

Japanese/European Feudalism

Purpose:

To introduce students to the Japanese form of feudalism, and compare and contrast it to the European form, of which they are already familiar.

Rationale:

Feudalism is an important part of the seventh grade standards. Japanese feudalism provides an interesting contrast with its European cousin.

Essential Questions:

1. What are the main attributes of European Feudalism?
2. What are the main attributes of Japanese Feudalism?
3. What are the differences between the two?

As the students do their research, they will be taking notes. In their notes they should be noticing that peasants in both Japanese and European Feudalism make up the majority of the population. Also, they should be noticing the similarities between knights and samurai, emperors and kings, etc.

Materials:

Computers with internet access, Japanese Feudalism Pyramid and European Feudalism Pyramid, Venn Diagram

Activity:

This is a two to three day activity in which the students will study online resources about Japanese and European feudalism systems.

The students will start by viewing and interacting with the two websites. They are not limited to only these sites, but should start there before researching other sites. As they wade through the material, they are to take notes on the similarities and differences of the two systems. The second period, they should be given the handouts (Japanese Feudalism Pyramid and European Feudalism Pyramid.) They should add information from these two worksheets to their notes. All of this research should take a period or two to finish.

Once the students have collected their research, they should get a copy of the Venn diagram. They are to use their notes to compare and contrast the two systems with the Venn Diagram. This portion should take about one class period.

Assessment:

The assessment for this activity will be the venn diagram that the students have created. They should

be graded on accurate and well researched information.

Websites: [see above]

<http://www.kidspast.com/world-history/0259-japanese-feudalism.php>

This website is a very basic explanation of when the Japanese Feudal system began, and how it operated. It is meant as a jumping on point for students as they begin their independent research.

http://www.redmond.k12.or.us/145620123132525107/lib/145620123132525107/_files/Ch_9.pdf

This document gives an excellent overview of European Feudalism. It is complete with pictures, maps, timelines, charts, etc.

<http://asianhistory.about.com/od/japan/p/ShogJapanClass.htm>

This website does a very good job of breaking down the four main tiers of the Japanese Feudal system, while also discussing those that lived outside of it. A good starting point for research.

http://www.lessonpathways.com/Pathways/Detail?path=/03_History/Year_5_History_Guided_Journey/07Feudal_Japan

This site is good for students that have trouble researching. It has links to many different sites about Japanese Feudalism. It also has extension activities for more gifted students.

European Feudalism

INTERACTIVE

King This man sat atop feudal society and ruled over large areas of land.

Church Officials and Nobles These people owned land and thus held much power and wealth.

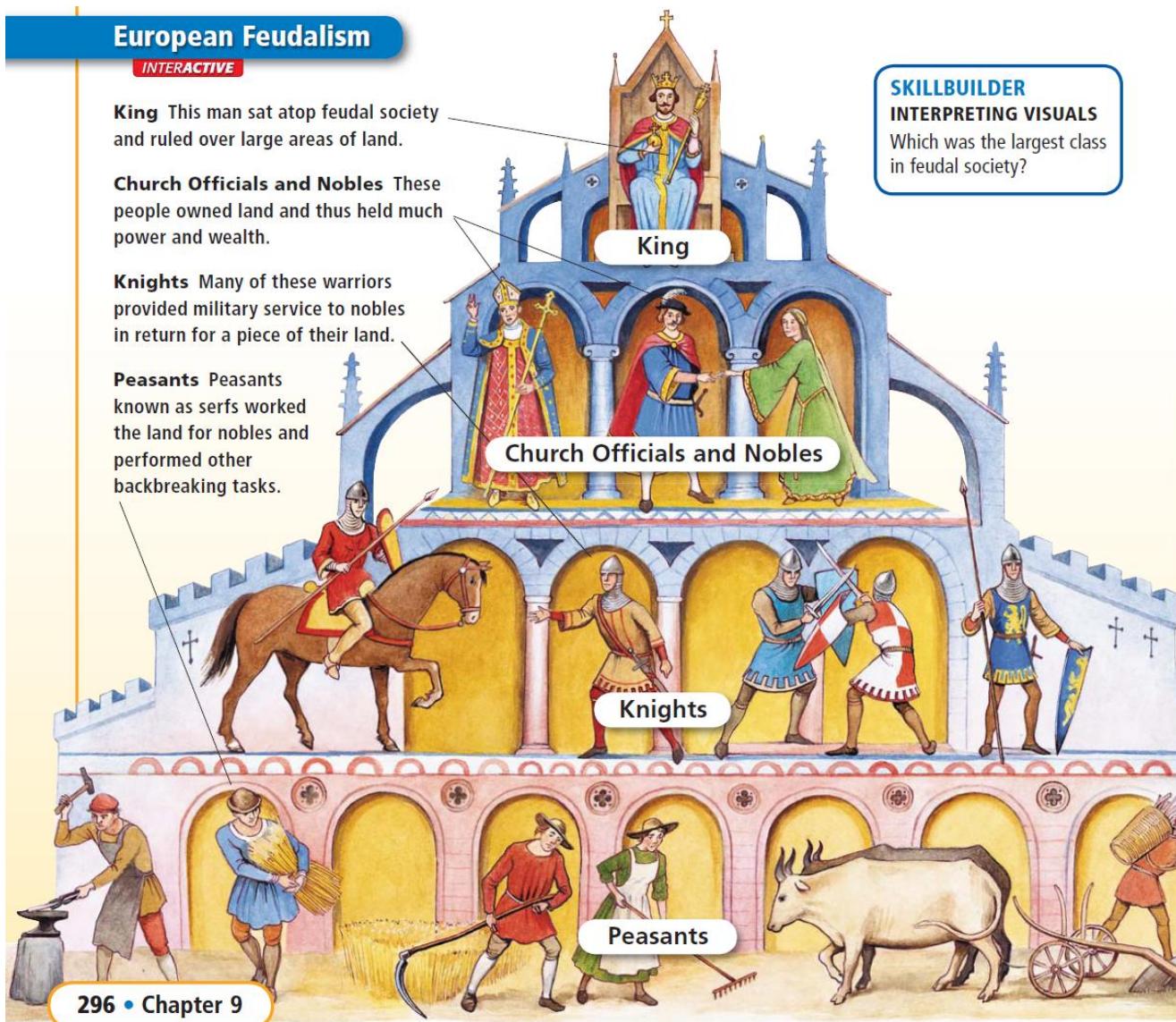
Knights Many of these warriors provided military service to nobles in return for a piece of their land.

Peasants Peasants known as serfs worked the land for nobles and performed other backbreaking tasks.

SKILLBUILDER

INTERPRETING VISUALS

Which was the largest class in feudal society?





Name

Venn Diagram-1

