

name: _____

class: _____

date: _____

Feudal Law and the Plantagenet Kings



During the reign of the Plantagenets, the _____ of England was structured according to feudal law. This system was based on the exchange of land for military service. The _____ granted lands to his most loyal noblemen, known as _____, who in turn pledged their loyalty and soldiers to him. These barons then divided their lands among lesser _____, who also owed military service. At the bottom of this hierarchy were the _____, who worked the land and provided the food supply.

The _____ had the ultimate authority, but his power was not absolute. The Magna _____, signed by King John in 1215, limited royal power and laid the foundation for modern democracy. This document required the king to respect certain _____, seek the counsel of his barons before making important decisions, and established that the king could not impose taxes without the consent of the _____.

Feudal law also included the concept of _____, where warriors swore an oath to protect their lord and his lands. Tournaments were held where knights could demonstrate their _____ in combat. These events were not only about martial prowess but also served to reinforce the social order.

The _____ played a significant role in feudal society as well. Bishops and abbots controlled large swaths of land and could wield significant political _____. The relationship between the church and the monarchy was complex, with both sides often vying for more _____.

Despite its rigid structure, the feudal system allowed for some social mobility. Skilled _____ and merchants could accumulate wealth and rise in status, although this was the _____ rather than the rule. Over time, the accumulation of power by the _____ led to conflicts with the monarchy, shaping the future of England.

knighthood nobles control king Carta power nobles rights skills
monarch artisans kingdom nobility peasants exception church barons