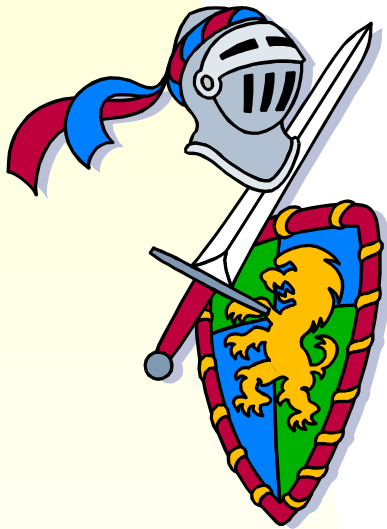


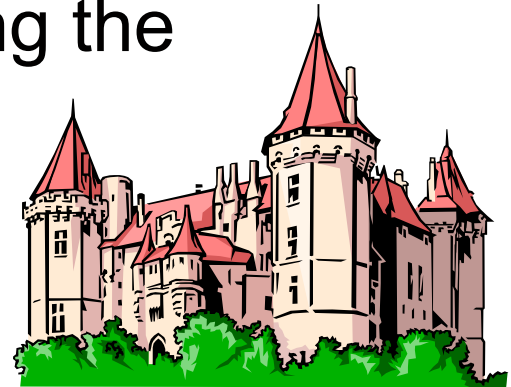
Medieval Europe



Feudal Society Structure

OBJECTIVES

Our lesson today is on the political structure of the feudal system and the importance of the relationship between Lords and vassals during the Middle Ages

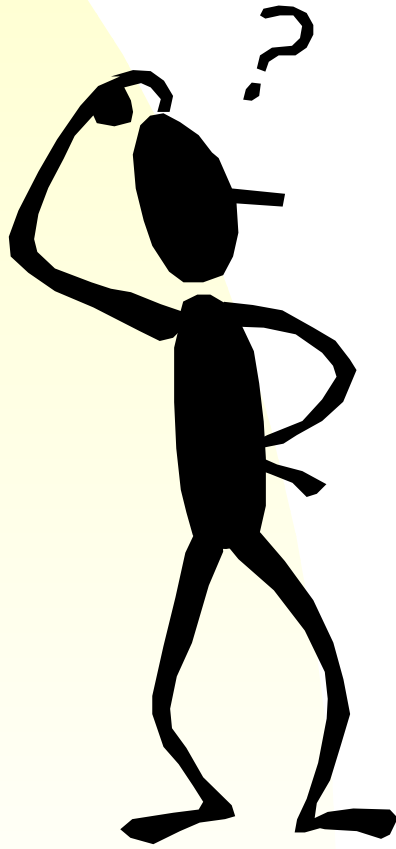


Key Questions



- Why was feudalism necessary?
- Why was feudalism like the mafia?
- What is a Knight?
- Who was protected by feudalism
- What did the feudal social structure look like?

WHY WAS FEUDALISM NECESSARY?



The Rise of Feudalism

- The breakdown of the Roman Empire led to increased crime as there was no 'police' force.
- Farmers wanted protection from these criminals.
- Powerful people (Lords) were able to control land, build castles, protect people, and gain allies
- These powerful people allowed people to farm the land they controlled in return for protection from criminals.

How Feudalism Works

KING

Provides money, army on demand
Bestows land on his many Nobles



NOBILITY



Provides military service
and protection on demand

Bestows land on
his many Knights



KNIGHTS



Provides military service
and food on demand

Bestows land on
his many Vassals



VASSALS



What were Nobles and Vassals

- Powerful **nobles** (Lords, Barons, Earls) controlled a larger area of land and protected the locals by employing vassals and armies of knights and soldiers.
- A **vassal** - a noble who was given land in return for supporting a Lord.
- Vassals controlled a part of the Lord's land with a smaller force of soldiers who would serve as part of the Lord's army if needed.



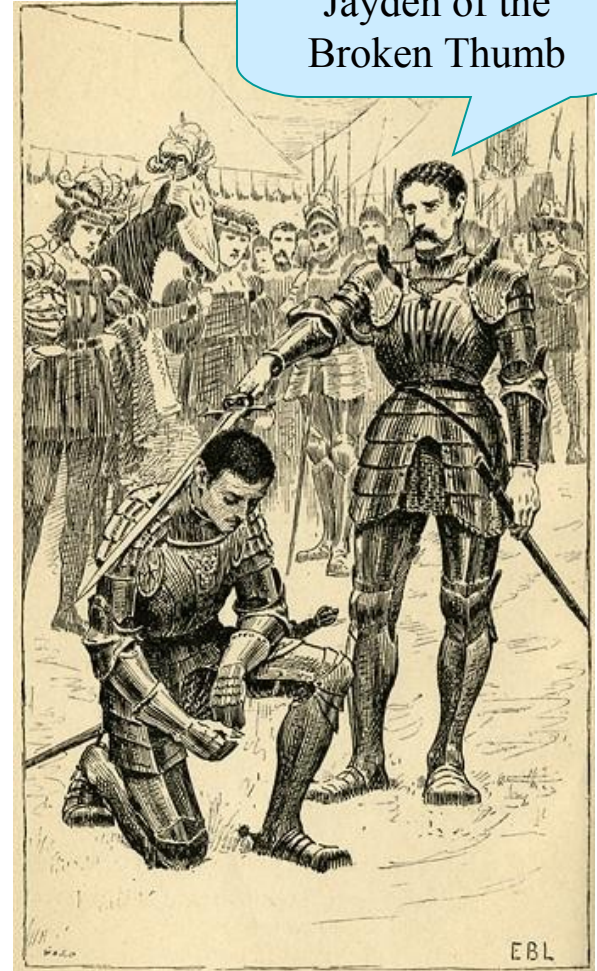
All nobles were vassals of the King.



What is a Knight?

- Almost all nobles were knights
- Training began at age 7, as a page, under the guidance of the Lady of the Manor
- Became squires at age 15 and were trained by other knights
- Those deemed worthy were “dubbed” knights

I dub thee Sir
Jayden of the
Broken Thumb



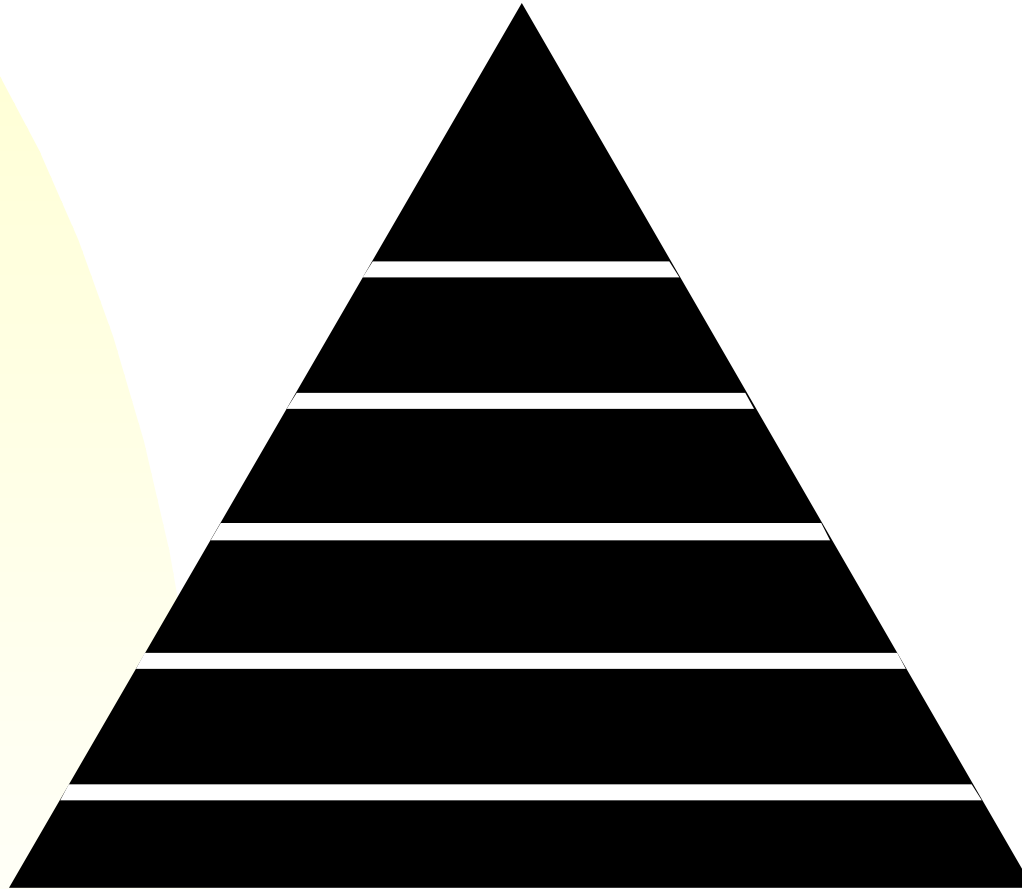


Feudal Peasants



- There were two groups of peasant workers on a feudal manor:
- **Serfs** (Peasants) – workers bound to the land by contract with the nobles. They had no freedom - they were the noble's property.
- **Freemen**- skilled workers who paid rent and could leave the manor whenever they wished. They usually had a skill needed by others on the manor.

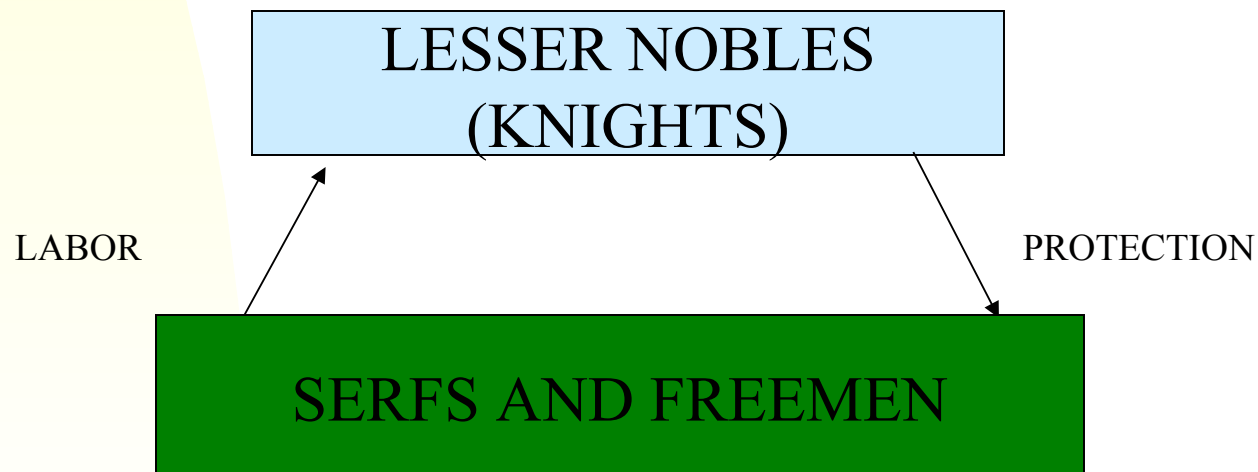
Constructing the Pyramid of Power



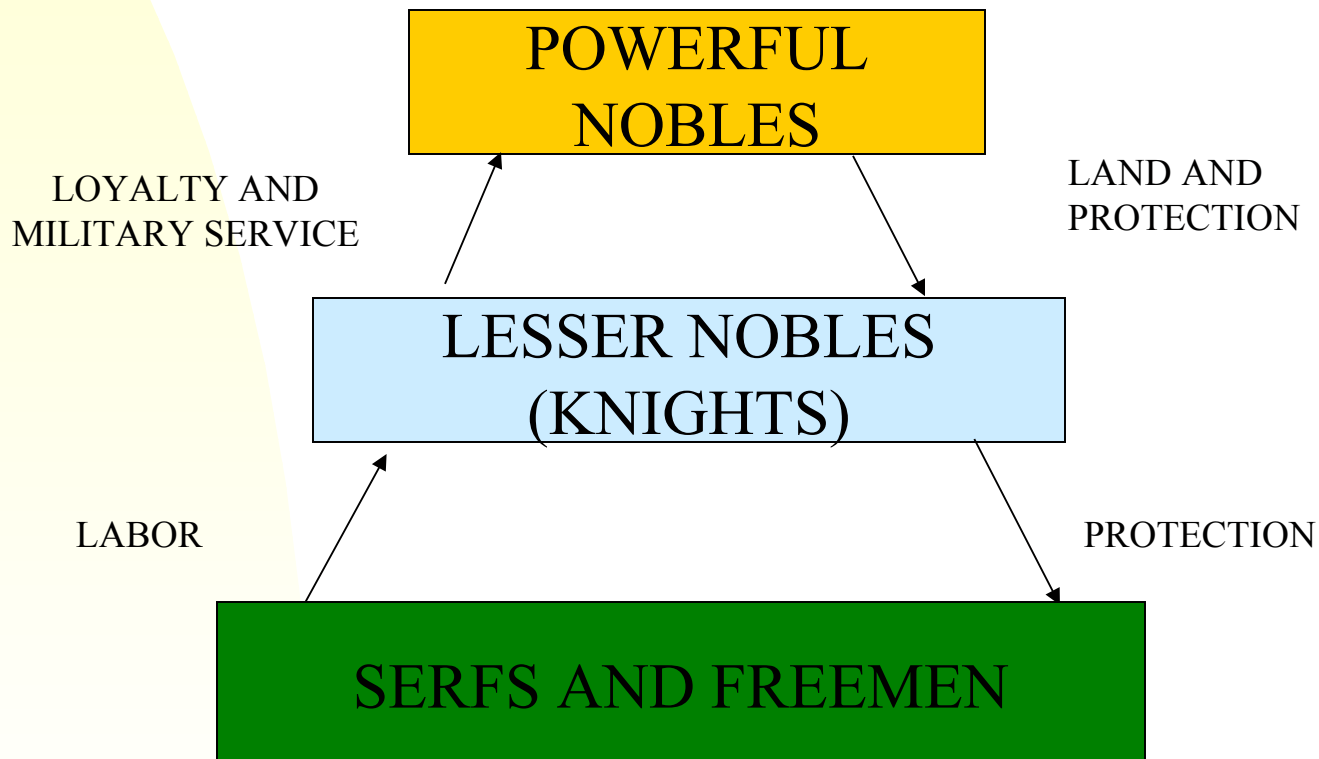
Constructing the Pyramid of Power

SERFS AND FREEMEN

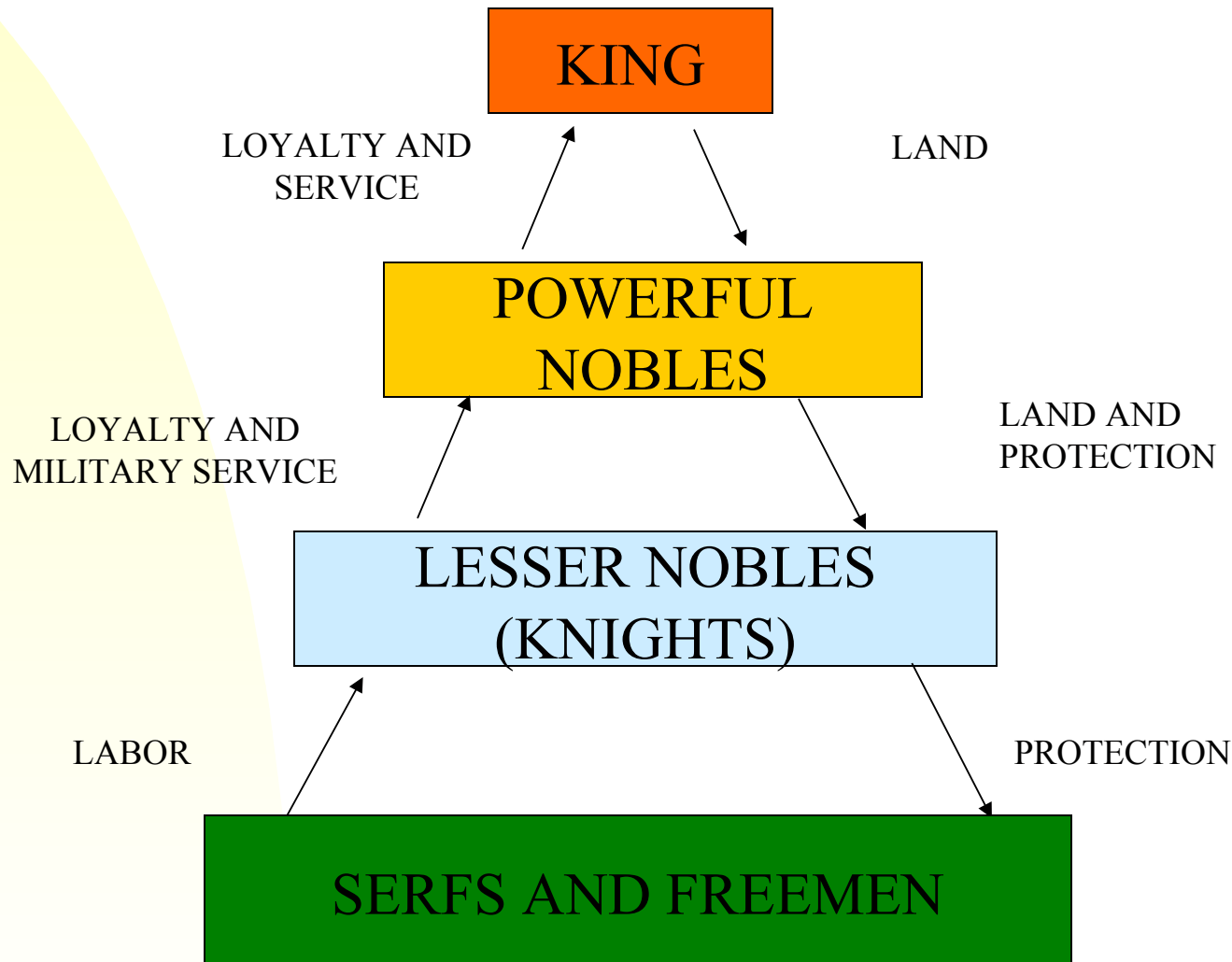
Constructing the Pyramid of Power



Constructing the Pyramid of Power

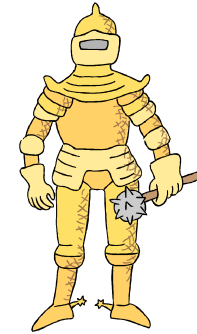


Constructing the Pyramid of Power



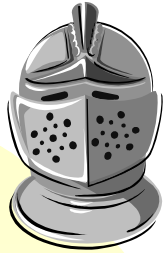


REVIEW



Let's see how much you remember!

- 1) Everyone owed loyalty to the _____
- 2) _____ were really the most powerful. They got _____ from the king.
- 3) Lesser nobles (knights) gave _____ in return for land _____
- 4) _____ were bound to the land. They worked in return for _____.
- 5) _____ were skilled workers. They paid rent to the _____ and were free to move if they wanted to.



Check Your Answers

- 1) Everyone owed loyalty to the king.
- 2) Nobles were really the most powerful. They got land from the king.
- 3) Lesser nobles (knights) gave military service in return for land.
- 4) Serfs were bound to the land. They worked in return for protection.
- 5) Freemen were skilled workers. They paid rent to the nobles and were free to move if they wanted to.

THE END

