

The Manor Economy

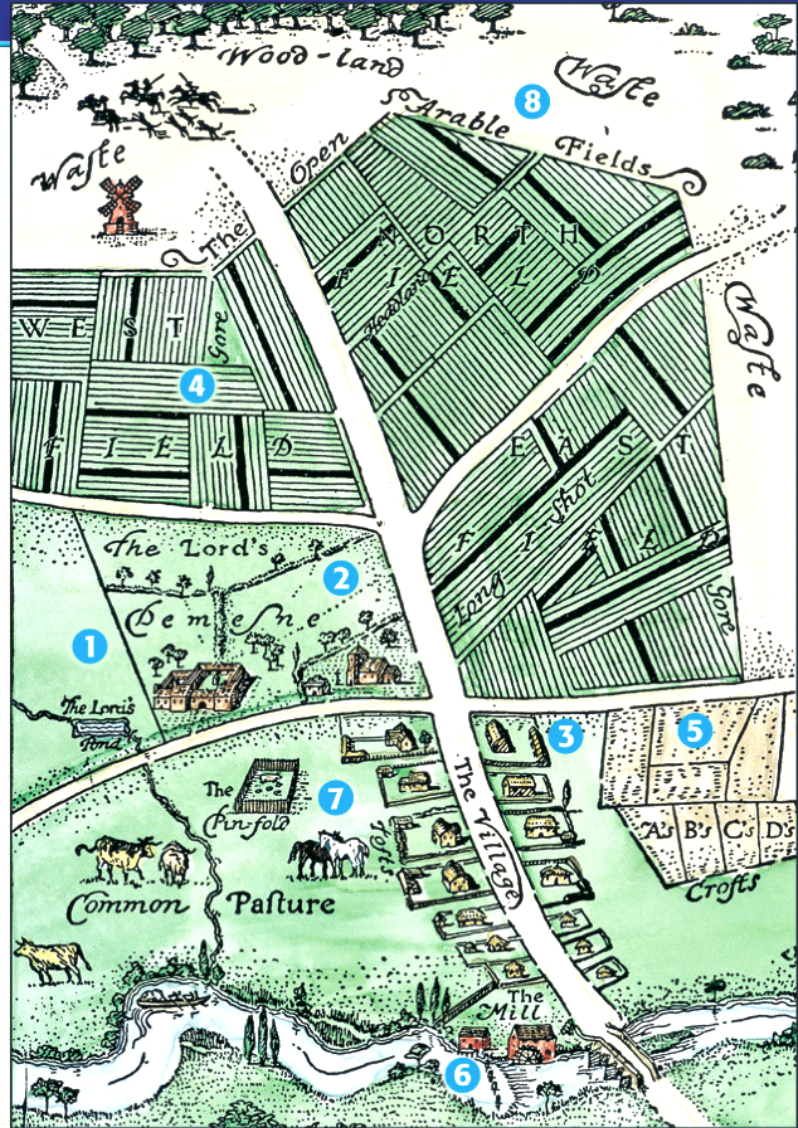
Directions: Examine the documents and answer the questions that follow.

History *in* Depth

The Medieval Manor

The medieval manor varied in size. The illustration to the right is a plan of a typical English manor.

- 1 Manor House**
The dwelling place of the lord and his family and their servants
- 2 Village Church**
Site of both religious services and public meetings
- 3 Peasant Cottages**
Where the peasants lived
- 4 Lord's Demesne**
Fields owned by the lord and worked by the peasants
- 5 Peasant Crofts**
Gardens that belonged to the peasants
- 6 Mill**
Water-powered mill for grinding grain
- 7 Common Pasture**
Common area for grazing animals
- 8 Woodland**
Forests provided wood for fuel.



1. Feudal Manors, like the one shown above, are often described as **self-sufficient** economies, meaning they can completely provide for themselves without anything from outside. Examine the map above. What necessities are provided from within the manor? Are there any necessities that are not provided from within the manor? Do you agree that the Manor Economy is self-sufficient?

Daily Life of a Noblewoman

This excerpt describes the daily life of an English noblewoman of the Middle Ages, Cicely Neville, Duchess of York. A typical noblewoman is pictured below.

PRIMARY SOURCE



She gets up at 7a.m., and her chaplain is waiting to say morning prayers . . . and when she has washed and dressed . . . she has breakfast, then she goes to the chapel, for another service, then has dinner. . . . After dinner, she discusses business . . . then has a short sleep, then drinks ale or wine. Then . . . she goes to the chapel for evening service, and has supper. After supper, she relaxes with her women attendants. . . . After that, she goes to her private room, and says nighttime prayers. By 8 p.m. she is in bed.

DAILY ROUTINE OF CICELY, DUCHESS OF YORK,
quoted in *Women in Medieval Times* by Fiona Macdonald

Daily Life of a Peasant Woman

This excerpt describes the daily life of a typical medieval peasant woman as pictured below.

PRIMARY SOURCE



I get up early . . . milk our cows and turn them into the field. . . . Then I make butter. . . . Afterward I make cheese. . . . Then the children need looking after. . . . I give the chickens food . . . and look after the young geese. . . . I bake, I brew. . . . I twist rope. . . . I tease out wool, and card it, and spin it on a wheel. . . . I organize food for the cattle, and for ourselves. . . . I look after all the household.

**FROM A BALLAD FIRST WRITTEN
DOWN IN ABOUT 1500,** quoted in *Women
in Medieval Times* by Fiona Macdonald

2. What seem to be the major concerns in the noblewoman's life? How do they compare with those of the peasant woman?
3. What qualities would you associate with the peasant woman and the life she lived?

Feudalism Summary Questions

1. What role did war and defense play in the development of Feudalism?
2. Would you describe Feudalism as a stable political system? Explain.
3. Would you describe Manorialism as a stable economic system? Explain.