

Quaestio: \_\_\_\_\_

# WORLD OF FEUDALISM

1. Examine the painting on the screen. In what way does the painting show the knight's code of chivalry? Do you think this is a realistic or idealized portrayal of medieval knights? Explain.

**Examine the following documents in order to answer the questions that follow.**

*"The Viking invasions had done a lot to militarize Europe. A lot more soldiers were put together into armies [but] once the [Viking] threat is over, what do you do with all these soldiers?"*

**Source:** Professor Kelly DeVries, Loyola College

*Your typical medieval knight had much more in common with [a mobster like] Tony Soprano than with [King Arthur's knight] Lancelot. They're thugs. They're muscle. They're violent individuals whose primary purpose is to beat people up, and the owner of a castle (a lord) would unleash knights on the peasants of a neighboring territory, and they would enter the village, assaulting people, taking property, in an attempt to force these peasant's to accept the lordship of the owner of the castle.*

**Source:** Professor Philip Daileader, College of William and Mary

*"Local lords who are ruling over these really small areas, they become the principle (main) sources of authority. These are people who built castles, not necessarily to protect the countryside from outside raiders, but to subjugate the countryside, to enforce their will upon the local peasants, to take from them what they needed. This period, particularly if you were a peasant, would have been a pretty rough time to be living in."*

**Source:** Professor Brett Whalen, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

1. According to Professor DeVries, why were there so many out-of-work knights in Europe?



2. How does the description by Professor Daileader differ from the idealized view of knights?

3. According to Professors Whalen and Daileader, how did peasants come to be under the authority of a lord?

**Directions:** Examine the infographic, “Defending a Castle,” on pages 220 and 221 in the textbook and answer the following questions:

4. What was the primary purpose of a castle?

“[Early castles] were earth and wood fortifications that [kings] constructed where the people would go and hide and take their goods and take their cattle and other things that the Vikings might want to remove from them, and once they got in there, the Vikings could not attack them. They simply did not have the siege technology or the willfulness to do so.”

**Source:** Professor Kelly DeVries, Loyola College



5. Examine the image of the “Motte and Bailey Castle.” Based on the statement by Professor DeVries, would this be an effective defense against Vikings? Explain.

6. What was one major downside to using a castle for defense?

7. Over time, kings and lords had to build bigger and more developed castles to defend against attacks. How is the castle in the middle of the picture more developed than the Motte and Bailey Castle? Why do you think such changes became necessary?

8. What strategies did soldiers use against enemies who were protected in a castle? Which strategy do you think was best? Explain.