

Name:

Date:

## Following the Fall of Rome

The Roman Empire has fallen. There is no government to provide public services, law and order, or protection. You are a member of a poor family. You do not have enough food. You lack resources of medicine, clothing, and shelter. You are vulnerable to attack from others. You need to find assistance. You know of four different options of people to whom you can look to for help. Read about each of them and choose one. Take into account how much land they have to grow food, how many resources they have, will they be able to protect you, and what do you think they will want in return for helping you?

<p><b><u>Clergy (Priests)-</u></b> These followers of Christianity strictly follow the bible and all the teachings within it. They have a lot of land but few farmers. They have no military means to defend themselves. They have few resources.</p>	<p><b><u>Wealthy Aristocrats-</u></b> These are the former nobles have vast amounts of land. They have many workers and plenty of land. They have a few body guards. However, they are interested in what will keep them safe and powerful. They have plenty of resources.</p>
<p><b><u>Former Military Officers-</u></b> These are former soldiers in the Roman Empire. They are most interested in power. They do not have a lot of land but plenty of military strength to protect themselves. They also have a small amount resource supplies.</p>	<p><b><u>Criminal Gangs-</u></b> These are criminals who have accumulated a lot of resources. They do not have much land. They have plenty of military stores. They are most interested in obtaining more resources and power.</p>

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	How much land?	How many resources?	How much protection?	What do they want?	Can you trust them?
<b>Clergy</b>					
<b>Aristocracy</b>					
<b>Military</b>					
<b>Criminals</b>					

**Who would you turn to for assistance? Explain why.**

**What do you think they would ask for in return for helping you?**

### **After the Fall of Rome**

After the fall of the Roman Empire, Europe was broken up into many different nations. Once Rome was able to provide security and promote better living but after the collapse of the empire people struggled to find food, shelter, and protection. People soon worked out a system in which to replace the missing government. In this system poor people were offered land (for farming) and protection by rich people, in return for work (usually more farming) and loyalty. This system of obligations was called feudalism.

**Would you rather live in the Roman Empire or under feudalism? Explain.**