

100% Sheet

ECONOMY AND TRADE: Were the people in Medieval towns really free?

Background information

William found several ways to control the English people: He was quick to stop **rebellions** and was prepared to punish those involved, he and his **barons** built castles to protect themselves.

He introduced a new social system called the **feudal system** and he collected tax money from the people to pay for his army.

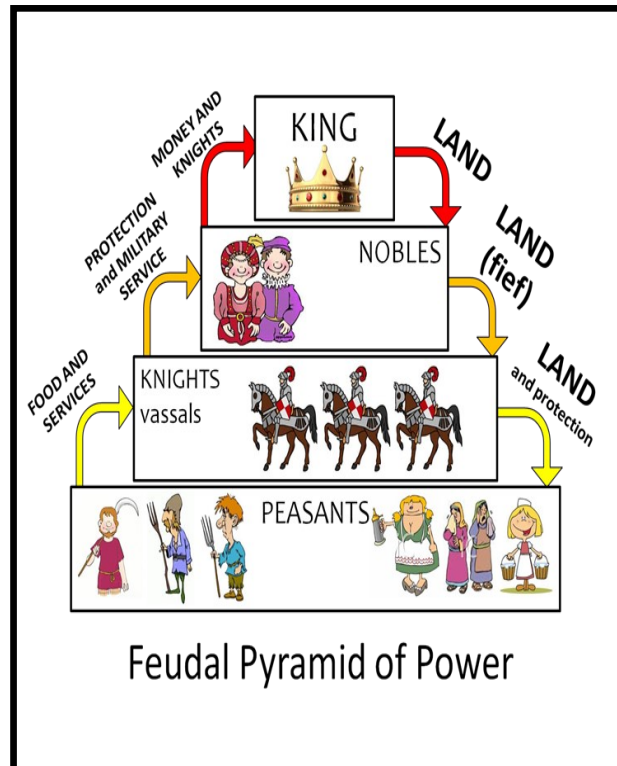
He also took control of the Church. Everyone was very religious and would **obey** the Church, so it was another way William could control the people.

Key knowledge 1: Life in Medieval towns

What were Medieval towns like? Towns grew quickly during the Middle Ages and many grew where major roads met or near a castle or monastery. Towns were often busy places where different goods were traded and skills such as blacksmiths, goldsmiths and weavers could be found. These tradesmen formed guilds and had their own rules and helped to make sure people were treated fairly.

Could people have fun in the Middle Ages? Village life was not all misery. Holy days meant a day off work. Peasant fun was rough – wrestling, shin-kicking and conkers. Golf was played using basic clubs and a leather ball stuffed with hair. Football was a major pastime. It was known as 'mob football' and often used a ball made of a pig's bladder stuffed with dried peas or sawdust.

	Keyword	Definition
1	Villein	A person that was property of the lord
2	Revenue	Money that was generated for the King. Towns did this in a variety of ways.
3	Fallow	Land left unfarmed to allow the soil to recover whilst the other fields were farmed.
4	Guilds	A group that contained individuals who worked in the same trade e.g bakers and carpenters.
5	Charter	A document signed by the King, that permitted a town to be established.
6	Rebellion	Uprising of people against a ruler
7	Motte and bailey	Norman castle made of mound of earth (motte) and a courtyard (bailey) surrounded by a wooden fence.
8	Hierarchy	System of keeping everyone in a social order, you may be higher or lower than another person in the system



Key knowledge 2: Life in medieval villages

Work began at dawn, preparing the animals, and it finished at dusk, cleaning them down and putting them back into the stalls. -

A peasant's hut was made of wattle and daub, with a thatch roof but no windows. Inside the hut, an area was used for animals, which lived in the hut with the family. Food was mainly vegetables in a stew called pottage.

