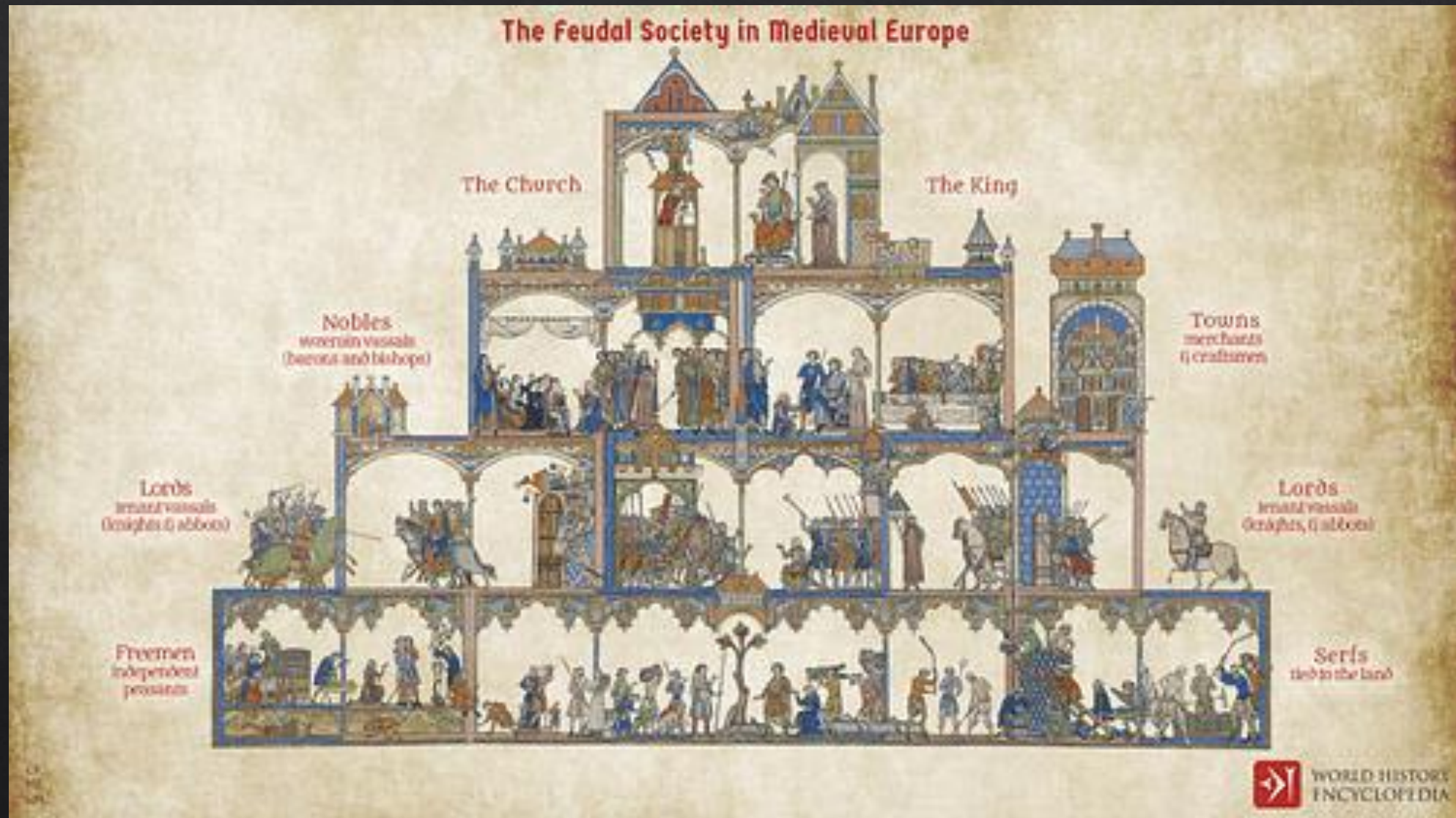


The Feudal System



Vocabulary

King- ruler of an independent state, especially one who inherits the position by right of birth.

Knight- a man who served his sovereign or lord as a mounted soldier in armor.

Noble- belonging to a hereditary class with high social or political status; aristocratic.

Vassal- a holder of land within the feudal system based on conditions of homage and allegiance.

Manor- a large country house with lands; the principal house of a landed estate.

Fief- an estate of land, especially one held in condition of feudal service.

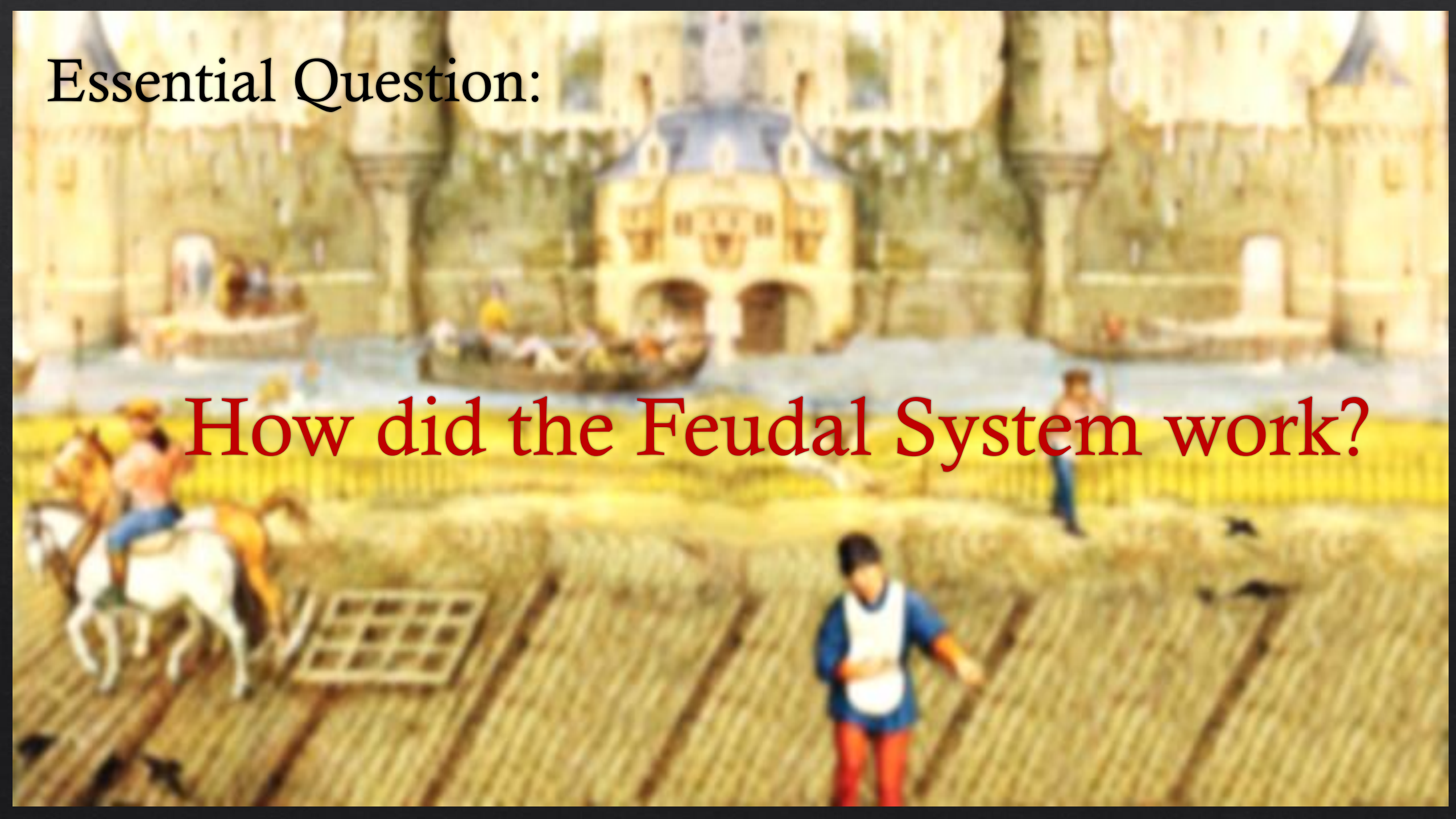
Serf- an agricultural laborer bound under the feudal system to work on their lord's estate.

M&M's Activity



Essential Question:

How did the Feudal System work?



What led the Roman Empire to transform into kingdoms?

- ◇ The Empire was facing many issues both internally and externally:
 - ◇ The Empire was too **large** for one emperor to govern and defend
 - ◇ There was a constant battle for emperor so there was no true leader
 - ◇ **Inflation** rose and more and more people were unable to pay for their basic life needs and their taxes
 - ◇ The wealthy were leaving the cities because the poor had resorted to begging and stealing
 - ◇ The Empire was being **invaded** by many tribes like the Vandals, Visigoths, and Germanic Tribes
 - ◇ More and more areas were declaring their **independence** and starting their own kingdoms

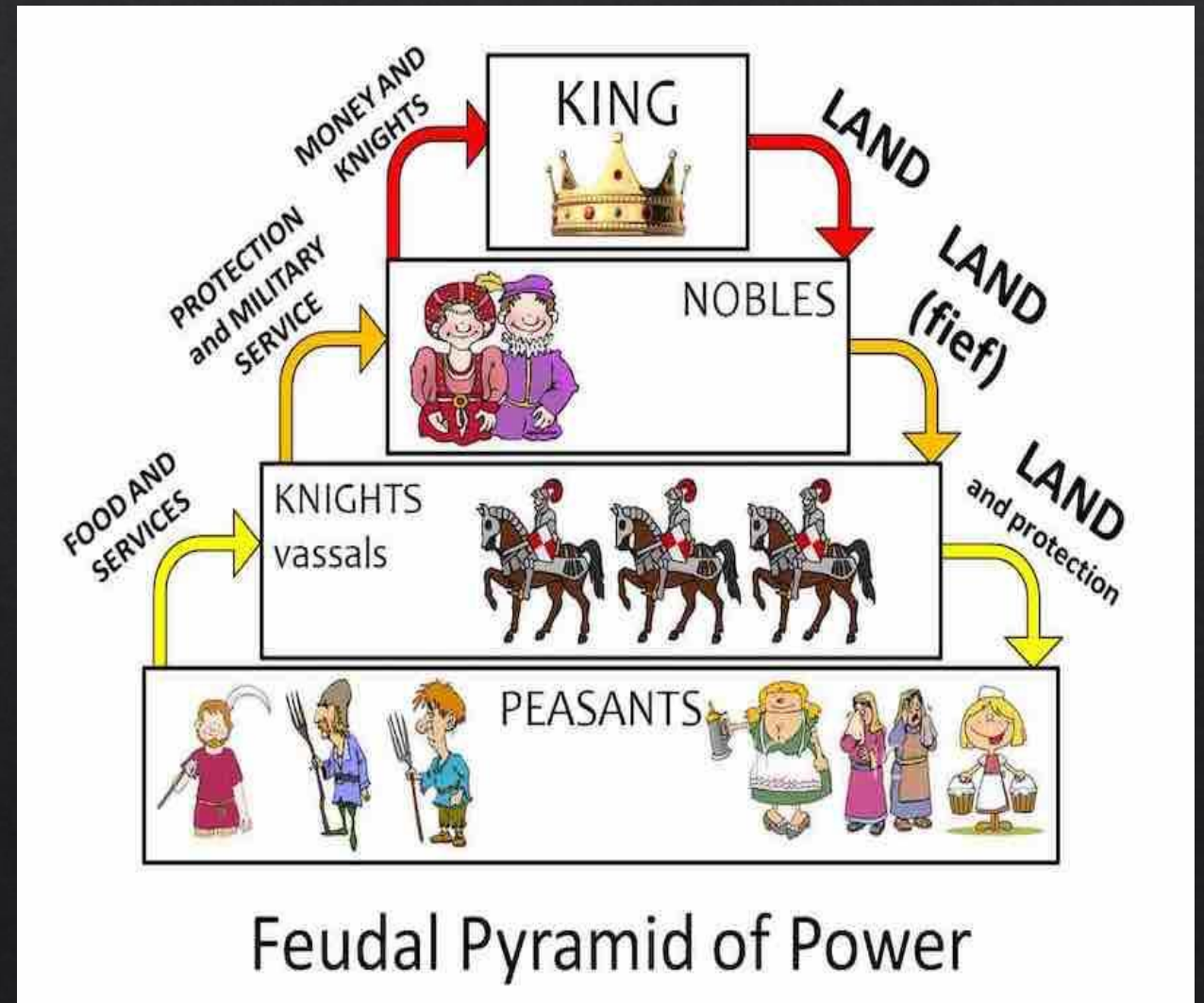


What led the Roman Empire to transform into kingdoms?



What were the different roles in the Feudal System?

- ◆ Primary political system used throughout the Middle Ages
- ◆ A tiered system of protection, with the king at the top, followed by the nobles or barons, knights, then peasants at the bottom.
- ◆ Landholders provide land to tenants in exchange for their loyalty and service.



The King

- ◆ The King was at the top of the Feudalism pyramid
- ◆ He owned all the land
- ◆ He made the laws
- ◆ People paid taxes to him
- ◆ The King would grant portions of his land to Lords or Nobels, in return they would swear loyalty, provide the king with knights, and collect taxes.



The Nobles

- ◆ High ranking members of the kingdom
 - ◆ Friends and Family of the King
- ◆ They were given a piece of land from the King to rule over
- ◆ Lived in a Manor or a large country estate
- ◆ They collected taxes for the King
- ◆ Overlooked the knights and the King's army.



The Knights

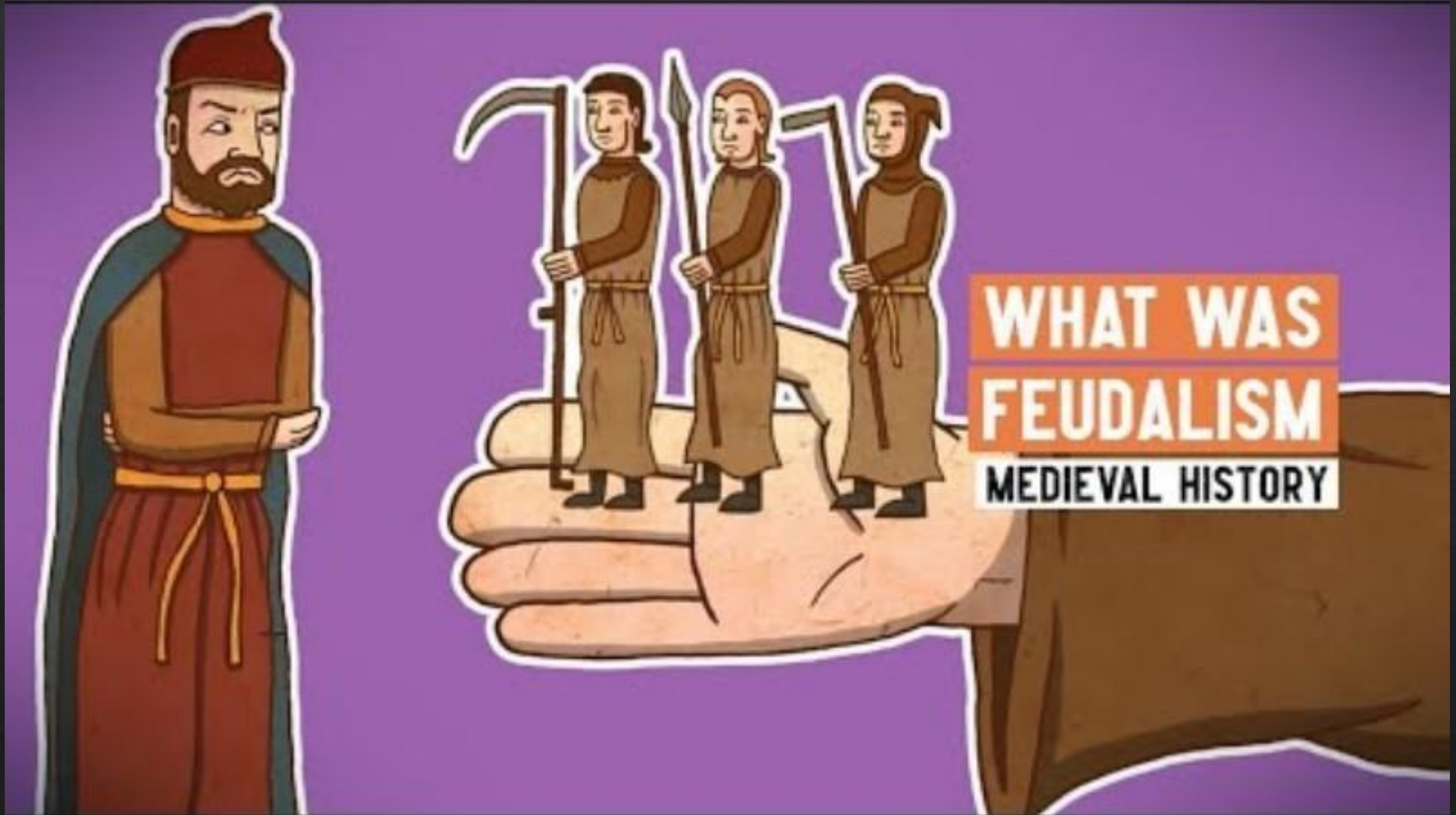
- ◆ They would swear loyalty to Lords or Nobles which have sworn loyalty to a King
- ◆ They were given land from the Nobels
- ◆ In exchange, they would provide protection for the King and all their kingdom
- ◆ They acted as the Law Enforcement of the land
- ◆ They would overlook the Serfs and provide them with protection



The Peasants

- ◆ Serfs were the peasants
- ◆ They lived a very hard life and were almost always slaves to the land
- ◆ They were given a place to live by the Lords or Nobels and in exchange they would work the land and grow crops
- ◆ They owed everything to the Lords and were not able to leave the land or move away
- ◆ In addition to providing the kingdom with food and goods, they also had to pay rent for their land





[What was Feudalism? 5 min](#)

What were the different roles in the Feudal System?



What was it like to live in the Feudal System?

- ◆ Those at the top of the Feudal Pyramid lived a very good life. They received the benefits of the land, they had protection provided by the knights, and they were well respected
- ◆ Those at the bottom of the pyramid lived a very harsh and difficult life. They worked long hours, lived in small houses with little luxuries, and were treated like slaves
- ◆ There was also no way to move up the social ladder, Serfs were peasants for life



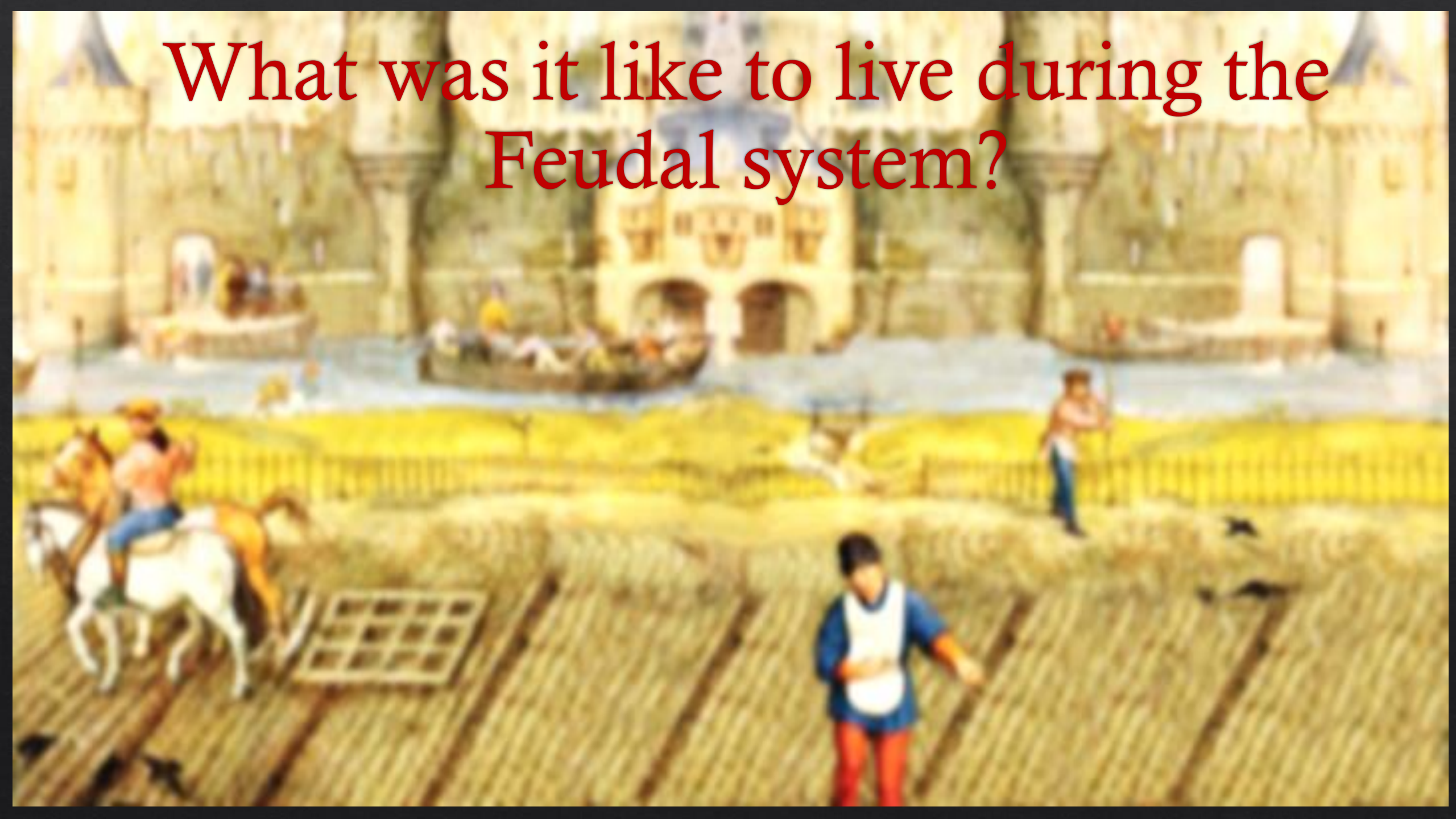
BBC

MEASLY MIDDLE AGES



◇ [Measly Middle Ages toilet 3 min](#)

What was it like to live during the Feudal system?



What led to the decline of Feudalism?

- ◆ Several Factors led to the Decline of Feudalism
 - ◆ Decline in loyal Knights, and increase in paid Knights
 - ◆ Changes in the political scene
 - ◆ Black Plague killed 30% of the population
 - ◆ Trade and exchange of money limited the need for working labor
 - ◆ Wars being fought throughout the kingdoms



What led to the decline of Feudalism?



Essential Question:

How did the Feudal System work?

