

STUDENT VOCABULARY

Student Handout

Castle

Structures that belonged to the wealthy, important, and powerful people of the land – kings, queens, nobles, and knights. They were symbols of status during times of war and in peace. Early castles were built in the 9th and 10th centuries and were constructed of earth and wood. They were designed to be difficult to attack and easy to defend.

Chivalry

The medieval system, principles and customs of knighthood. The qualities idealized by knighthood, such as bravery, courtesy, honor and gallantry toward women.

Feudalism

A political and economic system of Europe from around the 9th to 15th centuries. It was based on nobility holding all land in exchange for homage to the Crown, military service, labor, and fruits of the land.

Hierarchy

Categorization of a group of people according to ability or status.

Knight

A medieval gentleman-soldier, usually high-born, raised by a sovereign to privileged military status after training as a page and squire.

Lord

The proprietor of a manor.

Manor

The district over which a lord had domain and could exercise certain rights and privileges in medieval Europe.

Page

A boy who acted as a knight's attendant as the first stage of training for chivalric knighthood.

Peasant

They were the poorest people in the medieval era and lived primarily in the country or small villages.

Serf

A member of the lowest feudal class, attached to the land owned by a lord and required to perform labor in return for certain legal or customary rights.

Squire

A young nobleman attendant upon a knight and ranked next below a knight in feudal hierarchy.

Tapestry

A heavy cloth with rich, colored designs or scenes usually hung on walls for decoration and sometimes used to cover furniture.

Vassal

A person who held land from a feudal lord and received protection in return for homage and allegiance.

Valor

A quality of determination when facing great danger, especially in battle.

Virtue

The display of moral excellence.