

Feudalism Recap:

All about LAND OWNERSHIP (a parcel of land is called a fief)

The monarch, who owned all the land in a kingdom, granted land, called a fief, to each noble. As a result, nobles grew wealthy and powerful. In exchange, the nobles pledged loyalty to the monarch. The nobles, in turn, granted fiefs to knights, who agreed to fight for the noble and the monarch.

Peasants and serfs were at the bottom of the feudal social hierarchy. Peasants and serfs were allowed to work a small portion of their overlord's fief, but they had little freedom.

Life of a Peasant

- Peasants paid for "privilege" of serving the lord
- Tax on all grain ground into flour at the mill (and it was a crime to get your bread elsewhere)
- Marriage was taxed and you had to have the lord's permission
- Church charged a tithe (church tax) of 10% of their income
- Cottages were small and crowded with dirt floors
- They lived with their pigs inside because they were warm!
- Straw beds were infested with bugs
- Work, work, work for your lord and your own food

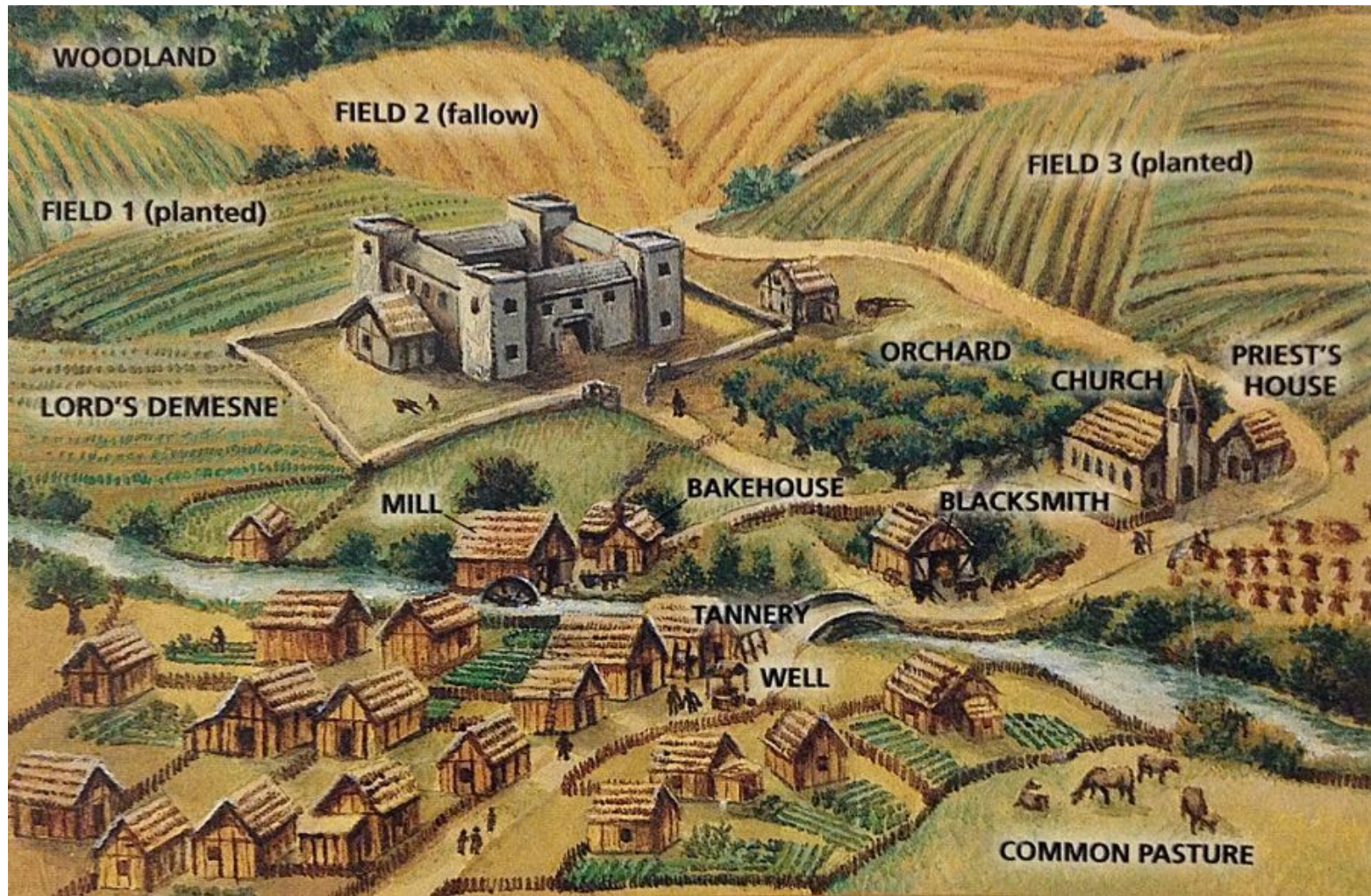
But, you were guaranteed land, food, and protection...

Manors

Each lord created a "manor" on his fief. The manor was like a village, and was self-sufficient. Each manor contained:

- Farmland
- Forests (for gathering firewood)
- A stream (if possible) for water
- Pastures with animals
- A church
- Blacksmiths + tradespeople
- A castle for the lord and his family

Question: Why did manors have to be self-sufficient?



WOODLAND

FIELD 2 (fallow)

FIELD 3 (planted)

FIELD 1 (planted)

LORD'S DEMESNE

ORCHARD

CHURCH

PRIEST'S HOUSE

MILL

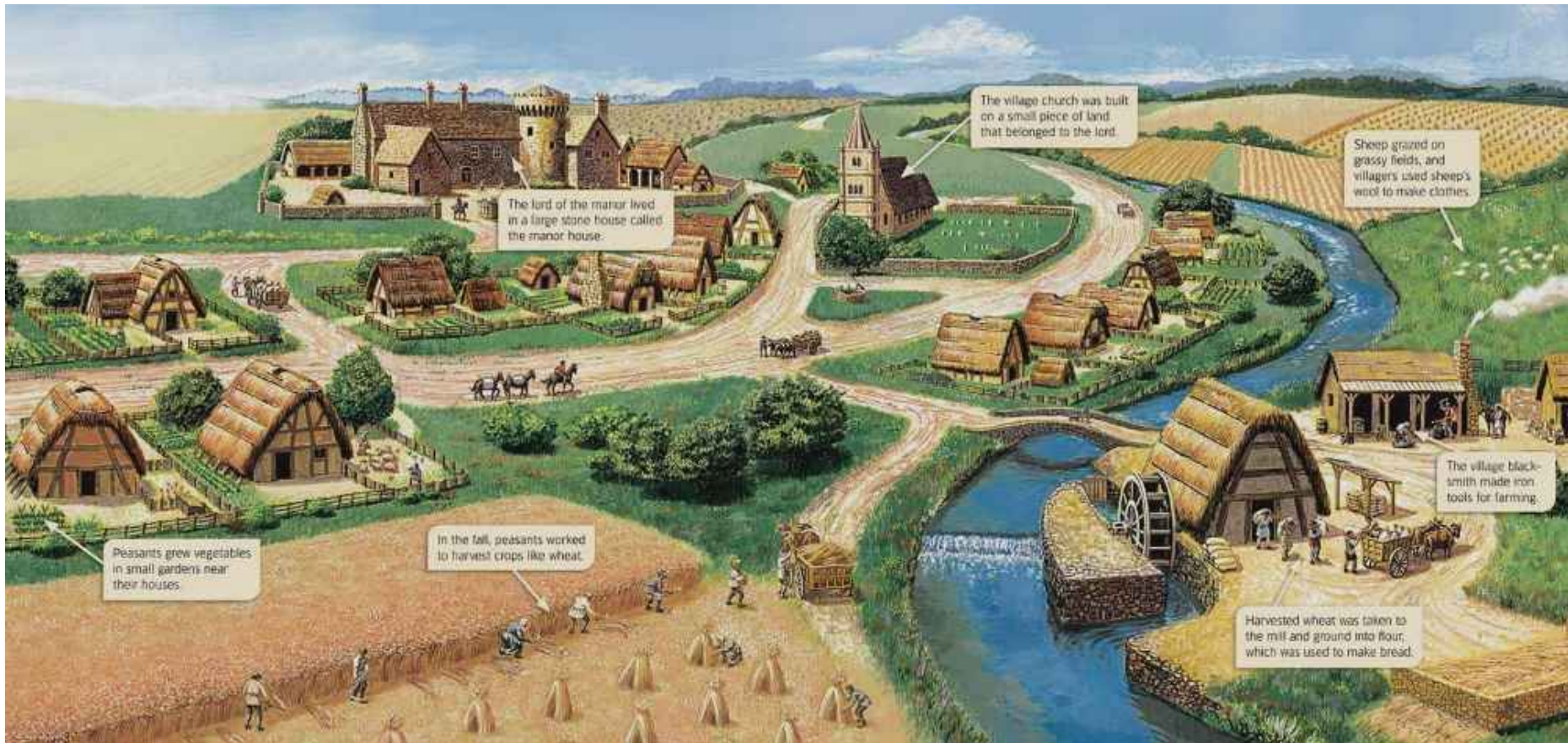
BAKEHOUSE

BLACKSMITH

TANNERY

WELL

COMMON PASTURE



The village church was built on a small piece of land that belonged to the lord.

The lord of the manor lived in a large stone house called the manor house.

Sheep grazed on grassy fields, and villagers used sheep's wool to make clothes.

The village blacksmith made iron tools for farming.

Harvested wheat was taken to the mill and ground into flour, which was used to make bread.

In the fall, peasants worked to harvest crops like wheat.

Peasants grew vegetables in small gardens near their houses.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fgd9el8dk6U>