

The Early Middle Ages

Section 3



MAIN IDEAS

1. Feudalism governed how knights and nobles dealt with each other.
2. Feudalism spread through much of Europe.
3. The manor system dominated Europe's economy.
4. Towns and trade grew and helped end the feudal system.

Key Terms and People

knights warriors who fought on horseback

vassal a knight who agrees to protect and serve a lord in exchange for land

feudalism the system that governs the relationship between lords and vassals

William the Conqueror French noble who conquered England and spread feudalism

manor large estate owned by a knight or lord

serfs workers who were tied to the land on which they lived

Eleanor of Aquitaine powerful French noblewoman who became queen of France and England

Section Summary

FEUDALISM GOVERNS KNIGHTS AND NOBLES

After Charlemagne's time, raids on Europe from the north and east intensified. The Frankish kings were unable to defend their empire. Nobles had to defend their own lands. Many nobles began to rule their lands as independent territories. These nobles needed soldiers. They gave **knights**, warriors who fought on horseback, land in exchange for military service. A noble who gave land to a knight was called a lord, while the knight was called a **vassal**. The system that governed the promises between lords and vassals is called **feudalism**.

Lords and vassals had responsibilities to each other. A lord had to send help if an enemy attacked a vassal. A lord had to be fair or vassals could break all ties with him. Vassals had to fight at a lord's command. They also had to house and feed a lord if he visited and sometimes pay him money.

Why did many nobles become rulers of their own lands?

List two responsibilities of a vassal toward a lord.

Section 3, *continued***FEUDALISM SPREADS**

Frankish knights introduced feudalism into northern Italy, Spain, and Germany. From Germany, knights carried feudalism into eastern Europe. Feudalism reached Britain when **William the Conqueror** invaded and made himself king of England.

Who brought feudalism to eastern Europe?

THE MANOR SYSTEM

An estate owned by a knight or lord was called a **manor**. As fighters, knights had no time to work in the fields. Most peasants owned no land but needed to grow food to live. So knights allowed peasants to live and farm land on their estates. In return the peasants, or **serfs**, had to give the knights food or other payment. Skilled craftspeople also lived and worked on the manor, which provided everything people needed.

What did knights and serfs provide each other under feudalism?

Women in the Middle Ages had fewer rights than men, but they still played important roles in society. Some women, like **Eleanor of Aquitaine**, even became politically powerful.

TOWNS AND TRADE GROW

Most people lived in manors during the Middle Ages, but as Europe's population grew so did the size and number of towns and cities. The invention of the plow and increased trade eventually led to the decline of feudalism as people had more opportunities to make a living.

What two changes helped lead to a decline in feudalism?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences During the Middle Ages the ability for people to improve their lives depended upon where they started out in life. Research the options for advancement for one of the following people: the lord of a manor, lady of a manor, a vassal, or a peasant. Then write a short summary describing any options.

Section 3, *continued*

DIRECTIONS On the line provided before each statement, write **T** if a statement is true and **F** if a statement is false. If the statement is false, write the correct term on the line after each sentence that makes the sentence a true statement.

_____ 1. William the Conqueror declared himself king of England after defeating the English king near the town of Hastings.

_____ 2. Eleanor of Aquitaine was a French woman who had great political power.

_____ 3. A knight who promised to support a lord in exchange for money was called a vassal.

_____ 4. Serfs were tied to the land on which they lived and could not leave their land without permission from the lord.

_____ 5. The worst soldiers were knights, or warriors who fought on horseback.

_____ 6. The large estate owned by a knight or a lord was called a manor.

_____ 7. The system of promises that governed the relationships between lords and vassals was called feudalism.

SECTION 2**Summary**

(First Page) during Rome's long collapse; It was divided into many small kingdoms.

(Second Page) to convert the people of Ireland to Christianity; Clovis; the Vikings

Challenge Activity

Student letters should explain their decision to become a monk.

Fill in the Blank

1. Monks
2. Middle Ages
3. Saint Patrick
4. Charlemagne
5. monasteries
6. Saint Benedict
7. medieval

SECTION 3**Summary**

(First Page) because the nobles began defending their own land when the Frankish no longer could; to fight at a lord's command and to house and feed a lord if he visited

(Second Page) Frankish knights; The knights provided serfs land to grow food, and the serfs provided knights with food or other payment; the invention of the plow and increased trade

Challenge Activity

Student summaries should include any options for advancement for their chosen person.

True/False

1. T
2. T
3. F; A knight who promised to support a lord in exchange of land was called a vassal.
4. T
5. F; The best soldiers were knights or warriors who fought on horseback.
6. T
7. T

SECTION 4**Summary**

(First Page) They were paid in land; Students should underline: *Bushido* and *chivalry*

(Second Page) Christian religious themes; a short Japanese poem of three lines and 17 syllables that often describe scenes of nature

Challenge Activity

Student essays should include personal beliefs how religion influences their view of the world.

Fill in the Blank

1. chivalry
2. Haiku
3. squire
4. Christian
5. Shinto
6. nature
7. Bushido

The Later Middle Ages**SECTION 1****Summary**

(First Page) to decide what the church would teach and to occasionally write bulls; Answers will vary. Sample answer: because of their belief in the pope's connection to God

(Second Page) Students should underline: *the throne was inherited through family* and circle: *the nobles elected the emperor*; when Pope Leo IX excommunicated the bishop of Constantinople; He excommunicated him.

Challenge Activity

Student papers should include their choice and reasons to support it.

True/False

1. T
2. T
3. T
4. F; The Holy Roman emperors were elected by their empire's nobles.
5. F; Pope Leo IX excommunicated the bishop of Constantinople, who formed the Eastern Orthodox Church.