

Medieval Manor Project

Part One: The Design

Background:

During the Medieval era of history, life was lived by a very different set of political, economic, and social rules. The only form of government was a Monarchy where the king or queen ruled by "divine right." "Divine right" simply meant that God appointed the king or queen to rule with absolute power.

The main economic system was Feudalism, in which the king appointed a lord or knight to oversee a portion of his land in return for loyalty and protection in case of invasion. The lord or knight would oversee the serfs, who labored on the land in return for protection given by the lord or knight.

Assignment:

Research medieval manors. Create a simple sketch or "floorplan" of your manor. Label the elements of your design to ensure that you have all required components. Then, build your manor in the medium of your choice (popsicle sticks, Lego, clay, cardboard, origami, etc.)

The following items must be included AND LABELED in your manor:

1. Manor House/Castle: The house of the lord and his family and their servants.

**** Castle is worth FIVE marks

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. Workshops: Where tools, clothing, furniture, etc. were made.

6. Mill: Water-powered mill for grinding grain.

7. Common Pasture: Common area for grazing animals.

8. Woodland: Forests provided wood for fuel.

Bonus: Any extra elements you add, such as details on your castle, will count for bonus points.

**2 points awarded per items 2-8: 1 for the representation + 1 for correct labeling

Assessment:

The design: / 19

The facts: / 6

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Part Two: The Facts

1. What does it mean for a manor to be "self-sufficient"? Why was it important for manors to be self-sufficient? (/2)

2. What kind of people benefited most from feudalism and manor life? What kind of people benefited least? (/2)

3. What parts of living on a manor could have been improved (i.e. what needs to be fixed)? How would you fix it? (/2)
