Medieval Life Information and Activity Worksheets

FEUDAL SYSTEM

KING
- Provide money and knights
- Grants land to

BARONS
- Provide protection & military service
- Grant land to

KNIGHTS
- Provide food and services
- Grant land to

PEASANTS
Worksheets

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Section 3
Crime and Punishment
Page 31  - Punishment
Page 32  - Guilty or Not Guilty
Page 33  - Suggested Activities
Page 34  - Understanding Medieval Crime and Punishment
Page 35  - The Manorial Court – You Decide
Page 36-40 - Manorial Court Drama
Page 41  - Crime and Punishment wordsearch
Page 42  - Crime and Punishment anagrams

Section 4
Medieval Religion
Page 43,44 - Medieval Religion information pages
Page 45  - Picture Source
Page 46  - Picture Source analysis
Page 47  - Suggested Activities
Page 48  - Medieval Church Who’s Who
Page 49  - Medieval Religion questions
Page 50  - Heaven and Hell drawing frame
Page 51  - Writing frame
Page 52  - Medieval Religion wordsearch

Section 5
Solutions to Crosswords, Wordsearches. Anagrams and quiz sheets
The Feudal System was introduced to England following the invasion and conquest of the country by William I (The Conqueror).

The system had been used in France by the Normans from the time they first settled there in about 900AD.

It was a simple, but effective system, where all land was owned by the king. One quarter was kept by the king as his personal property, some was given to the church and the rest was leased out under strict controls.

Each group of people had certain duties and obligations to perform.

The King

The king was in complete control. He owned all the land in the country and would only allow people he could trust to lease land from him.

Men that were selected to lease land had to swear an oath to remain faithful to the King at all times.

These men were known as barons. They were wealthy, powerful and had complete control of the land they leased from the King.
Barons

The land that barons leased from the King was known as a manor and the barons were called the Lord of the Manor. They kept as much land as they wanted for their own use and divided the rest among their knights.

The barons were in complete control of this land. They established their own system of justice, minted their own money and set their own taxes.

In return for the land they had been given by the king, the barons had to serve on the royal council, pay rent and provide the king with knights for military service when he demanded it. They also had to provide lodging and food for the king and his court when they travelled around the country.

Knights

Knights were given land by a baron. In return for the land they had to provide military service when demanded by the king. They also had to protect the baron and his family, as well as the manor, from attack.

The knights kept as much of the land as they wished for their own personal use and distributed the rest to peasants.

Peasants

Peasants, sometimes known as serfs or villeins, were given land by knights. In return they had to provide the knight with free labour, food and service whenever it was demanded.

Peasants had no rights. They were not allowed to leave the Manor and even had to ask for permission before they could marry.
Suggested Activities

1. Feudal System card sort
2. Sort pupils to resemble the feudal system
3. Feudal System wordsearch
4. Feudal System true or false quiz
Feudal System Card Sort

I lease land to barons

I lease land to knights

I lease land to peasants

I lease land from the king

I lease land from the baron

I lease land from the knight
Feudal System Card Sort

I have to serve on the Royal Council

I have to protect the baron and the manor

I have to work for the knight for no pay

I am the richest person in the land

I have enough money

I have to pay rent to the king

I have to fight for the king when the baron tells me to

I have to give the knight food

I am rich

I am poor
The Feudal System Wordsearch

Y C K B G L A P W L F Z V W E
I N F V I Q X O E Z A X M M C
P E J O N O V C A M L N A Y I
P R A P O R R P X T A Y D N V
V C O Q N D D O R T H W O H R
V D T T F D S Y E C Q R I V E
I P N O E V E E R W M Q X G S
C I A X O C P V R A S E T Q Y
R M S J I L T U N V R T C H R
G G A F L O D S J U E F M L A
Y R E G N I K D D W M I A E T
Z Y P P P R O V I D E P N A I
W T H G I N K O Q Q Z E H S L
M B C H M J Q N O G V R C E I
A T K M A N O R Q E A O J R M

MILITARY SERVICE
NORMANS
PROVIDE
LEASE
SERVE
KING
OATH

PEASANT
PROTECT
KNIGHT
MANOR
FOOD
LAND
### Feudal System True or False

*Decide which of the following statements about the Feudal System are true and which are false*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>True</th>
<th>False</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The Normans introduced the Feudal System to England</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The king owned all the land</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Barons leased land from knights</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Peasants were richer than barons</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Knights had to provide military service</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Knights gave food to peasants</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Peasants fought for the king</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Barons served on the Royal Council</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Peasants paid rent to the king</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Peasants had to give food to knights</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Knights leased land from barons</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Peasants were very poor</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Housing

Noblemen and Women

Early Medieval Period

The houses of the rich were made out of stone and had thatched roofs.

This early medieval cottage would have been inhabited by the Lord of the Manor and his family and servants. It has two rooms. The room on the left of the picture would have been the main living and sleeping area for the family and their servants.

It has a small window and a place cut into the floor for the hearth. There is a small hole in the roof above the hearth to let smoke escape. The other smaller room contains a stone oven.

The animals would have been housed in a separate building, probably a wooden barn, and another building would have been used to store crops which were grown on the land around the house.

Later Medieval Period

The houses of the very rich were made out of brick, but because brick was very expensive most chose to build the half-timbered houses that are now commonly referred to as Tudor houses.

Blackened oak wood was used to make the framework and plaster was used to fill the spaces.

Roofs were tiled and some houses now had glass windows and chimneys.

Houses had two or more floors and servants slept in the upper rooms.

Most houses had stables where their horses were kept.

Those who lived in the country grew their own fruit and vegetables and kept animals for meat and dairy produce. Rich merchants that lived in towns would have purchased food from the local marketplace.
Peasants

Early Medieval Period

Those that were too poor to pay someone to build a house for them had to make their houses themselves. Some people were too poor to pay for building materials and had to use whatever they could find to construct a hut that would provide shelter.

The simplest houses were made from sticks and straw.

These basic huts did not offer much protection. They were easy to attack and could fall apart if the weather was severe. There was only enough room inside for one or two straw mattresses and food had to be cooked outside.

Later Medieval Period

The Black Death of 1348 killed a large number of the peasant population. This meant that there were not enough peasants to work in the fields. Landowners desperate for workers to harvest their crops began offering wages to anyone who would work on their land. Peasants were, for the first time, able to offer their services to the landowner that would pay the highest wage.

With more money, peasants were able to afford better housing and many now lived in wattle and daub houses.

These houses offered much better protection and there was space inside for the animals. Generally the family lived in one main room and a section at one end was reserved for the animals.

The hearth (fireplace) would be in the centre of the living area and would provide heat for warmth and cooking.

There were no windows or chimney so these houses would be dark, smokey and smelly.
Making a Medieval House

Stick and Straw Hut

1. Long sticks were hammered into the ground at an angle and tied at the top. Another stick was placed across the top and tied into place.

2. More sticks were tied into place to make a framework and doorway.

3. Smaller sticks were tied to fill in the gaps and then mud and straw or dried grass was woven across the sticks.

Wattle and Daub House

1. A framework was made out of timber

2. More timber was added to the framework and the spaces between filled with wattle (twigs woven together).

3. The wattle was daubed (covered) with wet mud which dried to form a hard wall. The roof was thatched with straw.
Clothing

What you wore depended on who you were in the medieval period.

If you were rich you would probably own a variety of clothes, in the latest styles and colours. If you were a poor peasant, you may only own one tunic.

Although it was possible to obtain silks and other luxurious materials from abroad, they were very expensive. Most clothing was therefore made out of wool which was cheap and easy to obtain. This meant that clothing in the medieval period was itchy, difficult to wash and dry and very hot in the summer.

Noblemen and Women

Early Medieval Period

These pictures (right) show the costume worn by the rich during the early medieval period.

The man is wearing a woollen tunic, belted at the waist that has been embroidered around the hem and sleeves. Over this he has a woollen cloak fastened with a brooch.

The man's wife is wearing a woollen dress, tied at the waist over a white linen underskirt. Over this she has a woollen cloak. Her headdress is made out of linen and is held in place with a headband.

Later Medieval Period

This famous Jan Van Eyck portrait painted in 1435 shows a rich nobleman and his wife dressed in the typical fashion of the day.

The man is wearing a fur-trimmed velvet gown over a black padded long shirt that has gold embroidery around the edges. He has black stockings to cover his legs. The large hat is a sign of his wealth.

The man's wife is wearing a green woollen dress trimmed with cream coloured fur that is belted very high. Underneath the dress she has another dress made out of blue material. Her headdress is made out of fine expensive linen.
Peasants

Early Medieval Period

The clothing of peasants was basic, practical and not decorated.

The man is wearing a short woollen tunic belted at the waist over short woollen trousers. He is wearing a small hat over a woollen cowl and boots on his feet.

The man’s wife is wearing a woollen dress over a woollen underskirt. She has a woollen cowl to protect her head and shoulders and boots on her feet.

Later Medieval Period

This picture, from a painting by Bruegel, shows medieval peasants enjoying a local festival. They are, therefore, wearing their best clothes.

The man is wearing a short woollen jacket over a woollen tunic. He is wearing stockings and shoes on his feet and has a small cap on his head.

The man’s partner is wearing a woollen dress over a woollen underskirt. She is also wearing a linen headdress.
This medieval woodcarving from the 14th century shows the King at a banquet.

One serving boy offers the King first choice of wine or ale poured from a jug while another offers him the first cut of meat. The other people at the banquet will be served in turn according to their rank and the least important people will get whatever remains.

The nobles always ate well, even during winter. Unlike most of the people who lived on the manor, nobles could afford to buy salt to preserve meat all the year round. They could also afford pepper to spice tasteless food or food which was beginning to go bad.

Meat – beef, pork, lamb, chicken or goose was eaten daily. It was generally roasted or made into a stew thickened with grain and vegetables. Meat was not allowed to be eaten on Fridays and on this day fish – salmon, herring, trout or other freshwater fish would be eaten instead.

Bread would be served at most meals and cheese and butter would also be available. A variety of fruits would be served after the main course.

Plates were made out of wood but sometimes they used large slices of day-old bread as plates for the meat and sometimes they ate out of bowls. Although they had knives and spoons, there were no forks, so people used their fingers a great deal.
A Typical Daily Menu

Breakfast
This would be eaten early, probably around 6 am and would include white bread, cheese, cold meat and fresh fruit served with ale or wine.

Dinner
This would be served between 11 am and 1 pm. This was generally two courses. The first course would consist of meat, fish, pastries and white bread served with wine or ale. This would be followed by fruit, cheese and nuts.

Supper
This would be eaten in the early evening and would include similar foods to those served at dinner.

This picture shows food being prepared for the lord’s dinner.

A kitchen boy can be seen roasting a pig over the kitchen fire. The meat hanging to the right of the fire is ready to be cooked.

In the foreground two women are preparing food. The one on the left is using a millstone to grind grain into flour while the other is using a mortar and pestle to grind herbs or spices.
Peasants

The peasants’ main food was a dark bread made out of rye grain.

They ate a kind of stew called pottage made from the peas, beans and onions that they grew in their gardens.

Sweet foods eaten by peasants were those that grew naturally — apples, pears, berries and nuts. They also ate honey that they collected from the woods.

Most peasants kept pigs. As pigs could survive on acorns that could be found in the woods they were cheap and easy to keep.

They could hunt rabbits or hares but might be punished for this by their lord.

A Typical Daily Menu

Breakfast
This would be eaten early, probably as soon as the sun rose and would include dark bread, cheese, cold meat and fresh fruit.

Dinner
This would be eaten in the fields between 10 am and noon and usually consisted of dark bread and cheese with ale to drink.

Supper
This would be eaten at around sunset and would consist of a pottage made from vegetables and meat if available, served with dark bread and ale.

Peasants cooked and prepared their own food over open fires.

Bread was baked in the baker’s oven.
Daily Routines

Noblemen

The daily routine for noblemen was the same throughout the year.

The day would begin at sunrise when, if not already awake the nobleman would be woken by his servants bringing water for him to wash and shave.

When he was dressed he would attend mass in his chapel. This would be followed by the first meal of the day.

After breakfast he would turn his attention to business. He would receive reports about the state of the land and any problems concerning crop production or harvest.

Time would also be spent on the financial aspect of running the manor – paying taxes and bills and ensuring that tenants had paid their rent.

Certain days of the year were also set aside for the lord to hear complaints and grievances from his tenants and also to settle any disputers.

At around mid-morning prayers would be heard before the main meal of the day, dinner.

After dinner the nobleman would spend time hunting or riding around his estate. He may also spend time practising with his weapons.

At sunset there would be prayers followed by supper in the great hall. Jugglers or minstrels would provide evening entertainment.

Prayers would be heard again before bedtime.
Peasants

Peasants rose before sunrise and began their day with breakfast. They would work on the land from sunrise to sunset stopping for lunch at around noon. They would eat their evening meal soon after sunset and go to bed as soon as it was dark.

The actual tasks carried out by peasants were governed by the farming year.

The Farming Year

[Diagram showing the farming year with tasks such as sowing, milling, weeding, harvesting, winnowing, tying, shearing, and ploughing for different months]
Suggested Activities

1. Produce project or PowerPoint presentation to show the differences between the lives of the rich and poor

2. Imagine you are either a rich or a poor person. Write a letter explaining what your life is like; what you like about it the most and what you would like to change

3. Use http://www.historyonthenet.com/Medieval_Life/farming.htm to complete Farming Year table

4. Daily Routine timeline activity

5. Design and make a medieval house

6. Use wordsearches, quiz, anagram and crossword for starter, plenary or introductory activities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Lives of the Medieval Rich and Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Routine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
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<td>April</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<td>June</td>
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<td>July</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Timeline Activity

Complete this timeline to show the daily routine of a nobleman and a peasant

Nobleman

- Gets up
- 6 a.m. - Gets up
- 8 a.m.
- 10 a.m.
- 12 Noon
- 2 p.m.
- 4 p.m.
- 6 p.m.
- Sunset
- 8 p.m.
- 10 p.m.

Peasant

- Gets up
- Sunrise
- 8 a.m.
- 10 a.m.
- 12 Noon
- 2 p.m.
- 4 p.m.
- 6 p.m.
- 8 p.m.
- 10 p.m.
Clothing Quiz

1. Choose the correct caption for the following pictures

   a. Early Medieval rich
      Early Medieval poor
      Late Medieval rich
      Late Medieval poor

   b. Early Medieval rich
      Early Medieval poor
      Late Medieval rich
      Late Medieval poor

   c. Early Medieval rich
      Early Medieval poor
      Late Medieval rich
      Late Medieval poor

   d. Early Medieval rich
      Early Medieval poor
      Late Medieval rich
      Late Medieval poor

2. Choose the correct ending to the following sentences

   a. Most clothing was made out of
      Linen
      Wool
      Silk
      Cotton

   b. A large hat was a sign of
      A large head
      Poverty
      Wealth
      A bad hat maker

   c. Peasants’ clothing was
      Embroidered
      Luxurious
      Patterned
      Plain & practical

   d. Clothing in the Medieval period was
      Embroidered
      Hot and heavy
      Cool and light
      Easy to wash

3. Choose the correct word for the following definitions

   a. Item of clothing worn over the head and shoulders __________________

   b. Sleeved, belted garment worn by men _______________________________

   c. Jewellery item used to fasten a cloak ______________________________

   d. Usually made from linen, worn over the head _______________________

   e. Leg covering worn by men _______________________________
Clothing Wordsearch

UNDESKIRT  EMBROIDERY  STOCKINGS
SLEEVES      BROOCH      TUNIC
ITCHY        TUNIC      LINEN
DRESS        WOOL       GOWN
COWL         HOT        HAT
FUR
Medieval Food Anagrams

Unscramble the letters to make a word connected to Medieval food

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bev eats leg</th>
<th>Pet goat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fur it</td>
<td>Beard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uppers</td>
<td>Bent qua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If Ken</td>
<td>No sop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker’s fat</td>
<td>Red inn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team</td>
<td>Pices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Medieval Life Crossword

Across
3 Used to thatch the roof of a house (5)
4 Jewellery item used to fasten a cloak (6)
10 The simplest houses were made of this (6,3,5)
12 Most clothing was made out of this material (4)
13 Last meal of the day (6)

Down
1 Eaten on a Friday (4)
2 Work done by peasants depended on this (7,4)
5 Food eaten daily by the rich and poor (5)
6 Twigs woven together (6)
7 Cutlery item not available in the Medieval period (4)
8 Where horses were kept (7)
9 Thick stew eaten by peasants (7)
11 Item of clothing that covered the head and shoulders (4)
Punishment

Throughout the medieval period it was believed that the only way to keep order was to make sure that the people were scared of the punishments given for crimes committed. For this reason all crimes from stealing to murder had harsh punishments.

Although there were gaols, they were generally used to hold a prisoner awaiting trial rather than as a means of punishment. Fines, shaming (being placed in stocks), mutilation (cutting off a part of the body) or death were the most common forms of punishment.

The table below shows typical punishments given for the most usual crimes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Punishment</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Crime</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fine</td>
<td>A sum of money had to be paid to the Lord of the Manor or the King. Most people could not afford the fines so faced the punishments listed below.</td>
<td>Most minor crimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shame</td>
<td>A period of time had to be spent in the stocks. The stocks were usually positioned in a public place and villagers would often throw rotten vegetables at the criminal.</td>
<td>Drunkenness, Swearing, Telling lies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutilation</td>
<td>Cutting off part of the body. Amputation of ears, hands and tongue were all common punishments.</td>
<td>Stealing Hunting on royal ground without permission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>The usual method of execution for men was by hanging. Most towns had a gibbet and bodies were left to rot as a warning to others. For treason the punishment was to be hung drawn and quartered. Women were usually strangled and burnt. Execution by beheading was used as a punishment for nobles found guilty of treason</td>
<td>Treason Murder, Arson, Mugging, Adultery Forgery, Guilty by Trial by Ordeal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Guilty or Not Guilty

There was no police force in the medieval period so law-enforcement was in the hands of the community.

The Manorial Court

The manorial court dealt with all but the most serious crimes. It was held at various intervals during the year and all villagers had to attend or pay a fine.

All men were placed in groups of ten called a tithing. Each tithing had to make sure that no member of their group broke the law. If a member of a tithing broke a law then the other members had to make sure that he went to court.

The Lord’s steward was in charge of the court. A jury of twelve men was chosen by the villagers. The jury had to collect evidence and decide whether the accused was guilty or not guilty and, if found guilty, what the punishment should be.

The King’s Court – Trial by Ordeal

Serious crimes were heard by the King’s court. The accused had to face trial by ordeal to decide whether they were guilty or not guilty.

Ordeal by Fire

The accused had to pick up a red hot iron bar and hold it while they walked three or four paces. Their hand was then bandaged. After three days they had to return to the court where the bandages were removed. If the wound was beginning to heal they were innocent but if the wound showed no sign of healing then they were pronounced Guilty.

Ordeal by Water

The accused had their hands and feet tied together. They were then thrown into water. If they floated they were guilty but if they sank they were innocent.

Ordeal by Combat

Noblemen would fight (usually to the death) in combat with their accuser. The winner of the battle would be considered to be in the right.

After 1215 Trial by Ordeal was replaced by Trial by Jury
Suggested Activities

1. Understanding Medieval Crime and Punishment worksheet
2. The Manorial Court You Decide worksheet
3. Manorial Court Drama Activity
4. Crime and Punishment wordsearch
5. Crime and Punishment anagrams
Understanding Medieval Crime and Punishment

Answer the following questions

1. Punishments in the Middle Ages were very harsh  
   □ True  □ False

2. People found guilty of crimes were sent to gaol  
   □ True  □ False

3. Complete the following table using these words:
   Adultery, Arson, Drunkenness, Forgery, Illegal hunting, Lying, Minor crimes, Mugging, Murder, Stealing, Swearing, Treason

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Punishment</th>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Punishment</th>
<th>Crime</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fine</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shame</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutilation</td>
<td></td>
<td>Death</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Who was in charge of the Manorial Court? ____________________________________________

5. How many men were in a tithing? ________________________________

6. How many men were in a jury? ________________________________

7. Which court used Trial by Ordeal? ________________________________

8. What were the three types of Trial by Ordeal? ________________________________

9. Do you think the Manorial Court system was fair?  □ Yes  □ No
   Give reasons for your answer ________________________________________________

10. Do you think Trial by Ordeal was fair?  □ Yes  □ No
    Give reasons for your answer ________________________________________________
The Manorial Court – You Decide

You have been selected to be a member of the Manorial Court jury for the court session of 15th October 1211.

For the following cases decide whether you think the accused are guilty or not guilty and if guilty what their punishment should be. All of the accused are too poor to pay a fine.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence</th>
<th>Guilty or Not Guilty</th>
<th>Punishment if Guilty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mathilda is accused of telling lies</strong>&lt;br&gt;On 22nd September Mathilda did not help with the harvest because she said she was ill. Several villagers saw her outside her hut that day and she did not look ill. Peter says that Mathilda does not like hard work and lied to have a day off.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cedric is accused of stealing Walter’s chicken</strong>&lt;br&gt;On the morning of 4th October Walter found one of his chickens was missing. The same evening Cedric and his family had chicken for dinner. Two villagers saw Cedric outside on the night of 3rd October and he was not usually outside at night. Cedric says he found the chicken in the woods.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benedict is accused of drunkenness and swearing</strong>&lt;br&gt;Several villagers say that on the night of 31st August Benedict was creating a fearful noise on the green. He is known to have visited the inn on that night where he drank vast quantities of ale. Mary and Eleanor say they were very afraid and shut themselves in their hut.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>John is accused of mugging</strong>&lt;br&gt;On the evening of 11th October Alice was walking across the green when she was hit on the shoulder. She did not see her attacker but believes it was John because she would not dance with him at the Harvest dance. Three villagers say that John was cross because Alice would not dance with him. Two villagers say that John is a kind man and would not hurt anyone.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Margaret is accused of arson</strong>&lt;br&gt;On the morning of 30th August a fire was discovered at the back of Hugh’s hut. Most villagers were helping with the harvest but Margaret was absent. Several villagers say that Margaret likes fire and often stares into the flames. Hugh and Margaret had had an argument the night before.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Manorial Court Drama Activity

Cast
The Lord’s Steward (LS)
12 Jury members
5 Accused people – Mathilda, Cedric, Benedict, John, Margaret
Witnesses – Peter, Henry, Walter, Abigail, Mary, William, Alice, Gregory, Hugh, Stephen

Setting
Table for Lord’s Steward, two rows of chairs for jury, accused stand, witness stand, chairs at the front for guilty people to await punishment

Scene 1 – The trial of Mathilda

LS – I call Mathilda to the accused stand

Mathilda walks to accused stand

LS – Mathilda, you are accused of telling lies. On 22nd September you said you were ill and could not help with the harvest. I call Peter to the witness stand.

Peter walks to the witness stand

LS – Peter, give your evidence

Peter – Mathilda hates doing hard work and always complains that the harvest is hard work. She lied that she was ill to have a day off.

LS – Thank you Peter. I call Henry to the witness stand

Peter leaves witness stand. Henry walks to the witness stand

LS – Henry, give your evidence

Henry – I was working in the lower field and could see Mathilda’s hut from where I was. She came outside and did not look ill.

LS – Thank you Henry

Henry leaves witness stand

LS – Mathilda would you like to say anything

Mathilda – I was ill, I get pains all over and can’t work when I’m like that. I went outside to get some air. I don’t tell lies, I was really ill.

LS to ask each jury member in turn whether they think Mathilda is guilty or not guilty. If the majority decision is not guilty Mathilda is told she is free to go. If the majority decision is guilty then LS asks each jury member in turn what punishment Mathilda should receive. Mathilda to sit at the front of the court to await punishment.
Scene 2 – The trial of Cedric

LS – I call Cedric to the accused stand

Cedric walks to accused stand

LS – Cedric, you are accused of stealing Walter’s chicken on 3rd October. I call Walter to the witness stand.

Walter walks to the witness stand

LS – Walter, give your evidence

Walter – I got up in the morning and went to feed the chickens and one was missing. Later on I heard that Cedric was having chicken for dinner, he doesn’t have any chickens so it must have been him that stole my chicken.

LS – Thank you Walter. I call Abigail to the witness stand

Walter leaves witness stand. Abigail walks to the witness stand

Abigail – I saw Cedric walking about that night and he was near Walter’s hut. Cedric is normally indoors at night so it was odd to see him out.

LS – Thank you Abigail

Abigail leaves witness stand

LS – Cedric would you like to say anything

Cedric – I was out that night. I went for a walk because I had an argument with my wife. She was cross because we didn’t have anything for dinner. I found a chicken in the woods and took it home with me.

LS to ask each jury member in turn whether they think Cedric is guilty or not guilty.

If the majority decision is not guilty Cedric is told he is free to go.

If the majority decision is guilty then LS asks each jury member in turn what punishment Cedric should receive. Cedric to sit at the front of the court to await punishment.
Scene 3 – The trial of Benedict

LS – I call Benedict to the accused stand

*Benedict walks to accused stand*

LS – Benedict, you are accused of drunkenness and swearing on the night of 31st August. I call Mary to the witness stand.

*Mary walks to the witness stand*

LS – Mary, give your evidence

Mary – It was late at night and there was a terrible noise coming from the green. I looked outside and Benedict was shouting and swearing. We shut the door and stayed indoors.

LS – Thank you Mary. I call William to the witness stand

*Mary leaves witness stand. William walks to the witness stand*

LS – William, give your evidence

William – I am the innkeeper and on that night Benedict came in and had a lot of ale. When he left he was staggering about and shortly afterwards he was on the green shouting and swearing.

LS – Thank you William

*William leaves witness stand*

LS – Benedict would you like to say anything

Benedict – I did go to the inn that night but I was not shouting and swearing. When I left it was a fine evening and I was dancing in the moonlight.

LS to ask each jury member in turn whether they think Benedict is guilty or not guilty.

If the majority decision is not guilty Benedict is told he is free to go.

If the majority decision is guilty then LS asks each jury member in turn what punishment Benedict should receive. Benedict to sit at the front of the court to await punishment.
Scene 4 – The trial of John

LS – I call John to the accused stand

_John walks to accused stand_

LS – John, you are accused of mugging Alice on the night of 11\(^{th}\) October. I call Alice to the witness stand.

_Alice walks to the witness stand_

LS – Alice, give your evidence

Alice – I was walking across the green when I was hit hard on the shoulder. I fell down and did not see who had hit me but I believe it was John. John asked me to dance with him but I said no. My shoulder was very painful for weeks afterwards.

LS – Thank you Alice. I call Gregory to the witness stand

_Alice leaves witness stand. Gregory walks to the witness stand_

LS – Gregory, give your evidence

Gregory – I know John very well. He is a kind man and would not hurt anyone. He likes Alice and would not want to harm her at all.

LS – Thank you Gregory

_Gregory leaves witness stand_

LS – John would you like to say anything

John – I have never hurt anyone in my life. I like Alice very much and would never hurt her in any way. I was upset that she didn’t want to dance with me but I accepted it. I would protect Alice not hurt her.

LS to ask each jury member in turn whether they think John is guilty or not guilty.

If the majority decision is not guilty John is told he is free to go.

If the majority decision is guilty then LS asks each jury member in turn what punishment John should receive. John to sit at the front of the court to await punishment.
Scene 5 – The trial of Margaret

LS – I call Margaret to the accused stand

*Margaret walks to accused stand*

LS – Margaret, you are accused of starting a fire outside Hugh’s hut on 31st August. I call Hugh to the witness stand.

*Hugh walks to the witness stand*

LS – Hugh, give your evidence

Hugh – I was in the field helping with the harvest when I was told that there were flames near my hut. I ran home and found a fire. Luckily it was small and I managed to put it out but my hut could have been burned down. I think it was Margaret because we had been arguing on the night before.

LS – Thank you Hugh. I call Stephen to the witness stand

*Hugh leaves witness stand. Stephen walks to the witness stand*

LS – Stephen, give your evidence

Stephen – I didn’t see Margaret in the fields that morning. She was there later on but not in the morning. Margaret has an obsession with fire I have seen her staring at flames whenever there is a fire.

LS – Thank you Stephen

*Stephen leaves witness stand*

LS – Margaret would you like to say anything

Margaret – It wasn’t me. I was in the fields helping with the harvest. I don’t know why Stephen didn’t see me because I was there. It was not me that started the fire.

LS to ask each jury member in turn whether they think Margaret is guilty or not guilty.

If the majority decision is not guilty Margaret is told she is free to go.

If the majority decision is guilty then LS asks each jury member in turn what punishment Margaret should receive. Margaret to sit at the front of the court to await punishment.
Crime and Punishment Wordsearch

L D S S D R U N K P R E N I F
F Y V M E V J H J U R J X C B
Q E I A U I U V M N L G M D T
W M S N U A R R G I G O S I A
H I J O G R Y E N S N S T N Q
T R C R U C P D I H I V O O P
A C K I Q O J R H M L G C I O
E Y W A I U R U T E A Z K T R
D Y U L K R Q M I N E U S A D
B L H N U T M P T T T P V T E
A Q S W E A R I N G S D T U A
W H Q H A N G I N G E D C P L
U A W E S A T H I O H M W M X
L O R D S T E W A R D Q Q A Y
H U N P S Q X S A R S O N N P P

LORDSTEWARD  PUNISHMENT  AMPUTATION
SWEARING       STEALING       MANORIAL
HANGING        TITHING       STOCKS
MURDER         ORDEAL        CRIME
DEATH          DRUNK         LYING
ARSON          COURT         FINE
JURY
## Crime and Punishment Anagrams

Unscramble the letters to make a medieval crime or punishment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crimes</th>
<th>Punishments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>wires nag</td>
<td>fein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sane rot</td>
<td>Kc to ss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kens den runs</td>
<td>nag nigh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in still glee</td>
<td>age behind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of gerry</td>
<td>I am top aunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>red rum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tin gales</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ran so</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mung gig</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Roman Catholic Church was the only church in the medieval period and all people were Catholics. The church was very powerful and was controlled by the Pope in Rome. The diagram below shows the hierarchy of the church.

The Pope was very powerful and was seen as God’s representative on Earth. Cardinals were important Archbishops and Bishops who directly served the Pope as well as carrying out their own duties. From 1059 Cardinals also had the duty of electing a new Pope. Archbishops and Bishops were usually members of the nobility. They were very wealthy, owned large areas of land and advised Kings. Although their roles were often the same Archbishops were higher than Bishops. Parish Priests were the hardest working members of the Church hierarchy. They worked in the Parish, holding church services, hearing confessions, visiting the sick and if they were educated teaching boys in the village. The Parish Priest was also responsible for collecting the church tax which had to be paid yearly by everyone. This tax, called the tithe, was one tenth of all new born animals and one tenth of crops harvested.

Religion was a very important part of people’s lives. People believed that God and the Saints controlled their lives and the world around them and were responsible for things like the weather, diseases, bad luck and good luck. If bad things happened it was a sign that God was angry with the people.

People prayed to the Saints to ask for their help with things that concerned them. The picture left shows Saint Christopher, the patron saint of travellers.
All people had to attend Church at least once a week where they were taught about Heaven and Hell. They were told that they were sinful and that if they did not attend church they would go to Hell when they died and would live there in agony forever.

Those that attended church would go to purgatory when they died and would remain there until they were free of sin when they could go to heaven. Purgatory was not as awful as Hell but was still painful and unpleasant.

People therefore tried to gain forgiveness for their sins so that they would spend only a short time in purgatory.

The Parish Priest had the power to forgive people their sins and people attended confession regularly.

Another way of receiving forgiveness for sins was to go on a pilgrimage to the shrine of one of the saints. The most popular shrines in England were the shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham and the shrine of St Thomas at Canterbury. Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales published at the end of the fourteenth century tells the story of a group of pilgrims who travel to Canterbury.

Some people chose to devote their lives to the Church and became monks or nuns. Monks entered a monastery and nuns entered a convent also called a nunnery.

Monks and nuns spent a lot of their time praying but they also gave food and money to the poor and provided shelter for travellers.

Many people gave gifts of money or food to monasteries and nunneries because they thought it would help them to go to heaven.
Picture Source Analysis

What the drawing shows

The top section shows three groups of people sitting on clouds in the sky. In the centre are two people seated on clouds. They have beards and so are male. They are holding a standard with an image of a dove. The groups of figures to either side are kneeling down and are praying. The clouds are resting on an arch. The land shown beneath the arch is bare with one hill in the background and some trees.

The middle section shows the inside of a church. The priest is at the altar holding a glowing light. The congregation contains men, women and children of different nationalities kneeling in prayer.

The bottom section shows a mass of naked figures in a rocky cave engulfed by flames. The figures that are praying appear to be less engulfed by flames than those that are not. One figure is rising out of the flames on a cloud with arms outstretched towards an angel.

Image interpretation

The three sections of the image appear to be located in the sky, on Earth and underground. As heaven is generally depicted as being above the Earth we can reasonably assume that the top section is showing Heaven and the middle section Earth. The Church taught that there was no return from Hell. As one figure is shown leaving the bottom section this section can be interpreted as showing Purgatory.

The two central figures in Heaven are wearing crowns and seated like Kings. God and Jesus are sometimes referred to as Kings of Heaven so we can interpret these figures as being God and Jesus. The dove shown on the standard they are holding is a symbol of peace. Heaven is therefore represented as a peaceful place. All the figures have halos showing that they are holy and also surrounded by light. The arch that the clouds of Heaven are resting on could represent the divide between Heaven and Earth or could represent a rainbow – a thing of beauty.

In contrast to Heaven Hell is shown as being underground and dark. The fact that the figures that are praying are less engulfed by flames than the others can be interpreted as saying that prayer is the only way out of Purgatory. The kneeling on the cloud is being taken out of Purgatory to Heaven by an angel.

The figures in the church congregation are all praying in order to reduce the time they spend in Purgatory. The glowing light held up by the Priest reinforces the view that light is upwards.

The way the angel is depicted also appears to suggest that the only way out of Purgatory to Heaven is through the Church.
Suggested Activities

1. Medieval Church Who’s Who? Worksheet

2. Religion Questions

3. Source analysis

4. Using the Picture Source for guidance write a sermon for your Medieval congregation.

5. Draw pictures of Heaven and Hell and write a paragraph to show the differences between them.

4. Medieval Religion wordsearch

5. Crime and Punishment anagrams
Medieval Church Who’s Who?

1. Number the boxes on the left from 1 – 5 to show their importance in the Medieval Church.

2. Draw a line from the person on the left to the correct description on the right:

- **Archbishop**
  - Very important.
  - Served the Pope directly

- **Parish Priest**
  - Very wealthy, owned land and advised Kings

- **Pope**
  - Usually poor, held church services and collected taxes

- **Bishop**
  - Very powerful, God’s representative on Earth

- **Cardinal**
  - Very wealthy, owned land and advised Kings
Medieval Religion

Answer the following questions

1. What was the religion of the Medieval Church? ________________________

2. Describe the church hierarchy ______________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________

3. What did people think bad luck was caused by? ______________________

4. Why did people pray to Saints? ____________________________________

5. What was the tithe? ______________________________________________

6. How often did people go to church? ________________________________

7. Why did people go to confession? _________________________________

8. Name the two most popular shrines in England ______________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________

9. What were monks and nuns? _____________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________

10. Do you think the medieval church controlled the people? __________

   Explain your answer
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
Heaven

Hell
Medieval Religion Wordsearch

PTIBTNIASSTLUUC
OSERPRAYGCBRSRODO
PCECIVRESTOORH
EHzPURGATORYMGL
PARISHPRIESTAEB
HXVQOGPOHSIBNNN
JORFPPOHSIBHCRAG
GIIPKNOMJAIYANUT
TPIILGRIMAGEETUN
IJCYRETSANOMHNE
TPTJNISHELLPONV
HAXUCHURCHYKLEA
EWZLANIDRACFIRE
IGMUJBTNUNPRCYH
GVBBNOSIESFNOC

ROMANCATHOLIC PARISHPRIEST ARCHBISHOP
CONFESSION PILGRIMAGE PURGATORY
MONASTERY CARDINAL SERVICE
NUNNERY BISHOP CHURCH
HEAVEN SAINT TITHE
POPE PRAY HELL
MONK GOD SIN
NUN
Section 1 – The Feudal System

Page 6 – Feudal System Wordsearch

Page 8 – Feudal System True or False

1. True
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. True
6. False
7. False
8. True
9. False
10. True
11. True
12. True

Section 2 – How Did Medieval People Live?

Page 24 – Housing Wordsearch

Page 24 – Housing Wordsort

Page 25 – Clothing Quiz

Page 26 – Clothing Wordsearch

1a Early Medieval poor
1b Late Medieval rich
1c Late Medieval poor
1d Early Medieval rich
2a Wool
2b Wealth
2c Plain & practical
2d Hot and itchy
3a Cowl
3b Tunic
3c Brooch
3d Head dress
3e Stockings
Section 2 – Living in the Middle Ages contd
Page 27 – Food Anagrams

Bev eats leg – Vegetables
Pet goat – Pottage
Fur it – Fruit
Beard – Bread
Uppers – Supper
Bent qua – Banquet
If Ken – Knife
No sop – spoon
Baker’s fat – Breakfast
Red inn – Dinner
Team – Meat
Pisces - Spices

Page 28 – Food Wordsearch

Page 29 – Farming Year Wordsearch

Page 30 – Living in the Middle Ages Crossword

Section 3 – Crime and Punishment
Page 41 – Crime and Punishment Wordsearch

Page 42 – Crime and Punishment Anagrams

Crimes
Wires nag
Sane rot
Kens den runs
In still glee
Of gerry
Red rum
Tin gales
Ran so
Mung gig

Punishments
swearing
treason
drunkenness
telling lies
murder
stealing
arson
amputation

Crimes
fein
Kc to ss
Nag nigh
Age behind
I am top aunt

Punishments
fine
stocks
hanging
beheading

Section 4 – Religion

Page 48 – Who’s Who?

1. Archbishop
   - Very important, second in line only to the Pope

2. Parish Priest
   - Very wealthy, owned land and submitted rent

3. Pope
   - Usually poor, held church services and collected tithes

4. Bishop
   - Very powerful, God’s representative on Earth

5. Cardinal
   - Very wealthy, owned land and submitted rents

Page 49 – Religion Questions

1. Roman Catholic
2. Pope, Cardinal, Archbishop, Bishop, Parish Priest
3. God’s displeasure
4. To ask for their help with things that concerned them
5. A tax that was paid to the Church - one tenth of all new born animals and one tenth of crops harvested
6. At least once a week
7. To gain forgiveness for their sins
8. Our Lady at Walsingham and St Thomas at Canterbury
9. People that devoted their life to God.
10. Subjective question – good answer backed up with evidence and examples

Page 52 – Medieval Religion Wordsheach

P - T N I A S
O - P R A Y
P - E C I V R E S
E - P U R G A T O R Y M G
P A R I S H P R I E S T A
- - - - - P O H S I B N
- - - - - P O H S I B H C R A
- - - - - K N O M
- - - - - A N
T P I L G R I M A G E - T U N
I - Y R E T S A N O M H E
T - - - N I S H E L L - O N V
H - - - C H U R C H - - L E A
E - - L A N I D R A C - I R E
- - - - - N U N - - C Y H
- - - - - N O I S S E F N O C
Worksheets

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