

Name _____

Journey Through the World of Feudalism: Shaping Medieval Society

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Knights were responsible for maintaining law and order by ensuring that the territories under their control were safe from threats, including bandits and invaders. They also resolved disputes among the peasants living on their lands and upheld the lord's authority.
2. One factor that contributed to the decline of feudalism was the emergence of a money-based economy. This shift reduced the importance of land ownership as wealth became increasingly measured in currency, leading to changes in economic and social structures.
3. Nobility lived in castles and had their own knights. They enjoyed more privileges, better living conditions, and had access to education and culture. Peasants, on the other hand, lived in small villages, worked the land, and had limited rights and opportunities.
4. The exchange of land for loyalty and service created a system of mutual dependence between different classes. Nobles relied on knights for military support, while knights depended on land grants for their livelihood. Peasants relied on the protection of the nobility in exchange for their labor and a portion of their crops. This interdependence helped maintain the stability of feudal society.

