

Castles and Kings

Interest Level 4-6
Reading Level 3-4

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ISBN 1-55035-510-4

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Revised January 2006

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Published in the United States by:
On the Mark Press
3909 Witmer Road PMB 175
Niagara Falls, New York
14305
www.onthemarkpress.com

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Published in Canada by:
S&S Learning Materials
15 Dairy Avenue
Napanee, Ontario
K7R 1M4
www.sslearning.com

OTM-631 • SSF1-31 Castles and Kings

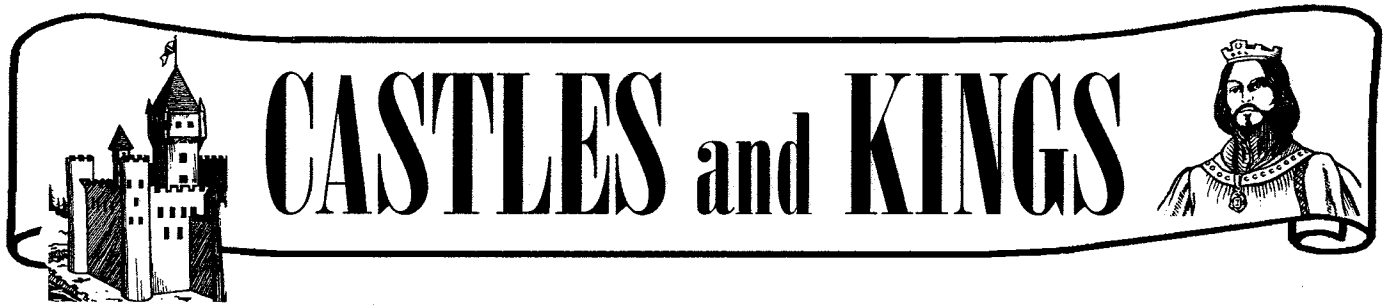


Table of Contents

At A Glance™.....	2
Teacher Assessment Rubric.....	4
Student Self-Assessment Rubric	5
Overall Expectations	6
Bibliography	6
Vocabulary	6
Teacher Input Suggestions	7
List of Activities	12
Student Tracking Sheet	13
Information Cards 1-12	14
Reading Activities 1-12	26
Word Study Activities 1-11.....	42
Language Activities 1-10	53
Story Starters 1-4	64
Research Activities 1-4.....	66
Phonics Activities 1-9	68
Answer Key	77



Information Card #1

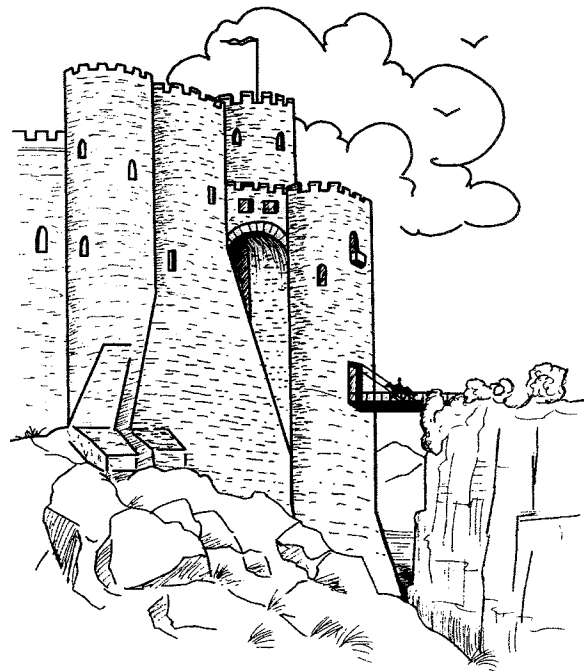
The Middle Ages

The Middle Ages were also called the Medieval Times.

A long time ago, Europe was ruled by the Romans. Then they got weaker and weaker.

Other people took over. Then there were no laws and no money. There was no more trade with other countries. The farmers needed someone to protect them.

A new way of life was started. A very rich man would have lots of land. He was called a landlord or lord. The peasants would work for the landlord. He would protect them. This was called the Feudal System.



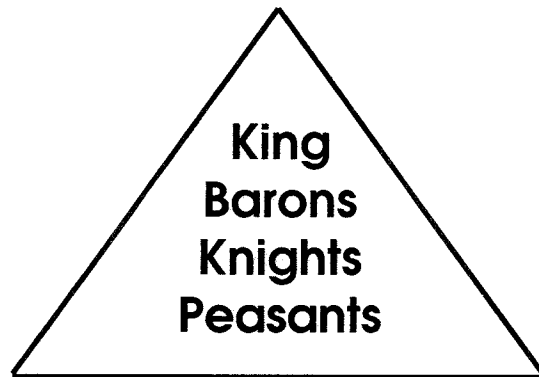
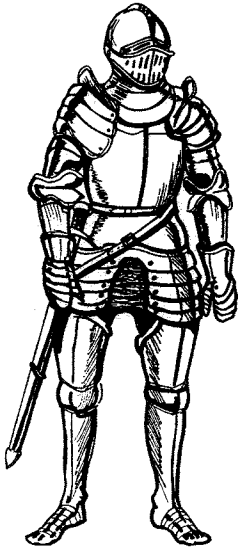


CASTLES and KINGS



Information Card #2

The Feudal System



Vassal was a name for someone who had to obey another person.

This is how the Feudal System worked. At the top was the king. Then there were the barons, knights and peasants. The king owned all the land in the kingdom.

The king would share all this land with the barons. The barons had to protect the king. The barons shared the land with the knights and peasants.

Everyone had to work very hard. They had to fight for the land. They had to pay taxes and they had to obey the people who ruled over them. If they did this, everyone would be protected.

This was the Feudal System. The people got protection, law and order.

CASTLES and KINGS

Information Card #3

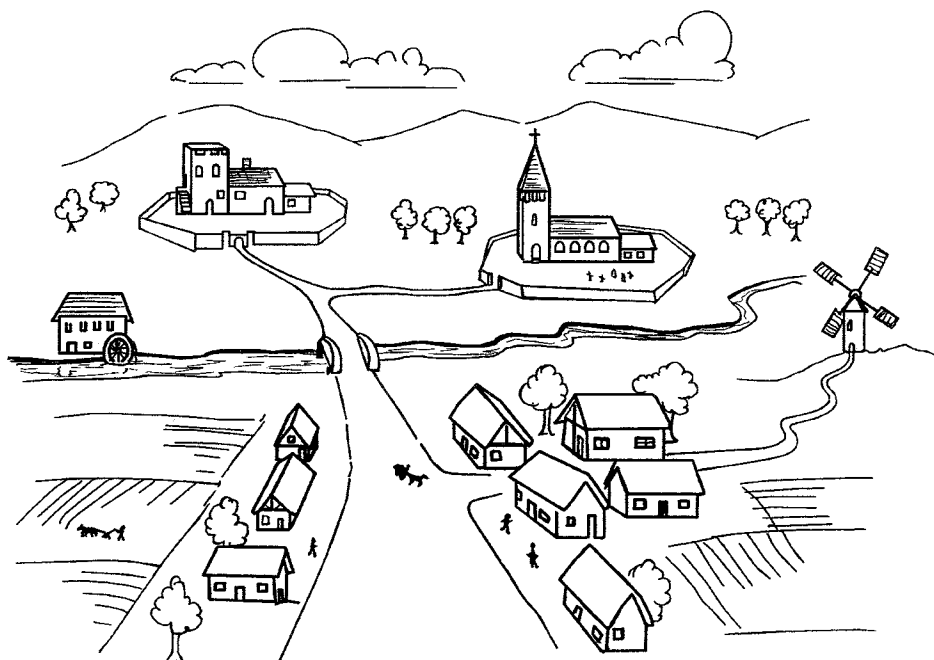
The Manor

A manor was a very big piece of land. A knight often had this land. He was called Lord of the Manor.

The home of the lord was called the manor house. It was a very, very big house. Around the manor house were a garden, fruit trees and farm buildings.

The peasants farmed the lord's land as well as their own. The peasants lived in little huts. They worked very hard. The lord of the manor was their boss.

Each manor had a church, a mill and a wine press.





CASTLES and KINGS



Information Card #4

Farming the Manor

The manor was a very big farm. Each year some of the land would be planted. Some land would have a rest and not get planted. This was good for the soil.

There were not many tools in those days. Farming was simple. Oxen or horses helped to pull the heavy things. Oxen are like big cows.

The farmers were called peasants. They worked very hard. The peasants had to do the lord's work as well as their own. They had to give him a share of the crop.

The peasants had to pay to use the mill. They had to help make roads. They had to help defend the manor house or castle. The lord gave the peasants a home, farm and protection.





Information Card #5

The Peasant's Home

The peasant's home was very small. It was called a cottage. Most of the time it had just one room.

The cottage was made of logs or clay. It had a dirt floor. The cottage had a straw roof. The straw was called thatch.

The cottage had an open fireplace. This was used for cooking and keeping the room warm. Animals could go in and out because there was no door.

The cottage was white on the outside. Inside it was painted blue to cover the dirt. Outside there was a garden.

