



Life and Death in Medieval Times

Learning intentions for today's class:

- Construct a timeline of where Medieval Times fits into 'the big picture'
- Analyze a primary source (the Bayeux Tapestry, 1070) and consider what it can teach us about the Middle ages.
- Examine how medieval society was organized.

Timeline - Where does Medieval Times fit into the Big Picture?



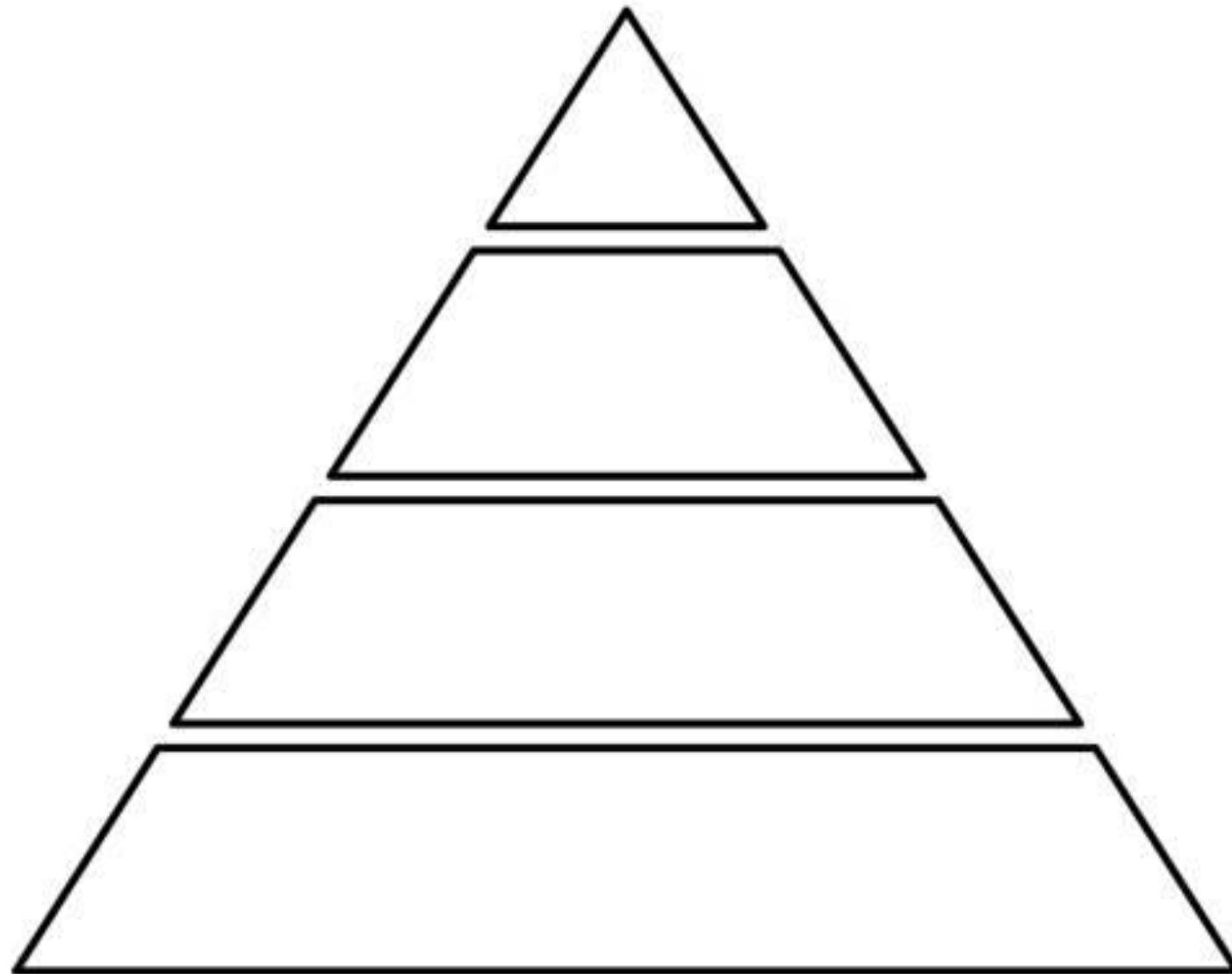
Working with evidence

The Bayeux Tapestry, 1070





The Feudal System



Key Terms

Feudalism: The system of land ownership where rulers divided land among their followers in return for loyalty and taxes.

Peasant: A person who worked on the land

Serf: a peasant who belonged to the lord and farmed his land

Freeman: a peasant who paid rent and tax to the lord but could travel as he pleased



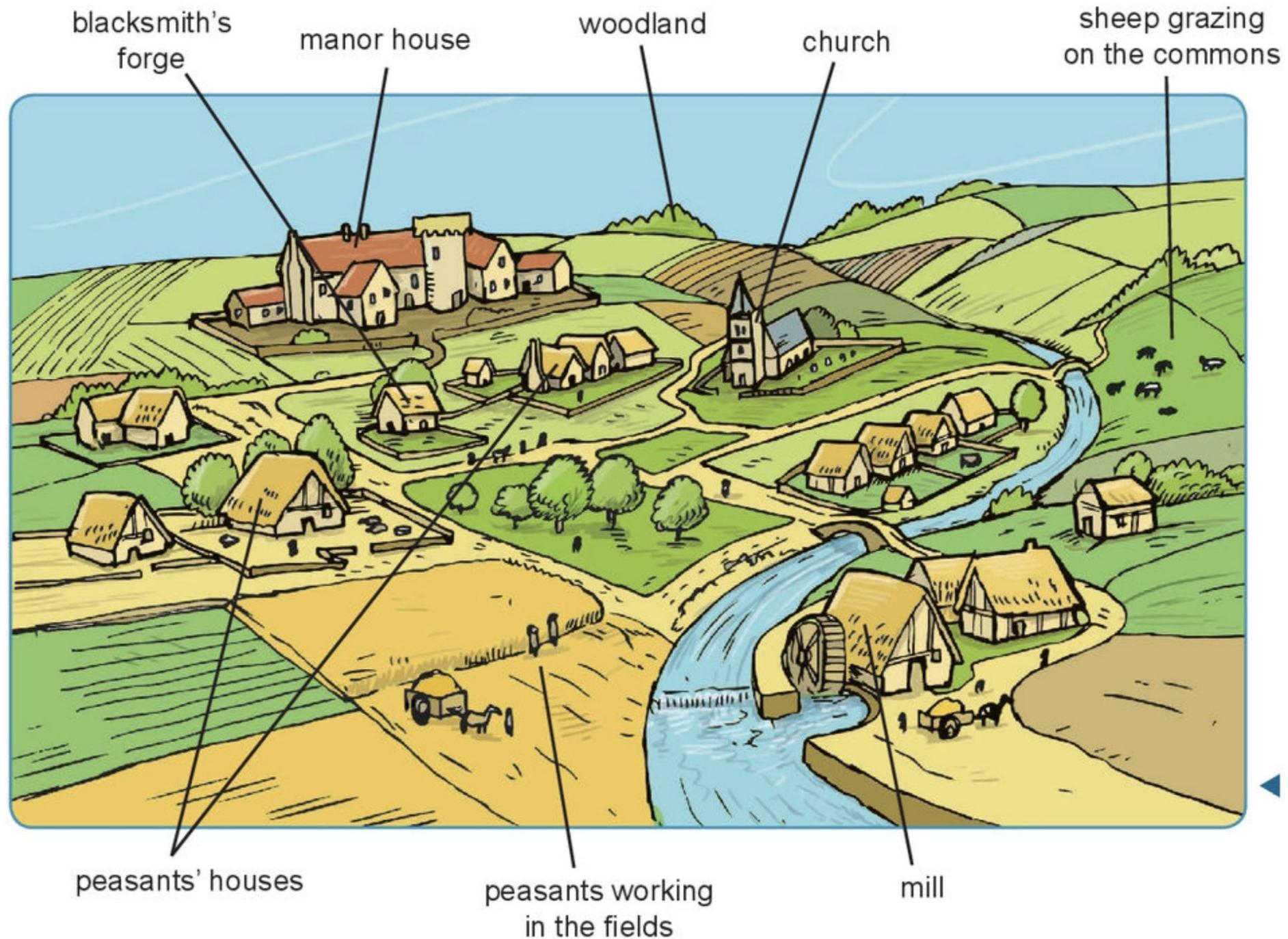
Medieval Manor

Majority of people in the Middle Ages lived in the countryside in villages called manors.

Manor: The land, and everything on it owned by the lord.

Learning intentions for today's class:

- Understand the layout of the Medieval Manor.
- Examine the farming methods used in Medieval times.
- Analyse primary sources from Medieval times.

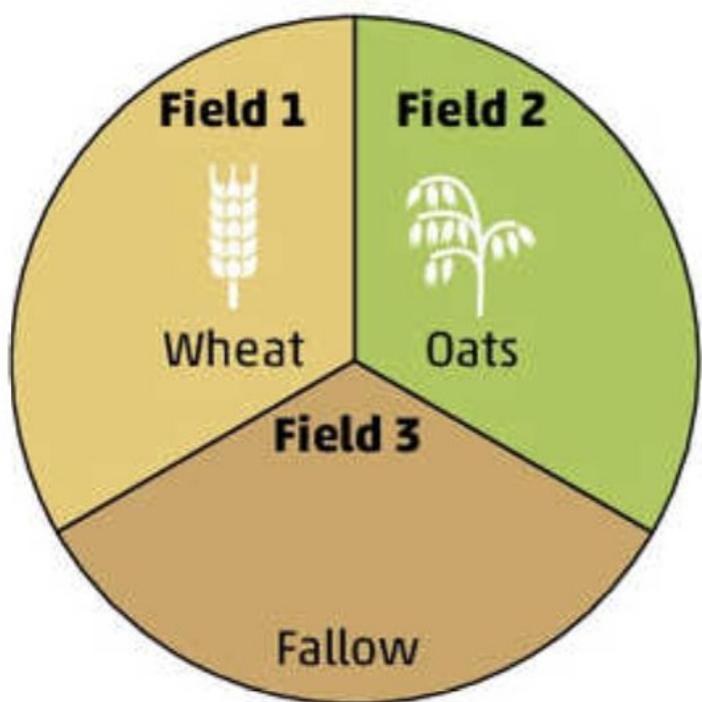


Farming Methods

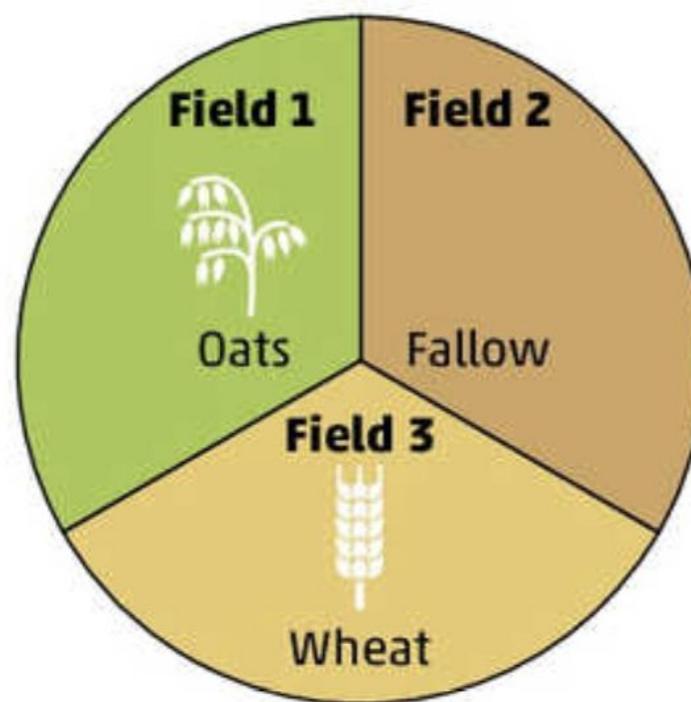
- Farming was the main occupation of the peasants
- Used the open field system and practiced crop rotation.

	Field 1	Field 2	Field 3
Year 1	Wheat	Oats/barley	Fallow
Year 2	Oats/barley	Fallow	Wheat
Year 3	Fallow	Wheat	Oats/barley

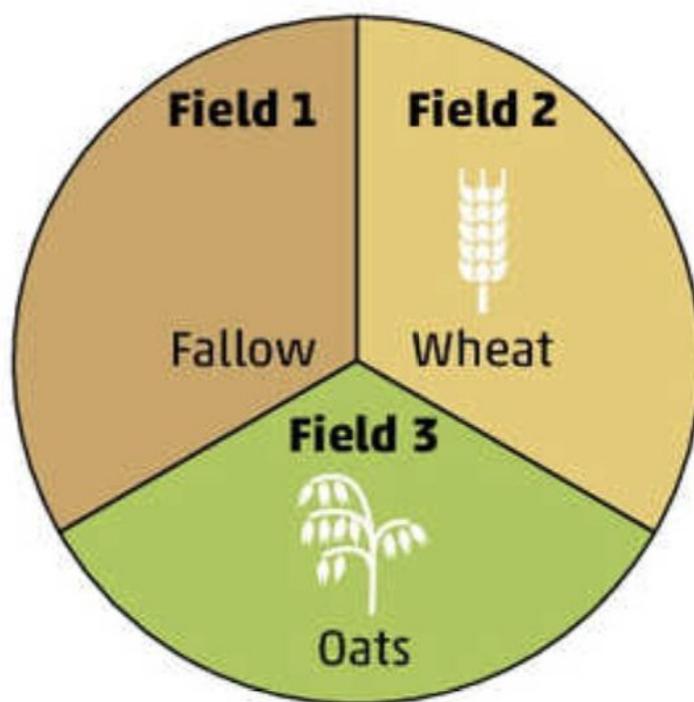
1st Year



2nd Year



3rd Year





Working with evidence





Teacher:

Ploughman:

Can you tell us, ploughman, how you do your work?

Master, I have to work so very hard. I go out at the crack of dawn to drive the oxen to the field and yoke them to the plough. For not even in the bitter winter would I dare to stay at home for fear of my lord; but, when I have yoked up the oxen and fastened the plough and the ploughshare to the plough, then I must plough a whole field or more for the whole day. I have much work to do.

Shepherd:
As soon as it is light, I drive the ewes (female sheep) to the pastures and guard them with dogs through heat and cold, so that the wolves do not devour them. I drive them to the folds, where I milk them twice a day. I move their folds and I make butter and cheese as well, and I am faithful to my lord.

(Aelfric's Colloquy, translated from the Latin by Ann E. Watkins, www.kentarchaeology.ac.uk/authors/016.pdf)

Key Terms

Bailiff: Responsible for collecting taxes and keeping law and order

Fallow: empty - Field left fallow for one year so that the soil could recover its nutrients.

Learning Intentions

- Understand the difference between freemen and serfs.
- Investigate the lives of serfs by looking at headings such as; Homes, Clothes, Food, Leisure, and Work.



Medieval Peasants

Peasants - Freeman and Serfs

- **Freemen:** had to pay rent to the lord and a tithe to the local priest. They did not have to work the land for free.
- **Tithe:** A tenth of their income.

- **Serfs:** belonged to their lord. Worked 6 days a week farming the lord's land. In return, they received a small plot of land to farm and build a house on.

Mind Map

Home

Food

Leisure

Clothes

Women

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graph TD; Serf((Serf)) --- Home[Home]; Serf --- Food[Food]; Serf --- Leisure[Leisure]; Serf --- Clothes[Clothes]; Serf --- Women[Women]
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Working with evidence







Medieval Castles

Nobles and lords lived in castles

Protected them from attacks

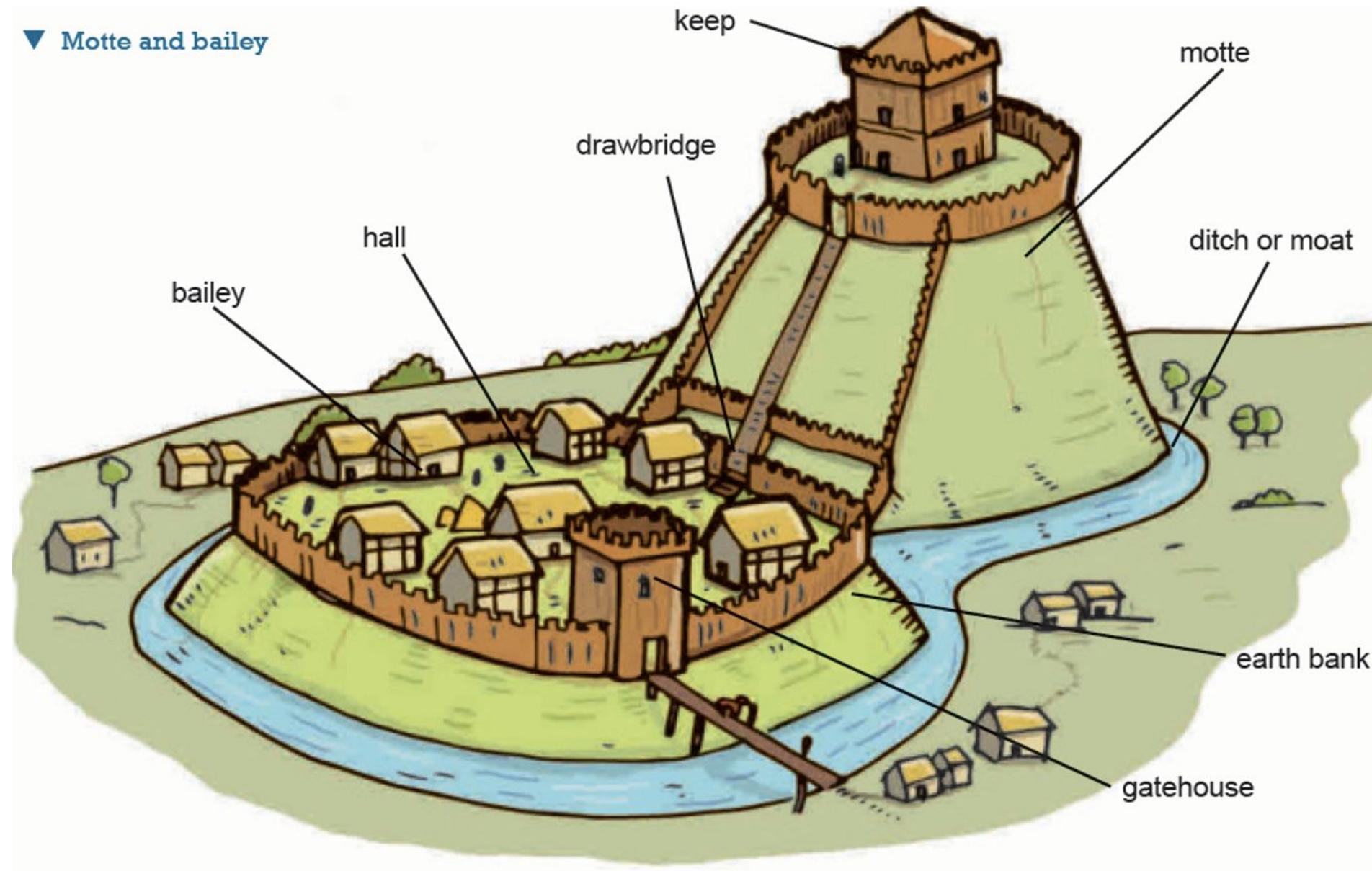
They were a base to run their land from

Motte and Bailey

- Temporary castle
- Could be built very quickly
- **Motte:** small artificial hill with a wooden tower (keep) at the top.
- **Bailey:** Large enclosed area under the hill where the soldiers lived. Surrounded by high wooden fences and a ditch or moat.

MOTTE AND BAILEY

▼ Motte and bailey





Working with evidence



Stone Castles

- Huge
- Took several hundred men and several years to complete one.
- **Curtain walls** : enclosed castle and protected those inside
- **Keep:** main building, lord's apartments, the great hall and a chapel.

Had narrow windows to keep in heat and make defense easier.

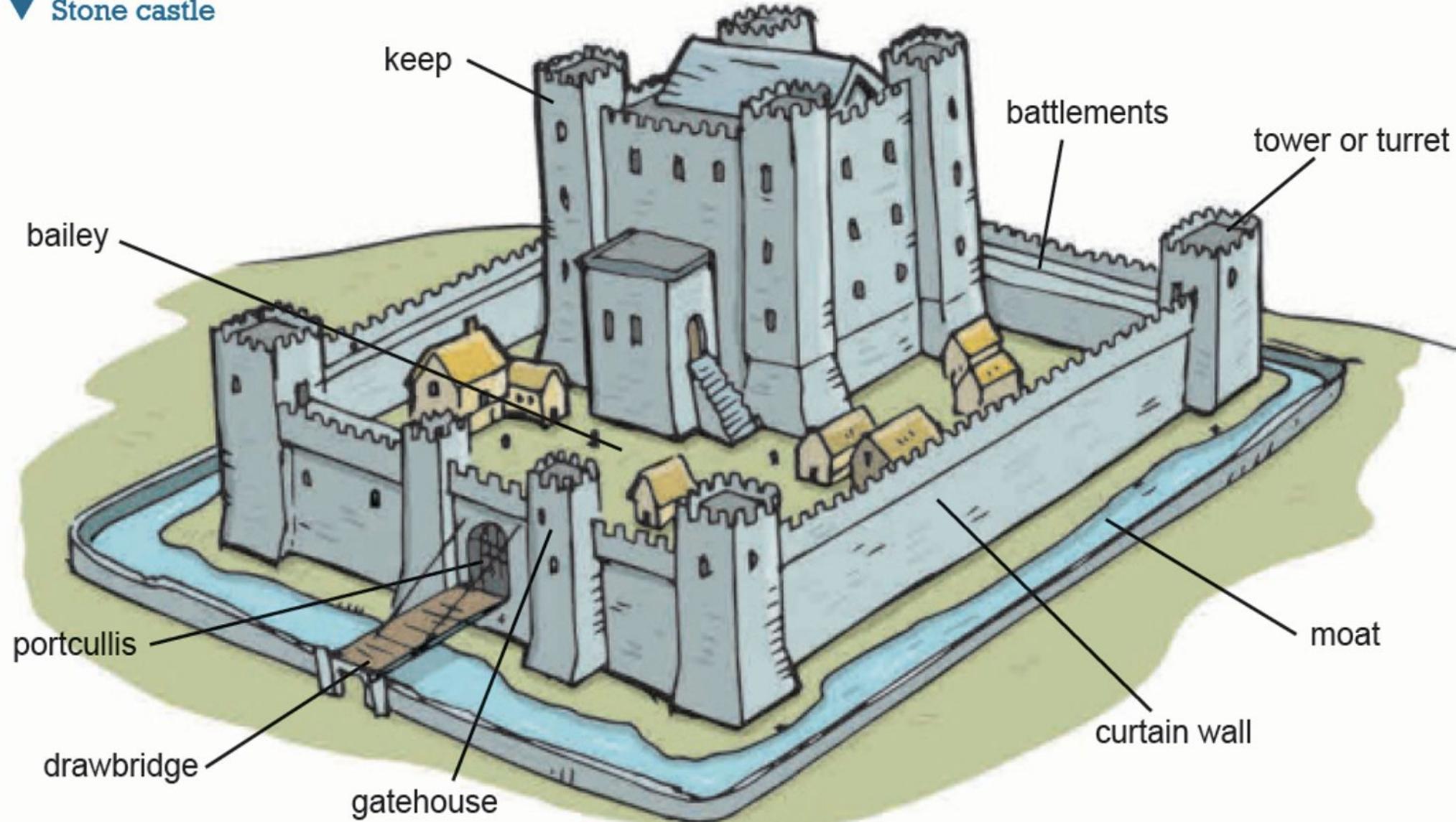
- **Dungeons:** below the keep, stored food and kept it cold, held prisoners
- **Battlements:** ran along the top of keep and walls for soldiers to patrol, day and night
- **Bailey:** Enclosed area around the keep with stables, workshops, kitchen, well and soldiers' lodgings

Gatehouse -

- **Drawbridge:** could be raised and lowered to control entry to the castle
- **Portcullis:** metal grid which could be lowered over the gate if necessary
- **Moat:** deep ditch filled with water surrounding the castle

STONE CASTLES

▼ Stone castle



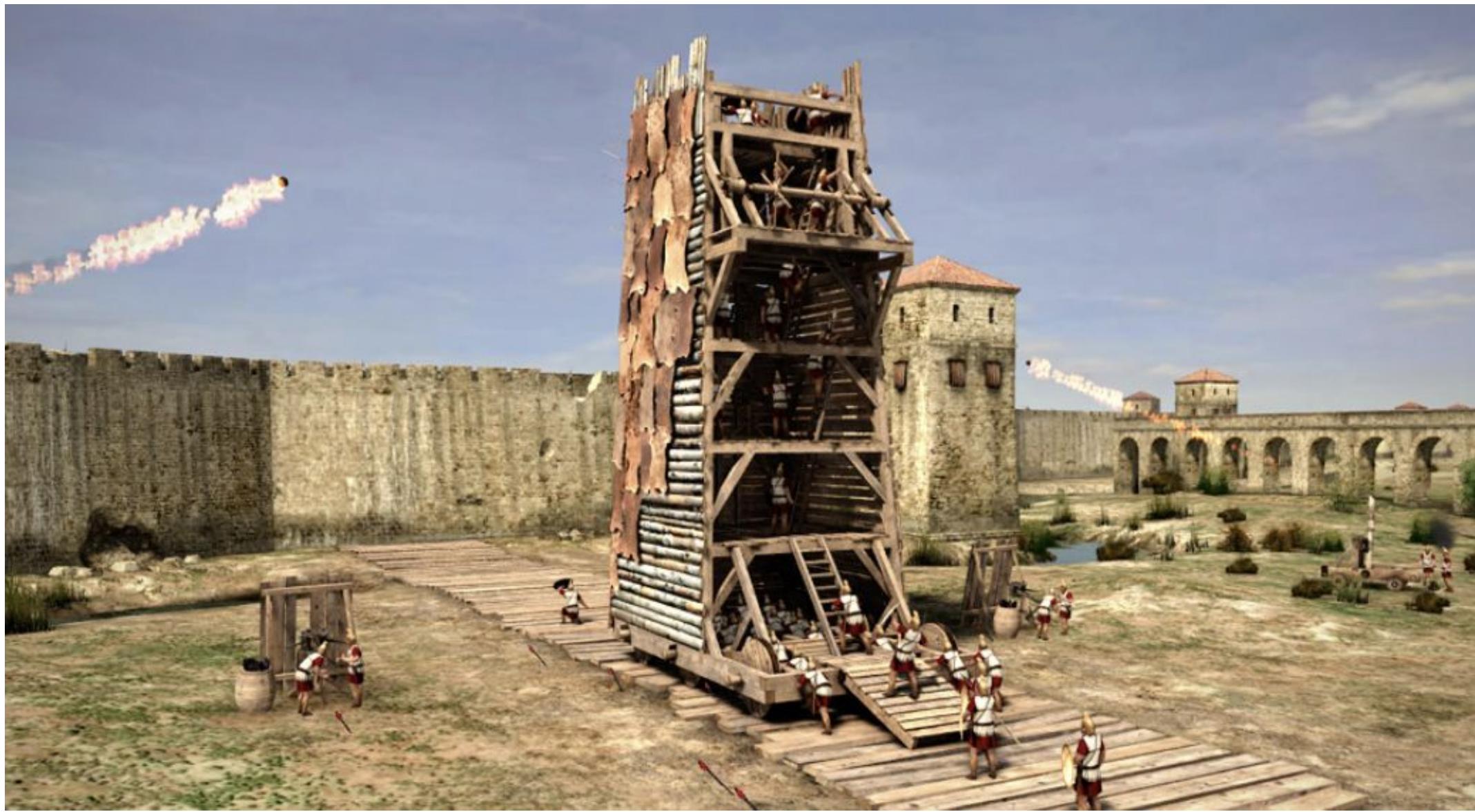
What's happening here?



Under Siege

- **Siege:** an attacking army surrounded the castle and waited for surrender.
- Used various methods to try and breach the castles walls.









Name	Definition	Pro	Con
Battering ram			
Catapults			
Ballista			
Siege Tower			



The Lord and the Lady

Lords and ladies

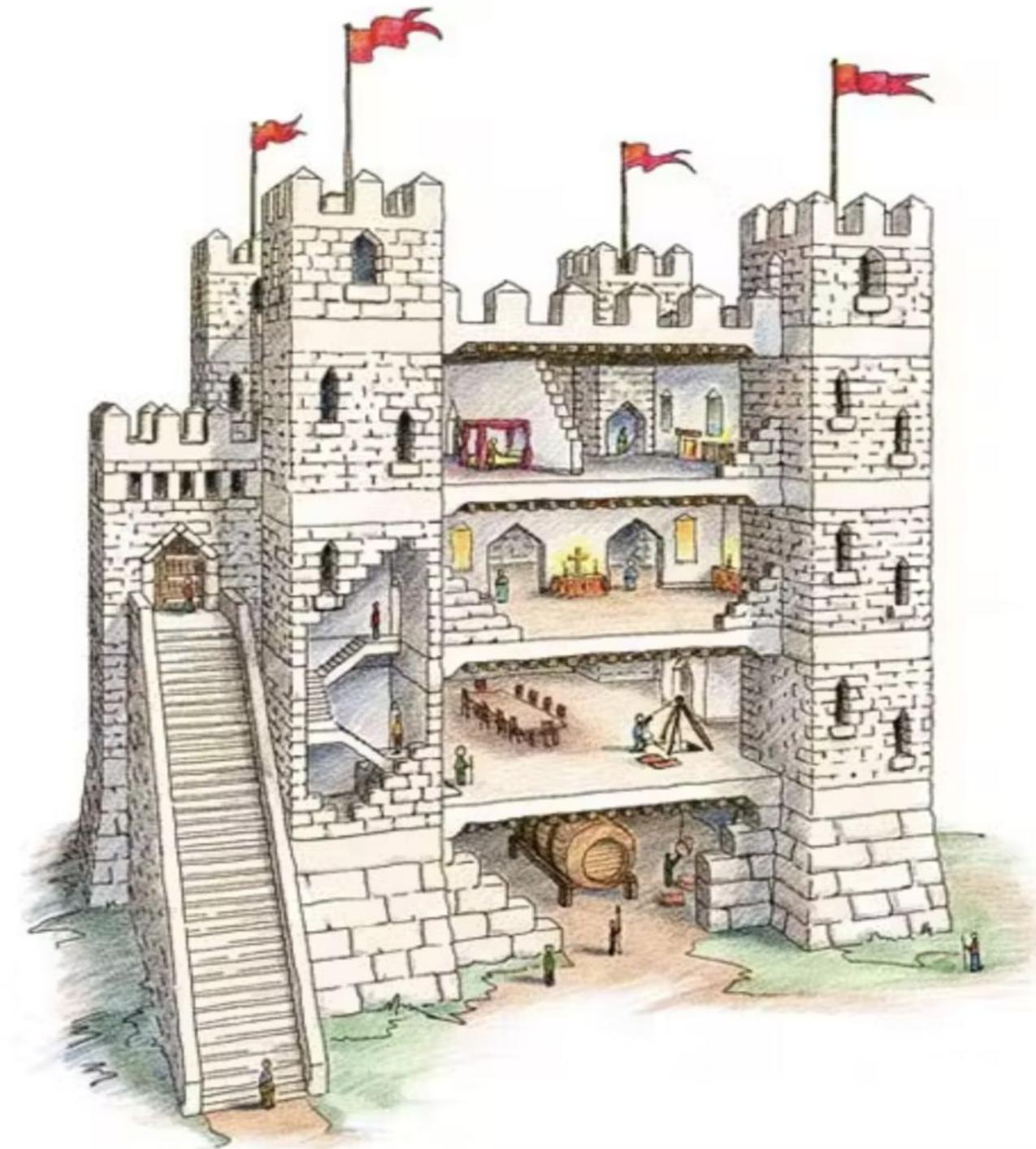
- Very powerful,
 - Lord owned huge amounts of land
 - Commanded many knights and soldiers.
-
- The lady of the castle usually married at a young age.
 - Marriages were arranged by the two families.

A **dowry** (sum of money or land) was paid to the groom.



Medieval Lady

- Main duty was to bear children as **heirs**.
- Family lived upstairs in the **keep**
- In the **solar** the lady would weave, teach the children or play music.
- She ran the household
- Instructed the servants
- Supervised the storage and preparation of food
- Acted for her husband when he was away.





Medieval Lord

- Main duties were to maintain order in his lands
- act as a judge
- train soldiers.
- In his leisure time, he went hunting
- hawking
- held **tournaments** (events for knights) featuring mock battles and jousting contests.

Medieval feasts and entertainment

- Beef, pork, mutton, duck, deer, pheasant or rabbit were served
- Meat could not be kept fresh for long.
- People salted, smoked or dried meat and fish and used herbs and spices to vary the strong flavour.

- Forks were not used
 - Instead of plates people often ate from large pieces of hard bread called trenchers.
-
- Musicians (**minstrels**) and comic performers (**jesters**) provided entertainment.



Quanti modi di fare e rifare

Medieval Clothing

- Men wore long tunics and trousers of fine wool or linen
- Women wore full-length dresses.
- Embroidered
- Dyed in vivid colours
- The richest nobles wore silk brought from Asia.



Medieval Health and Medicine

- Based off the writings of the Ancient Greeks
- Believed that the body was made up of the four humours.

1. B
2. B
3. Y
4. P

How did they treat illness?

- Bleeding:
- Cupping:
- Leeching:
- Amputation:

-
- Herbal Medicine was also common
 - Mixtures of herbs given to the sick

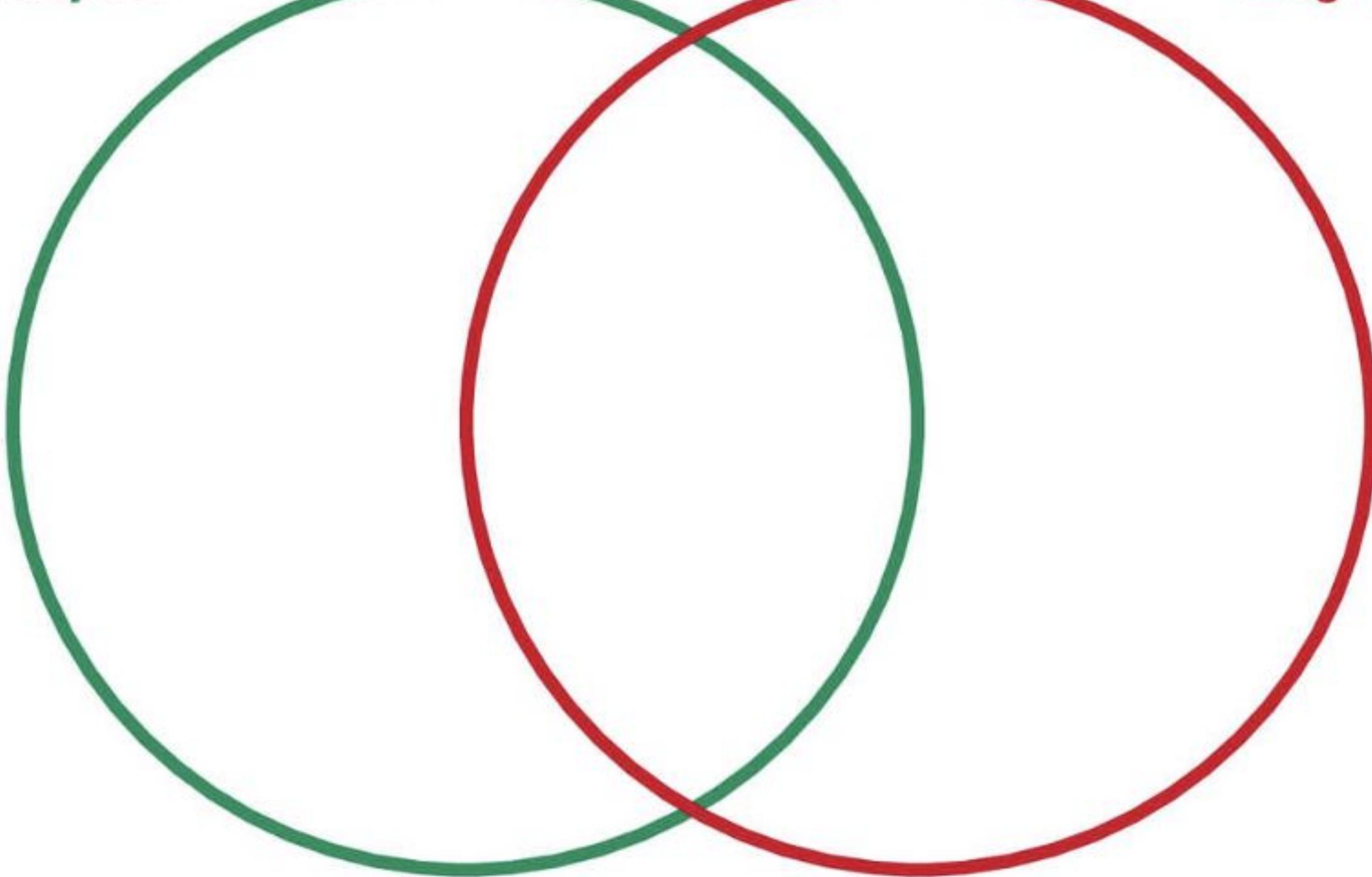


Illness

- Conditions were cramped and filthy
- People lacked basic sanitation and hygiene
- Poor people did not have a good diet, less able to fight off infection

Death in the Middle Ages

- Death was a part of everyday life.
- Average life expectancy was 35.
- Many children died at birth or within one year of birth.
- Many women died during childbirth



The Black Death

- The bubonic plague
- Killed one third of Europe's population
- Carried by fleas
- First arrived on ships' rats and spread through the trade network





Working with Evidence

The Significance of the Black Death

So many people died within such a short period that Europe was greatly changed by the Black Death:

1. The feudal system, especially serfdom, declined as many serfs left manors and moved to the towns to replace those who had died.

2. The peasants who remained on the land were able to demand better treatment from their lords, a reduction in the taxes they paid and more land because there were fewer of them to do the work.
3. The failure to find a cure for the Black Death meant that doctors began to question their practices. This would lead to big changes in medicine during the Renaissance.

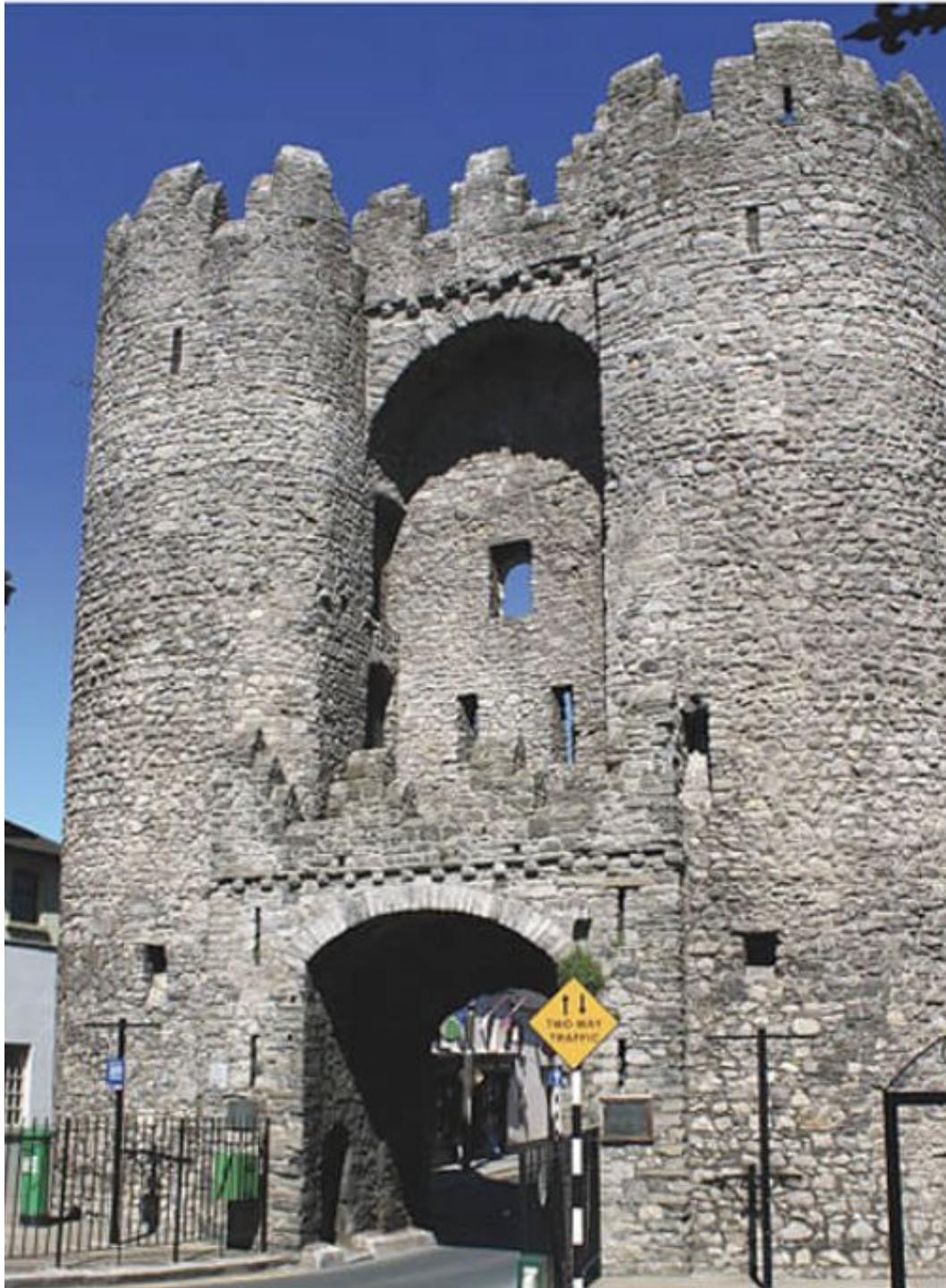


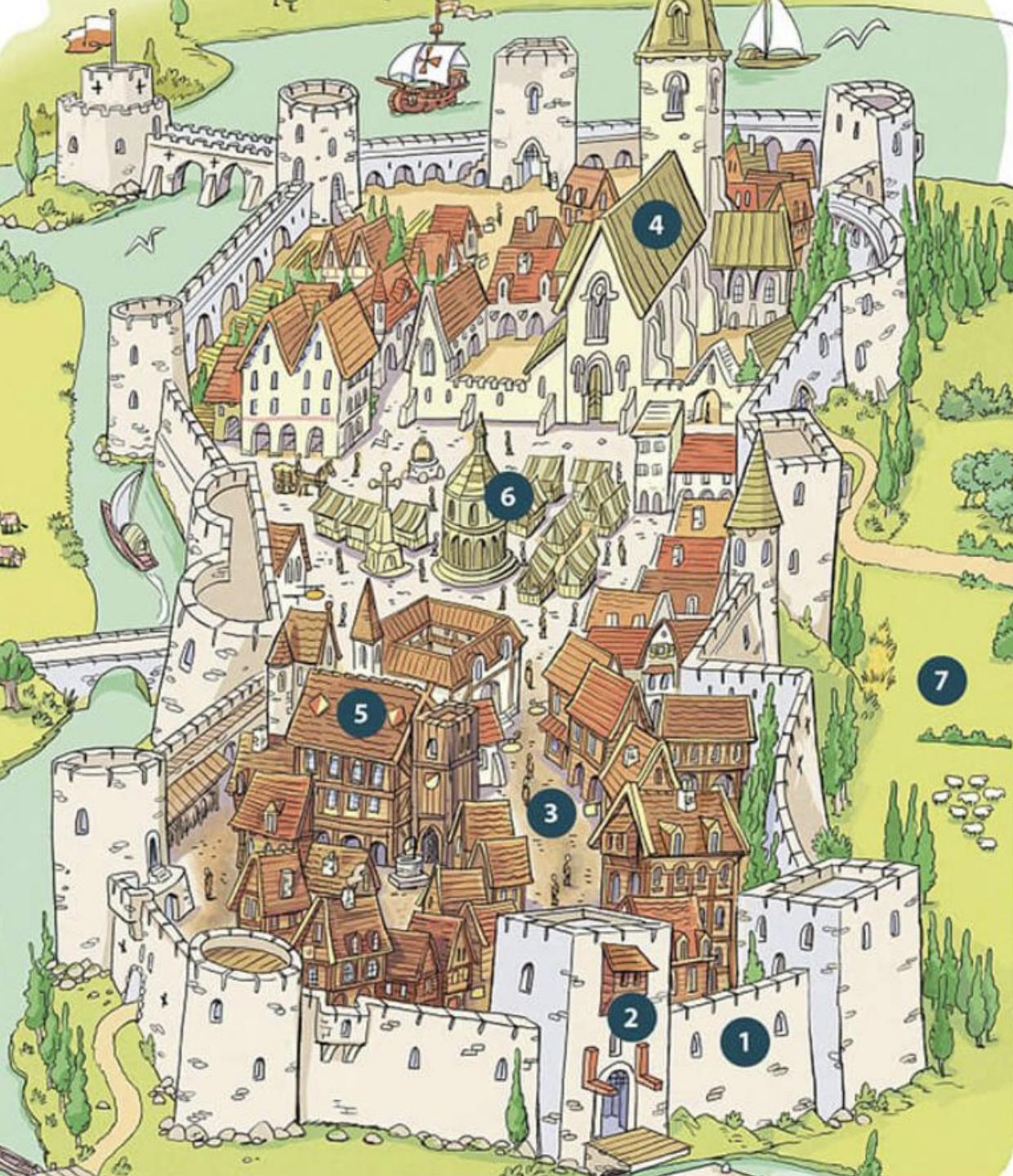
Medieval Towns

Medieval towns were much smaller than they are today.

Had between 1,000 and 5,000 people.

Many were built on rivers or on the coast.







Drogheda



Houses

- Made of wood
- Several stories high
- Higher floors stuck out, made the streets dark
- Shops and workhouses were on the ground floor



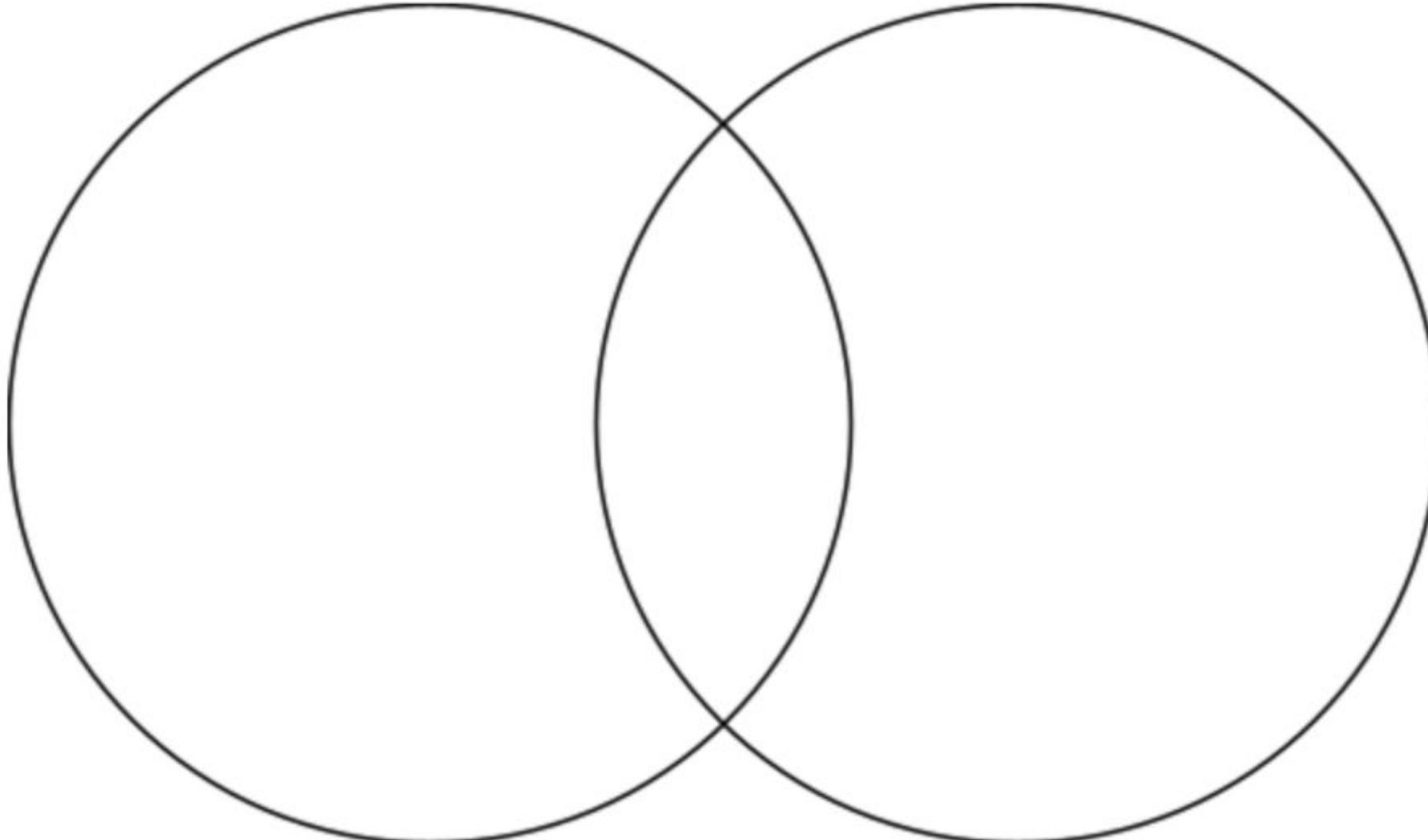
- Gardens: grew vegetables and kept animals
- Fire was a constant danger
- Curfews were imposed- people had to extinguish their fires at sundown

Streets

- Open drain down the middle
- Incredibly dirty
- Animals roamed the streets
- Life was very cramped - disease spread quickly and easily



Medieval Towns vs Modern Towns





Craftsmen

- Produced everyday goods (food, tools, clothes)
 - Shop was on the ground floor of his house
 - Shop sign was a picture instead of words

Potter



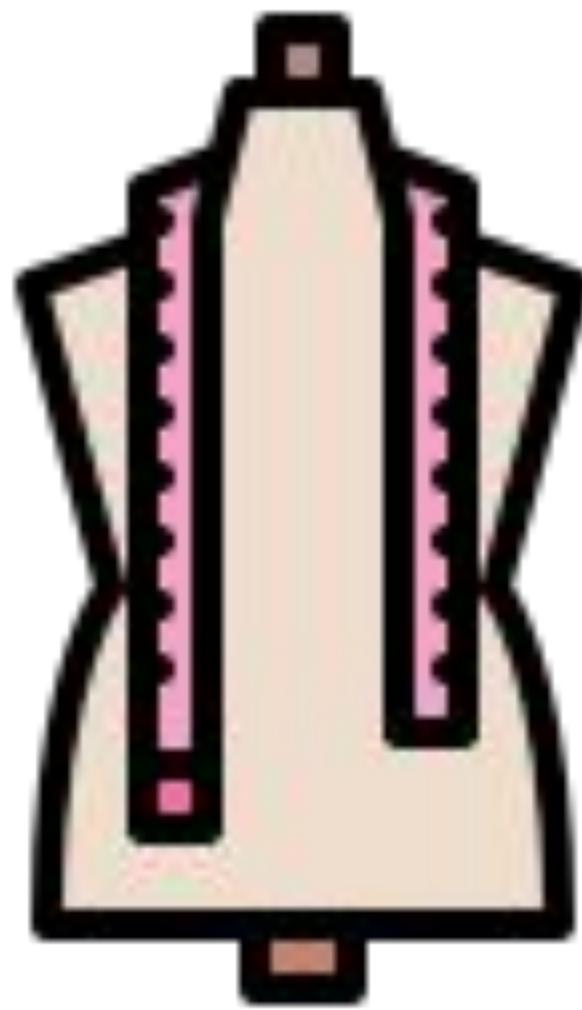
Smith



Mason



Tailor



Sawyer



Cooper



Medieval Guilds



What was a guild?

- Every craftsman who worked in a town belonged to a guild.
- Guild: an organization that controlled its own craft or trade.
- Each of the trades formed their own guild to control the business of the trade or craft.
- The guilds controlled the standard of craftsmanship and decided who could be a craftsman.
- Women were excluded but could join if their husband died.

Guild Rules

- Poor workmanship will be punished by a fine and having all goods confiscated.

(Shoemaker's Guild, Chester)

- No one shall make or sell hats within the city unless he is a burgess (a freeman) of the city.

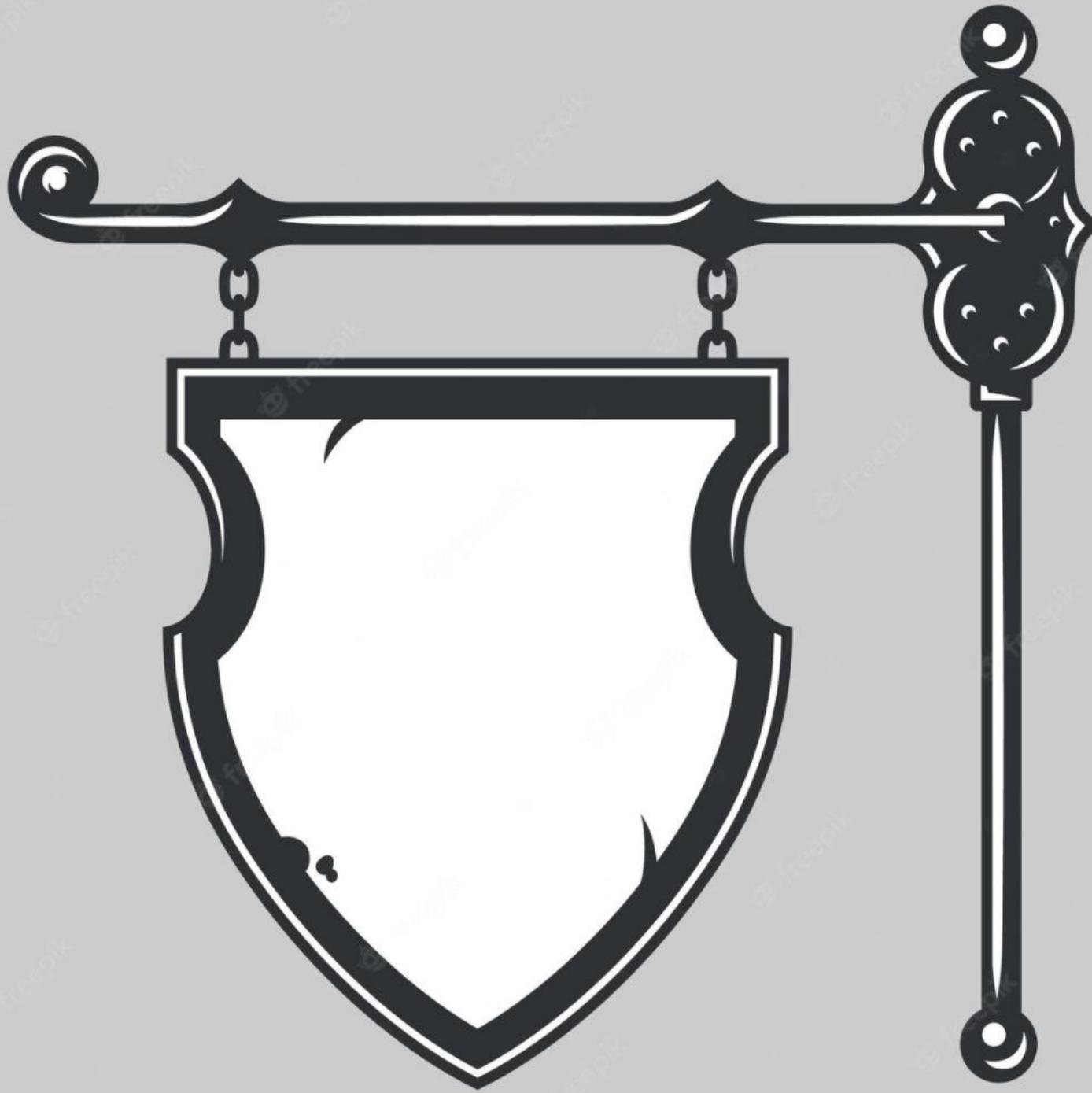
(Hatmakers' Guild, London)

- If by chance any member of the guild shall become poor through old age, accident or sickness, then he shall have 7 pence from the guild every week.

(Leatherworkers' Guild, London)



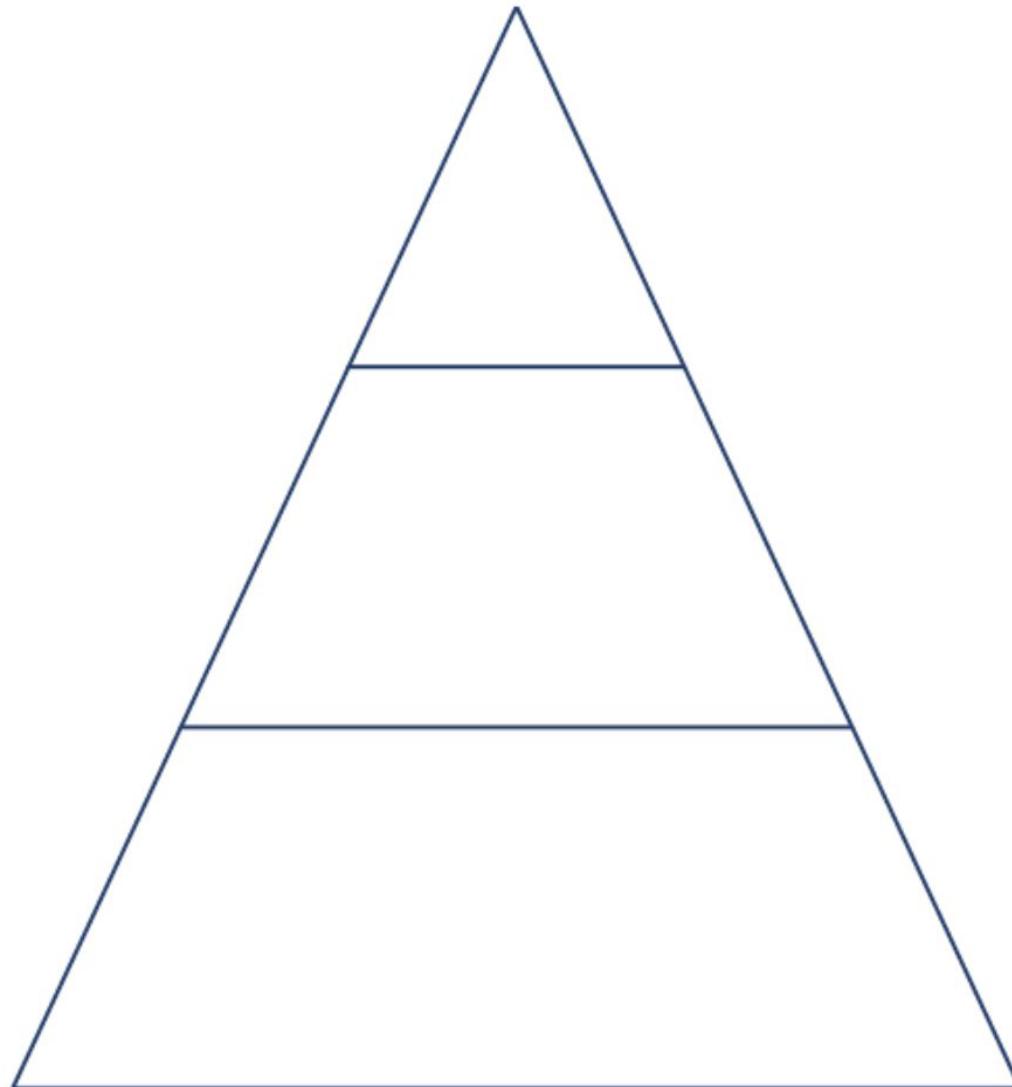
What Guild would these belong to?



How did a boy become a master craftsman?

- 3 stages
- Stage 1 - 12 years old, **apprentice**, lived in the house of a master craftsman for 7 years
- Stage 2 - 19 years old, **journeyman**, leave old master and go in search for paid work
- Stage 3 - to become **master craftsman**, journeyman had to produce a **masterpiece**.

Craftsmen





Merchant

- Bought and sold goods.
- They attended fairs and markets.
- Some travelled long and far to sell their wares in other towns.