

1.

Definition of a Manor

A manor was the district over which a lord had domain and could exercise certain rights and privileges in medieval times. A typical manor would include a Manor House which was built apart from the village where the peasants lived. The lords who occupied his manor would invariably build a Manor House for his wife and family. The Manor House was residential property, and differed from castles in that it was not built for the purpose of attack or defense. The Manor House varied in size, according to the wealth of the lord but generally consisted of a Great Hall, solar, kitchen, storerooms and servants quarters.

1. What all was included in a “Manor”? (Hint: More than just land).
2. How does a Lords house differ from the Kings castle?

2.

Medieval Manors - Feudalism & Grants of Land

Middle Ages Feudalism was based on the exchange of land, called a fief, for military service. Example of how Feudalism Worked: King William the Conqueror used the concept of feudalism to reward his supporters for their help in the conquest of England. The land belonging to the English was taken and given to the Kings Knights and Nobles. These estates were known as Manors. Life lived under the Medieval Feudal System, or Feudalism, demanded that everyone owed allegiance to the King and their immediate superior. Everyone was expected to pay for the land by providing the following services:

- Work days - completing any chores required
 - Providing trained soldiers to fight for the King and clothes and weapons for the soldiers
3. To how many people would the average medieval citizen owe allegiance?
 4. Was it possible for someone to be a lord and a vassal at the same time?

3.

How big were the Medieval Manors? What were Fiefs?

Medieval manors varied in size but were typically small holdings of between 1200 - 1800 acres. Every noble had at least one manor; great nobles might have several manors, usually scattered throughout the country; and even the king depended on his many manors for the food supply of the court. Another name given to this land was a Fief. A fief was the land held by a vassal of a lord in return for services, growing food or being part of the military.

5. What is a Fief?

6. How does the article show how everyone relied on each other for survival?

4.

Medieval Manors - The Lands of the Manors

The lord's land was called his "demesne," or domain which he required to support himself and his retinue. The rest of the land of the Manors were allotted to the peasants who were his tenants. A peasant, instead of having his land in one compact mass, had it split up into a large number of small strips (usually about half an acre each). Besides his holding of farm land each peasant had certain rights over the common land. He could cut a limited amount of hay from the meadow. He could turn so many farm animals including cattle, geese and swine on the waste. He also enjoyed the privilege of taking so much wood from the forest for fuel and building purposes. A peasant's holding, which also included a house in the village, thus formed a self-sufficient unit.

7. Name at least 3 positive and 2 negative things about being a peasant.