a knight should do?

Chivalry, bravery, honor, courtesy, respect for women, protection of the weak, generosity, and fairness to enemies.

6) What new invasion changed warfare forever during the Medieval period in Europe?

The Stirrup, it allowed knights to ride horses

What Was the Manorial System?

- The lands of the fiefs of the **Middle Ages** were called **Manors**...the fiefs or also called lords ruled the manor and peasants worked the land.



- **Middle Ages** – A time in Europe between the Fall of the Roman Empire and the Renaissance (476 C.E. – 1500 C.E.)

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What Was the Manorial System?

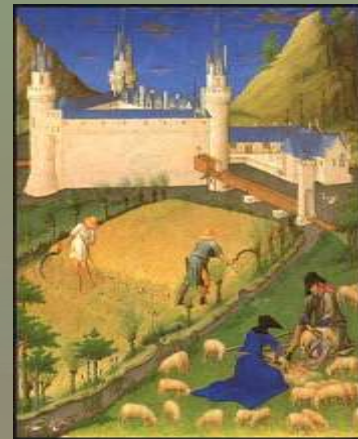
- Some peasants were freemen, who paid the noble for the right to farm the land.



- They had rights under the law and could move whenever and wherever they wished to work.

What Was the Manorial System?

- Most peasants however, were known as **serfs**.



- Serfs could not leave the manor, own property or marry without the lord's approval.

What Was the Manorial System?

- Lords even had the right to try serfs in their own home courts.



- Serfs were not enslaved however, lords could not sell them or take away land that was given to them to support themselves.

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What Was the Manorial System?



- Lords also had a duty to protect their serfs, providing them the safety they needed in order to grow crops.

What Was the Manorial System?

- Serfs worked long hours on the lord's land and performed services for the lord.



- They spent three days working for the lord and the rest of the week growing food for themselves.

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What Was the Manorial System?



- They also had to give a portion of their crops to the lords and pay him for the use of the villages mill, bread oven and winepress.

What Was the Manorial System?



What Was the Manorial System?

- It was not easy for serfs to gain their freedom.



- One way was to run away to towns...if a serf remained in town for more than a year, he or she was considered free!!!

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What Was the Manorial System?



- By the end of the Middle Ages, serfs in many kingdoms were even allowed to buy their own freedom.

What Was the Manorial System?

Questions:

- 1) What does the term Middle Ages refer to?
- 2) What is the definition of a serf?
- 3) Were serfs considered slaves? Why or why not?
- 4) What are two ways a serf could gain his or her freedom?

What Was the Manorial System?

Questions:

1) What does the term Middle Ages refer to?

A time in Europe between the Fall of the Roman Empire and the Renaissance (476 C.E. – 1500 C.E.)

2) What is the definition of a serf?

Peasants that had to live by their Lord's commands

3) Were serfs considered slaves? Why or why not?

They were not slaves, because lords could not sell them or take their land away

4) What are two ways a serf could gain his or her freedom?

Serfs could buy their freedom or run away and hide for one year

How did Farming Improve?

- During the Middle Ages, Europeans invented new technology that helped increase the amount of crops they could grow.



- Perhaps the most important was a heavy wheeled plow with an **Iron Blade**.

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How did Farming Improve?



- This iron bladed plow could easily turn over Western Europe's dense clay soil.

How did Farming Improve?

- Another important invention was the **Horse Collar**.



- The horse collar made it possible for a horse to pull a plow properly.

How did Farming Improve?



- Horses could actually pull plows much faster than oxen, allowing peasants to plant more crops and produce more food.

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How did Farming Improve?

- Europeans also found new ways to harness water and wind power.



- Europe's many rivers powered water mills that ground grain into flour.

How did Farming Improve?



How did Farming Improve?

- Video on how a Watermill works!!!!

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How did Farming Improve?



- Where rivers were not available, windmills were used for grinding grains, pumping water and cutting wood.

How did Farming Improve?



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How did Farming Improve?

- Peasants also learned to grow more food by rotating crops on three fields instead of just two.



- This rotation kept soil fertile.

How did Farming Improve?

- One field was planted in the fall and another in the spring.



- The third field was left unplanted.

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How did Farming Improve?

- The three field system meant that only one third, rather than one half, of the land was unused at any time.



- As a result, more crops could be grown and greater food production allowed for a population explosion.

How did Farming Improve?

Questions:

- 1) Why was the heavy wheeled plow with an iron blade important to Europe's farmland production?
- 2) Why was the horse collar an important farming improvement?
- 3) What were wind mills and water mills being used for during the Middle Ages?
- 4) Why was the three field system so important to farming?

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How did Farming Improve?

Questions:

1) Why was the heavy wheeled plow with an iron blade important to Europe's farmland production?

It easily turned over Europe's dense clay

2) Why was the horse collar an important farming improvement?

Made it possible for a horse to pull a plow

3) What were wind mills and water mills being used for during the Middle Ages?

Ground grain into flour, pump water and cut wood

4) Why was the three field system so important to farming?

Only one third rather than one half of the land was unused at a time

How did Farming Improve?

- **Lecture Check:**
- Answer the following question in a well written open ended response. All responses should be 2 paragraphs.
- **I would like you to think of an invention that could have changed Europe in the Middle Ages. You saw many different advancements, but what is something that you think could have changed the Middle Ages and why.**