**FEUDALISM**

**FIEF**

**VASSAL**

**LORD**

**KNIGHT**

**FEUDALISM**

**Definition:** The political and social system of medieval Europe, in which vassals received land from overlords in exchange for armed warriors and other services. **Context:** Under feudalism, the overlords, lesser lords, knights and peasants all depended on one another for survival.

**Definition:** A grant of land given by a lord to a vassal in return for an oath of loyalty and armed warriors. **Context:** In a formal ceremony, a monarch would give a noble a fief and promise to protect the noble.

**Definition:** Someone who lives on the lord's land, providing loyalty in return for protection. **Context:** Through this “feudal contract,” the noble became the vassal of a king or queen.

**Definition:** In medieval Europe, a soldier of high military Rank. **Context:** The most skilled soldiers were knights, who dedicated their lives to combat, a code of behaviour called chivalry, and service to their lords.