or safety and for defense, people in the Middle Ages formed small communities around a central lord or master. Most people lived on a manor, which consisted of the castle, the church, the village, and the surrounding farm land. These manors were isolated, with occasional visits from peddlers, pilgrims on their way to the Crusades, or soldiers from other fiefdoms.

In this "feudal" system, the king awarded land grants or "fiefs" to his most important nobles, his barons, and his bishops, in return for their contribution of soldiers for the king's armies. At the lowest echelon of society were the peasants, also called "serfs" or "villains." In exchange for living and working on his land, known as the "demesne," the lord offered his peasants protection.
Chapter 9: Feudal Europe

Lesson 1  
The Development of Feudalism

MAIN IDEAS
Geography  Climate, topography, and other geographic features helped bring about the feudal way of life in Europe.
Belief Systems  Despite the upheaval in Europe, Christianity survived and spread.
Government  Feudalism provided a social and political structure during the Middle Ages.

Setting of Medieval Europe

The Middle Ages Begin
• Western Roman Empire fell to Germanic invaders in A.D. 476
• **Middle Ages**—1,000-year period (500-1500) in Europe after fall of Rome
  - also called *medieval period*, from Latin *medium* (middle) *aevum* (ages)
• Europe was a series of small kingdoms during the Middle Ages
  - kingdoms often fought one another during this time

The European Continent
• Continent of Europe occupies one-fifth of Eurasia
  - **Eurasia** is continuous land mass covering Europe, Asia

Topography and Waterways
• Europe is bordered by Atlantic Ocean (west), Ural Mountains (east)
• Northern boundary is Arctic Ocean; southern is Mediterranean Sea
• Topography of Europe is diverse
  - mountain ranges in south; plains and farmland in north, west
  - many rivers run throughout Europe; play key role in travel, trade
Climate and Vegetation

- North Europe has cold winters; south has mild winters, hot summers
- Reliable rainfall, mild weather help European agriculture thrive
  - Mediterranean region produces fruit; wheat, barley grown in the west
- Abundance of forests, farmland, rivers shaped life in Medieval Europe
  - allowed small kingdoms, small estates to thrive on their own

Cultural Changes

- Great political, cultural changes in Europe after fall of Rome
- Numerous Germanic groups dominated former Roman lands
  - lived in small communities; kept order through unwritten rules

Learning and Trade Decline

- Germanic groups placed little emphasis on classical learning
- Germanic people lived with what they had; saw little need for trade
  - led to disappearance of cities, growth of rural farming communities
Changes to Europe after the Fall of Rome

Decline in the size and power of governments

Reduction in long-distance trade

Decline in learning and devotion to Greek and Roman culture

Disappearance of cities and rise of rural villages and farms

Growth of numerous Germanic kingdoms
Christianity Grows and Spreads

Clovis and the Franks

• Christian Church thrived after fall of Rome; many Germans converted
• Key figure in spread of Christianity was Clovis, leader of the Franks
  - in 486 defeated last Roman army in Gaul (France)
  - Franks conquered other weak Germanic groups; built large kingdom
  - Clovis converted to Christianity, as did most of his subjects

The Rule of Charlemagne

• Charles Martel and son Pepin the Short became next Frankish kings
• Charlemagne—Pepin’s son—became ruler of Franks during late 700s
  - expanded territory; built European empire as great as ancient Rome
  - created highly organized empire, established new laws to keep order
  - employed landowner counts to govern regions; expanded Christianity

The Growth of Monasteries

• Powerful rulers and devoted worshipers helped spread Christianity
• Monasteries—places where religious followers led life devoted to God
  - residents known as monks; prayed and studied Christian works
  - made copies of the Bible; preserved and promoted Christian ideas
Feudalism: A New Social Order

Charlemagne's Kingdom Crumbles

- Charlemagne died in 814; grandsons fought for control of the kingdom.
- Warring sides signed a treaty in 843, dividing the empire into three parts.
- The divided kingdom grew weak and unstable, leading to outside attacks by Vikings, Magyars, and Muslims.
- In the mid-800s, Europe became a place of constant conflict and warfare.

The Feudal Structure

- Feudal society was highly structured, with the king at the top.
- Wealthy landowners and high-ranking church members came next.
- Knights followed, with peasants residing at the bottom of the society.
- Most peasants were serfs, living and working on the land of a lord or vassal.
- In return for their work, serfs took shelter and protection from the landowner.

The Emergence of Feudalism

- Kings and nobles created a new system to keep their power amid chaos.
- This new system, known as feudalism, was based on an agreement between nobles.
  - Lord: A powerful land-owning noble who gave land to vassals (lesser nobles).
  - In return, vassals defended the lord's property, with many being knights.
  - Vassals also paid taxes for their fief, or parcel of land.

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.
Lesson Summary

• The Germanic invasions transformed Europe.

• Kings and monasteries helped to spread Christianity.

• Warfare and the constant threat of invasion led to the development of feudalism in Europe.
Lesson 2  Daily Life in Medieval Europe

MAIN IDEAS
Economics  The manor system provided an economic structure in Europe during the Middle Ages.
Culture  During the Middle Ages, knights were highly valued for their military skills.
Culture  During the Middle Ages, towns gradually reappeared and thrived.

The Manor System

The Role of the Manor
- **Manor** — main area of noble’s land with a house at its center
  - lord’s house often a fortified building or **castle**

Manor Life and the Economy
- Manors became self-sufficient worlds unto themselves **self-sufficient** means able to provide for all of one’s own needs
  - land supplied residents with all they needed; few people ever left
- Serfs performed farming, work duties; considered part of the property
The Age of Chivalry

Knighthood and Chivalry

- **Knights**—lesser nobles, or vassals; fought for lords in return for land

- **Chivalry**—code of honor knights were expected to follow in life
  - had to show loyalty, bravery, Christian faith; should help the weak

- Knight battles ranged from skirmishes to sweeping castle attacks
  - combatants used catapults, battering rams, siege tactics

Knights often wore a suit of armor to protect themselves in battle. These suits made it difficult to move quickly - the average suit weighed around 65 pounds!
The Growth of Towns

Town Life
• Town life began to return to Europe around A.D. 1000
  - powerful lords brought greater peace and stability to Europe
  - trade flourished; merchants settled towns; tradespeople followed
• Most towns were dirty, cramped, busy; streets were narrow, unpaved

The Guilds
• **Guilds**—groups formed by town workers who performed the same job or task. For example; weavers, bakers, goldsmiths formed guilds
• Guilds controlled quantity, quality of goods
  - protected jobs for members
Lesson Summary

• The manor system shaped the economy in feudal Europe.

• During an age marked by warfare and fighting, knights became a highly valued group in society.

• As warfare declined and trade increased, town life reappeared during the Middle Ages.
Lesson 3  Feudalism in Europe and Japan

MAIN IDEAS
Government  European and Japanese feudalism shared similar political structures and social values.
Culture  Despite similarities, feudal Europe and Japan showed key cultural differences.
Culture  Aspects of feudal culture still exist in present-day Europe and Japan.

Similar Societies

Two Feudal Systems
- Feudalism in Europe, Japan developed out of weak central governments
  - Japanese emperors had no real power
  - European kings had little power after Charlemagne
- Landowners were able to gain power; **Daimyo** in Japan, lords in Europe

Similar Structures
- **Farming** drove both economies; peasants worked for Lords, Daimyo
- Skilled fighters defended nobles; **samurai** in Japan, knights in Europe
- Strong military leaders in both cultures; known as **shoguns** in Japan

Similar Values
- Both societies valued military skill, bravery, personal loyalty
  - European knights expected to follow code of chivalry
  - Samurai code of **bushido** stressed loyalty, bravery, kindness
Cultural Differences

Religion

• Both knights and samurai were expected to be deeply religious
  - knights were Christians
  - samurai practiced **Shintoism** (belief in spirits of nature), Zen Buddhism

Literature

• Poetry thrived in both Medieval Europe and Japan
  - Japanese favored **haiku**—short poems, concerned mostly with nature
  - European admired **epic poems**—long tales about warriors, legends, myth
  - Europeans also favored **lyric poetry**—idealized love, praised women

Women in Europe

• Women’s role limited; no say in marriage, expected to stay home
  - trained in household chores—sewing, weaving, farming
Legacies of Feudalism

Lasting Traditions

• Japan: aspects of feudalism can be seen today
  - weddings based on Shinto ceremony
  - haiku remains very popular
  - sense of duty and loyalty to family remains strong in Japan

• Europe: some feudal elements remain
  - surnames based on medieval jobs—Cook, Baker, Carpenter
  - Catholic Church remains a powerful influence in modern Europe
Lesson Summary

• The feudal system of Japan and the feudal system of Europe shared similar structures and values.

• The two feudal systems differed in many ways. These differences can be seen in the areas of religion, literature, and the role of women.

• The impact of both Japanese and European feudalism is still felt today.