

The Development of Feudalism in Western Europe

West Branch 7th Grade Ancient History



The Fall of Ancient Rome! 476 C.E.

476-1000 C.E. The Early Middle Ages

1000-1300 C.E. The High Middle Ages

1300-1450 C.E. The Late Middle Ages

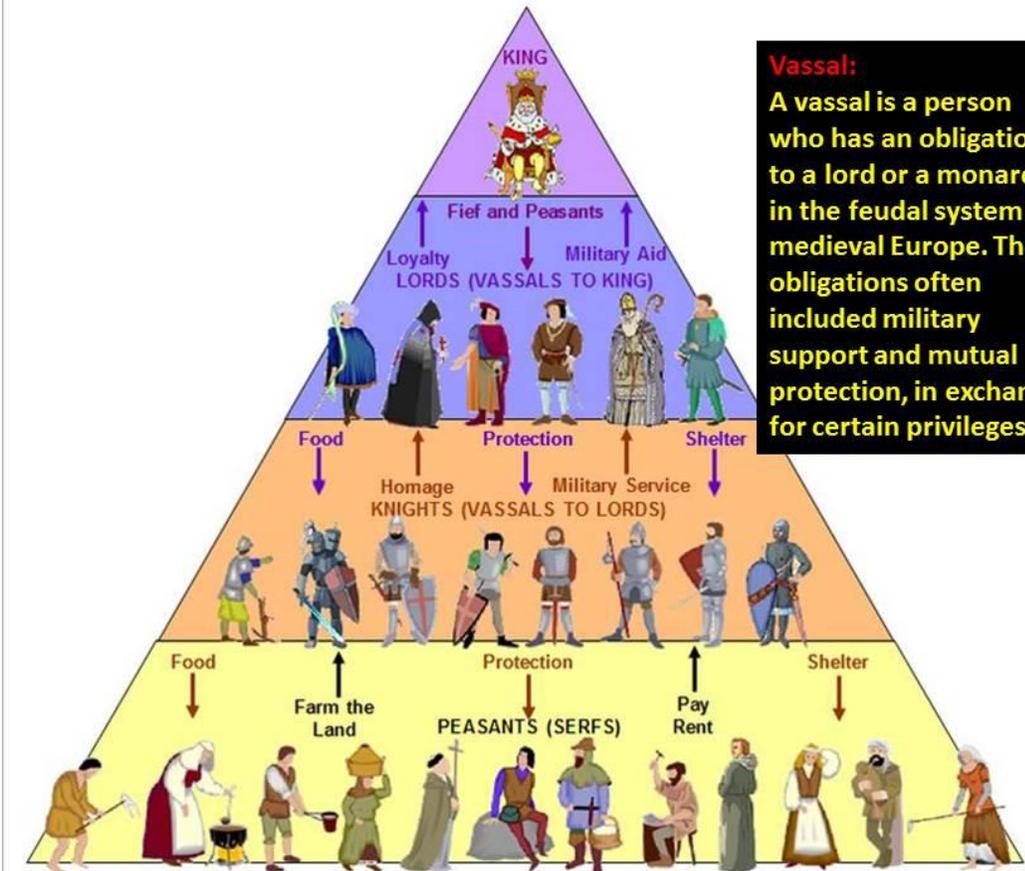


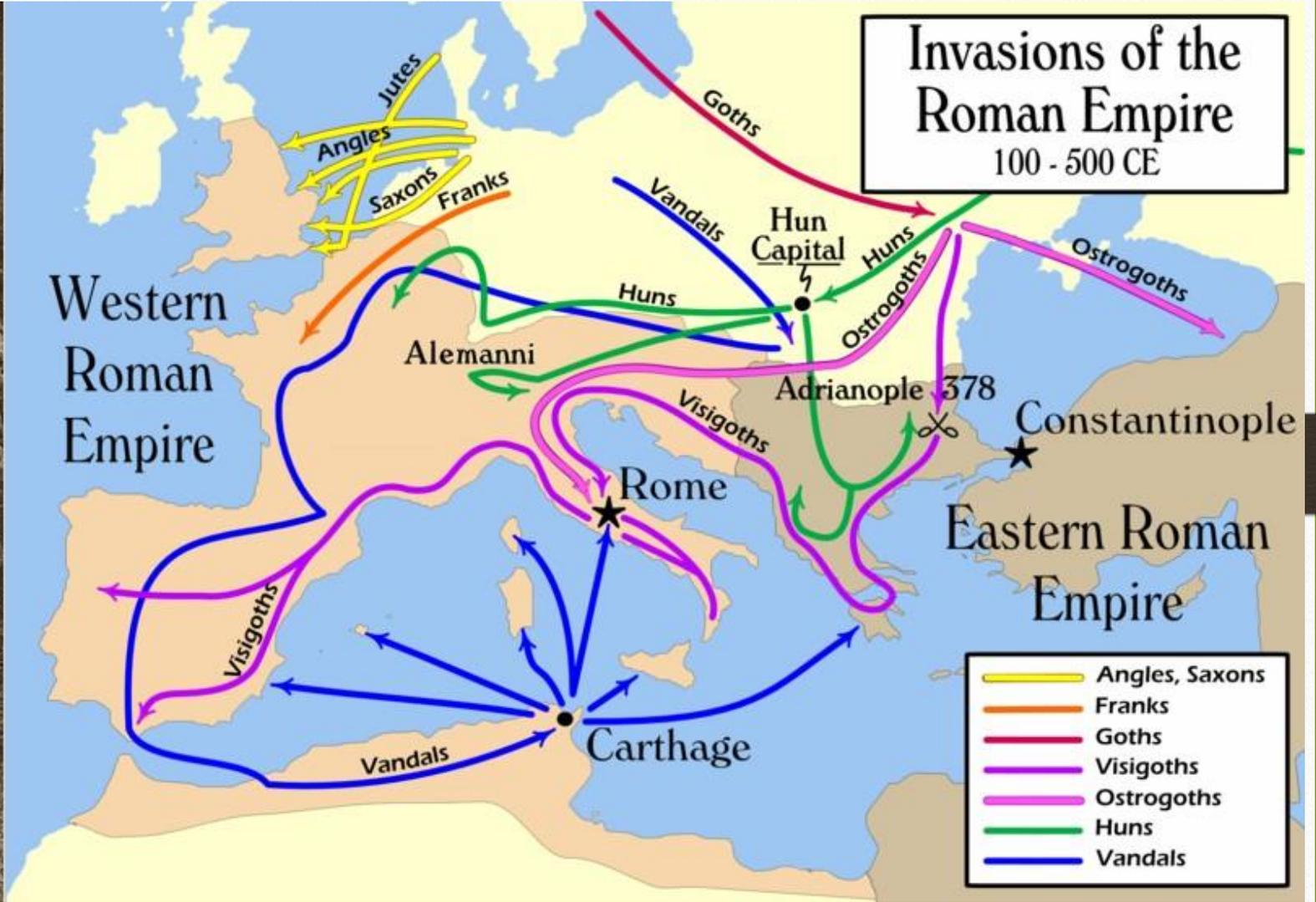
Feudalism

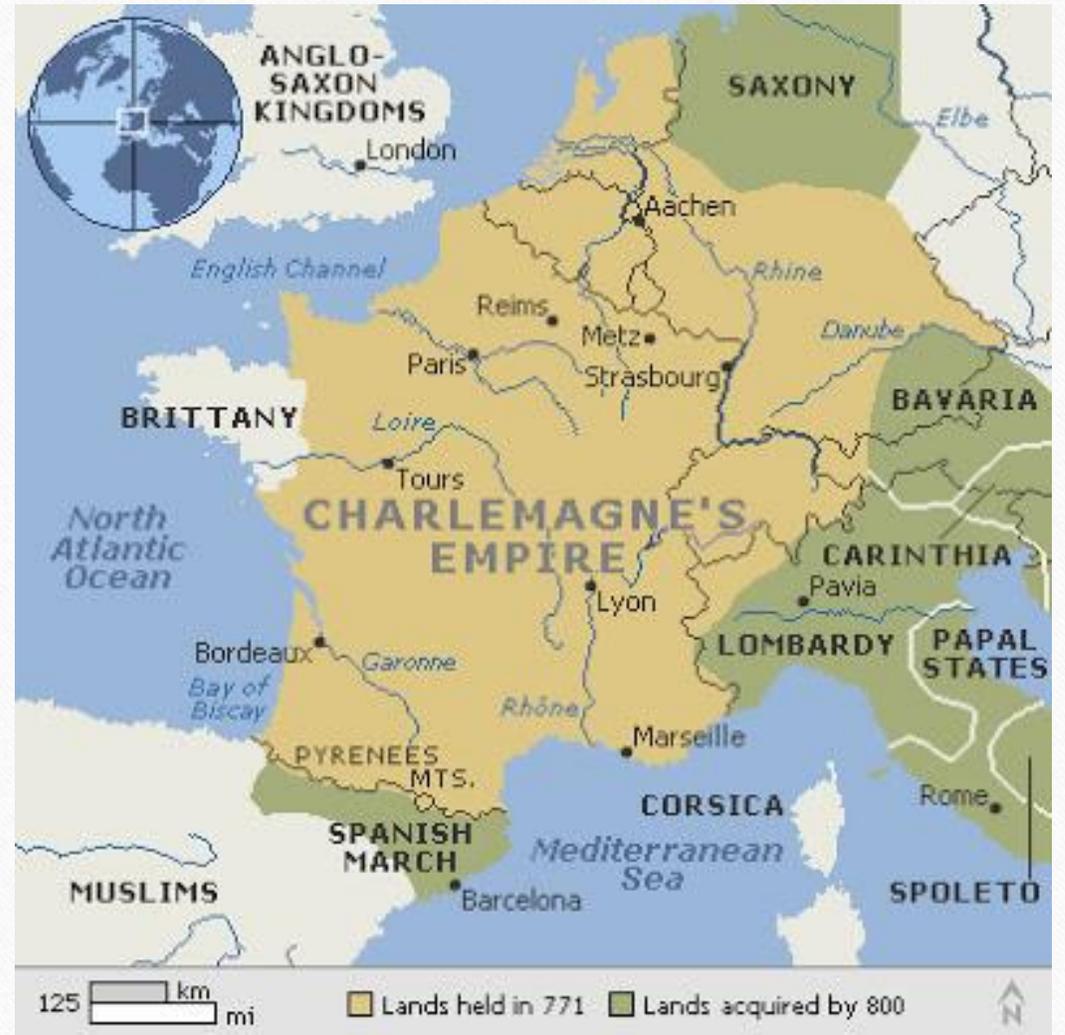
Lord: a ruler, usually a powerful land owner. Pledged loyalty to the King for protection.

Knight: armed warrior, fight on behalf of their lords.

Peasants: work the land. At the bottom of the system. Serf's are peasants who are not free to leave the lords land.









MANOR LIFE

The lord's castle was located at the center of a manor.

Social Classes

Kings (Monarchs)

- At the top of the social class
- Believed in the “divine right of kings”. This was the belief that their right to rule was given to them by God.
- Very rarely had enough money to finance their own armies. Had to rely on nobles to provide knights and soldiers.



Social Classes

Lords and Ladies

- Members of the nobility (highest ranking class).
- Most live on manors
- Some owned more than one manor



Daily Life

Noble Lords

- Responsible to manage and defend his land and the people who worked on it
- Appointed officials to ensure that the villagers are carrying out their duties
- Acted as judges in manor courts
- Had the power to fine and punish those who broke the law



Daily Life

Noblewoman

- Noblewomen could also own land
- Noblewomen could hold fiefs and inherit land
- Except for fighting, these women had all the same duties that lords had
- They ran their estates, sat as judges on minor offenses, and sent their knights to serve in times of war



Manor Home

Houses were candle lit and heated by an open fire

- Were very cold and gloomy
- No privacy
- Fleas and lice infected all medieval buildings
- People bathed only once a week
- Clothes were not washed daily either



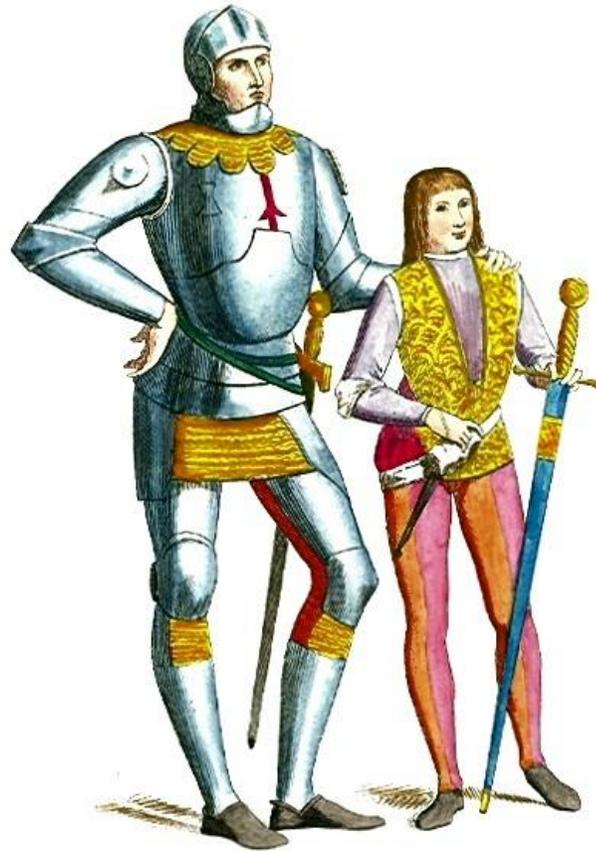
Knights

Becoming a Knight (age7)

As a boy they started out as a page or servant.

At age seven they left home and went to live at a castle with a lord (often a relative)

- Learned how to ride a horse and received religious instruction
- Spent a lot of time with the ladies of the house
- Expected to help them in any way possible
- Ladies taught them to sing, dance, compose music, and play the harp
- Polished the knights armor



Knights

Becoming a Knight (age 14)

At about age 14 he becomes a squire

- Spent most of his time training with the knight who was his lord
- Polished the knight's armor, sword, shield, and lance.
- Waited on him at meal time
- Trained to become a warrior
- Learned how to fight with a sword and a lance



Knights

Becoming a Knight (early 20's)

In his early 20's if he was deserving he became a knight

- Ceremony was very complex
- Often spent the night before praying
- Next morning bathed and put on a white tunic to show his purity
- During the ceremony he knelt down in front of his lord and the lord would say the vows and lightly touch the knight-to-be on each shoulder with the flat side of a sword and knighted him
- Sometimes if a squire did very well in battle he was knighted on the spot



Knights

Responsibilities and Daily Life of a Knight

- Lived by a strong code of chivalry.
- Had to be loyal to their church and their lord to be just, fair, and to protect the helpless.
- Competed in Jousts and tournaments.

