Student Workbook

California Education and the Environment Initiative

7

History-Social Science Standard 7.6.3.

Managing Nature's Bounty: Feudalism in Medieval Europe

California Education and the Environment Initiative

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California Natural Resources Agency

California State Board of Education

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Key Partners:

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Abbot: The leading official in a monastery.

Charter: A document, written by both sovereign and non-sovereign powers, recording a grant of rights and privileges.

Conservation: The management, protection, and use of resources and natural systems in a way that can meet current and future needs.

Defendant: A person accused of a crime in a court of law.

Ecosystem goods: Tangible materials, such as timber and food, produced by natural systems that are essential to human life, economies, and cultures.

Ecosystem services: The functions and processes that occur in natural systems, such as pollination, that support or produce ecosystem goods and help sustain human life, economies, and cultures.

Feudalism: The political, social, and economic system based on the relationship between European lords and their subjects.

Fief: An estate controlled by a feudal landlord.

Habitat: The place where an organism lives and meets its needs.

Knight: A noble who serves a lord or king through military service.

Lord: An individual who holds feudal rights granted by a king.

Manor: A village and the lands around it, owned by a feudal lord.

Market: A public place where people gather to buy and sell goods.

Merchant: A person who sells or trades goods as a business.

Natural resources: Materials, such as water, minerals, energy, and soil, that people use from nature and natural systems.

Noble: (noun) A person in feudal society who may own land, or who is a vassal of the king. (adjective) Aristocratic; of high rank.

Outlaw: (noun) A rebel or someone who disobeys the law, who no longer has legal protection or rights. (verb) To deprive of the benefit and protection of law and to declare an act to be against the law.

Plaintiff: A person who brings a complaint or accusation against someone in a court of law.

Species: Genetically related organisms that resemble one another and can successfully reproduce.

Vassal: A person who has pledged allegiance or loyalty to a feudal lord in return for protection.

Name: _____

Instructions: Using what you read about California's Department of Fish and Game, answer the following questions. Use complete sentences for your answers. (2 points each)

1. In what ways does the Department of Fish and Game manage the state's natural resources?

_____

_____

_____

2. What are some of the natural resources in particular regions that need care and protection?

_____

_____

_____

3. In what ways do people outside the DFG affect the management of natural resources?

_____

_____

_____

4. How does the DFG help conserve wildlife and natural areas?

_____

_____

_____

5. How does the DFG enforce the laws meant to manage resources?

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

6. What "governmental" system developed during the Middle Ages to oversee the natural regions and resources of Europe?

_____

_____

_____

7. What similarities exist between feudalism and the DFG?

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Instructions: Use the **Physical Features and Natural Regions of Europe** student map and the **Regions of Europe** projected map to complete the chart below. (2 points each)

Region of Europe	Natural Features	
North	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Central	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
South	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
West	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
East	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

Name: _____

Instructions: Describe what ecosystem goods and ecosystem services each of these natural features would have supplied to the people of the Middle Ages. (2 points each)

Rivers: _____

_____

_____

Forests: _____

_____

_____

Grasslands: _____

_____

_____

Mountains: _____

_____

_____

Seas and Oceans: _____

_____

_____

Instructions: Explain the connection between feudalism and these ecosystem goods and ecosystem services in medieval Europe. (5 points)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Instructions: Read the following paragraphs about life in medieval Europe. When you finish each paragraph, listen to a person from your group as they read a quote from a real medieval charter. Then complete the charts underneath each paragraph using information that you read and heard.

Paragraph 1

Medieval manors were sometimes quite large. They had many officials and peasants working for the lord. The most important official was the steward. This man was the chief officer of the lord, and he managed all of the lord's lands. He made sure that everybody who worked for the lord did his or her jobs well. If the lord had many manors, the steward would travel to them all. He had to decide which crops to plant, what fields to use, and when to plow. The steward also watched over the lord's animals, including his horses, oxen, cows, sheep, and pigs. He made sure that no one used the lord's woods, pastures, or meadows without permission.

Read: Excerpts 1 and 2 from **In Their Own Words.**

Who?	What they were responsible for…
Steward	

Paragraph 2

Bailiffs helped the steward manage the lord's workers. The bailiffs made sure that all of the peasants who lived on the manor did the jobs they were supposed to do. Sometimes a bailiff would fine people for not doing their work. Some manor lords had foresters who took care of the woods and kept anyone from hunting deer or rabbits in them without the lord's permission. Other officers, like the reeve, watched over the lord's horses and other farm animals for the steward.

Read: Excerpts 3 and 4 from **In Their Own Words.**

Who?	What they were responsible for…
Bailiff	

Name: _____

Who?	What they were responsible for…
Forester	
Reeve	

Paragraph 3

Besides the officials appointed by the lord of the manor, many peasants had tasks that gave them more importance than other peasants had. The ploughman, who could handle the lord's team of oxen or horses and plow the fields, was very important. Other skilled workers were in charge of landscaping (the hayward), cleaning and washing (the scullion), digging moats and tunnels (the ditcher), or fishing or hunting game for the lord's dinner.

Who?	What they were responsible for…
Peasants	

Name: _____

Instructions: Answer the following questions. (5 points each)

1. What is a manor?

_____

_____

_____

2. How did the steward help to manage the resources of the manor?

_____

_____

_____

3. How did the foresters help to manage the resources of the lords?

_____

_____

_____

4. Who did most of the work around the manor?

_____

_____

_____

5. Who made sure the serfs did their jobs?

_____

_____

_____

6. List three special jobs that some peasants did for the lord of the manor.

_____

_____

Name: _____

7. What resources did workers in the feudal manor manage?

_____

_____

_____

8. Who owned and controlled all the resources of the manor?

_____

_____

_____

9. How were the serfs valuable to the lord?

_____

_____

_____

10. Why was this system important to the lord?

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Instructions: Answer the following question. (10 points)

How did markets and merchants change life for people in Europe during the Middle Ages?

Name: _____

Instructions: Read the following introduction and then the summaries of real court cases from the Middle Ages. Work with your "legal team" to answer the questions that follow each.

Kings and lords established courts in medieval Europe to enforce feudal law. Just like the legal system today, many cases dealt with people fighting over goods. Peasants used natural resources and goods to pay rent. Taking resources from someone's land without permission was the same as stealing money. Nobles and church officials greatly valued the resources on their land. They guarded access to those resources night and day. No one could take something from someone else's land (or water) without the owner's permission. When people disagreed over access to ecosystem goods and resources, the courts decided the dispute.

Trial by a jury of one's peers was a brand-new idea in the Middle Ages and limited to England at first. This right was demanded by nobles in the Magna Carta, but it was not given to peasants until much later. Most trials were still conducted by the Church or by representatives of the crown. Most trials were done by ordeal (in which a person was subjected to dangerous or painful tests to determine guilt or innocence) or by personal combat. Many settlements were made by direct payments to family members depending upon the social rank of the victim. Most peasants had no standing in the courts.

Case #1: The Abbot of St. Albans v. John and Peter Somery, England (1349)

The Abbot of St. Albans Monastery sued nobles John Somery and his son Peter for entering the monastery's lands and hunting without permission.

Name: _____

The abbot says that the nobles took rabbits off the monastery's land. They used weapons to attack men and servants from the monastery who tried to stop them. The abbot claims that the injured men could not do their work at the monastery for a long time. He claims that the monastery lost 30 rabbits, which cost 20 pounds.

Sir John and Sir Peter deny taking anything from the monastery lands. They say that Sir John Somery owns land next to the lands of the monastery. They claim that while they were hunting a rabbit on their land, they entered the monastery's land by mistake. They state that the dead rabbits they had with them had been hunted on their lands. They also deny doing anything to the monastery's men.

When asked by the court, the monastery workers stated that they met Sir John and Sir Peter in the monastery's forest. The nobles had many dead rabbits. When the workers demanded the rabbits, Sir John and Sir Peter attacked them. One of the men is still recovering from his injuries. They also said that the monastery lands do not usually have many rabbits on them.

The Abbot of St. Albans, Sir John Somery, and Sir Peter Somery ask the court for a judgment.

Answer the following questions based on the text above. (2 points each)

1. What is the main issue of this court case?

_____

_____

_____

2. What social classes are involved in this case? How do you know?

_____

_____

_____

3. What ecosystem good or ecosystem service does this case involve?

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

4. What does the plaintiff (the abbot) want?

_____

_____

_____

5. What might the defendants (Somery and his son) lose?

_____

_____

_____

6. What additional information do you need to decide this case?

_____

_____

_____

7. Imagine you are the judge: Are the defendants guilty or innocent? Explain your decision.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Case #2: Lady Lettice Kyriel v. John French and William Patching, England (1307)

Noble Lady Lettice sued Sir John French and Sir William Patching for hunting in her forest without her permission and taking away beasts.

Sir John French and Sir William Patching are accused of hunting on Lady Lettice's land without permission.

John French says that Lady Lettice had set aside an area in her forest for the knights of the manor to hunt. John French is a knight on the manor. Sir John believes he hunted with the lady's permission.

Sir William Patching is a knight on another manor. He guards his lord's forest, which is next to Lady Lettice's forest. He says that he saw a wounded deer in his lord's forest and sent his dog after the deer. The dog chased the deer into Lady Lettice's forest. Sir William went to Lady Lettice and told her about the deer and the dog. He states that Lady Lettice gave him permission to enter her forest with some of her peasants and find the deer. Sir William claims he found and killed the wounded deer. He says he did not take away any other deer.

When asked by the court, other knights on Lady Lettice's manor stated they had permission to hunt in parts of the forest. The peasants on the estate said they did help Sir William to find and kill a wounded deer. They did not know if Sir William removed any other deer.

Sir John French, Sir William Patching, and Lady Lettice Kyriel ask the court for judgment.

Answer the following questions based on the text above. (2 points each)

1. What is the main issue of this court case?

_____

_____

Name: _____

2. What social classes are involved in this case? How do you know?

_____

_____

_____

3. What ecosystem good or ecosystem service does this case involve?

_____

_____

_____

4. What does the plaintiff (Lady Lettice) want?

_____

_____

_____

5. If the defendants (French and Patching) are found guilty, what might they lose?

_____

_____

_____

6. What additional information do you need to decide this case?

_____

_____

_____

7. Imagine you are the judge: Are the defendants guilty or innocent? Explain your decision.

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Instructions: Read each statement below. If the statement is true, write "True" on the line to the left and explain why it is true, based on this lesson, on the lines below the statement. If the statement is false, write "False" on the line to the left and re-write the statement to make it true on the lines below. (3 points each)

_____ 1. Medieval courts were used to settle disputes over the rights to ecosystem goods.

_____

_____

_____

_____ 2. Members of the noble class did not compete for ecosystem goods.

_____

_____

_____

_____ 3. Anyone could take resources from forests.

_____

_____

_____

_____ 4. Wild animals (game) were a valuable ecosystem good.

_____

_____

_____

_____ 5. Nothing could enforce the law in medieval Europe.

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

_____ 6. Knights could hunt on land if they had permission from the noble who owned it.

_____

_____

_____

_____ 7. Knights could not testify in court against landowning nobles.

_____

_____

_____

_____ 8. Church officials controlled the resources on monastery lands.

_____

_____

_____

_____ 9. Rights to ecosystem goods were determined by feudal law.

_____

_____

_____

_____ 10. Accused persons had no chance to defend themselves in court in medieval Europe.

_____

_____

_____

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