Aim: Why Did Feudalism develop in Europe?

I. Feudalism
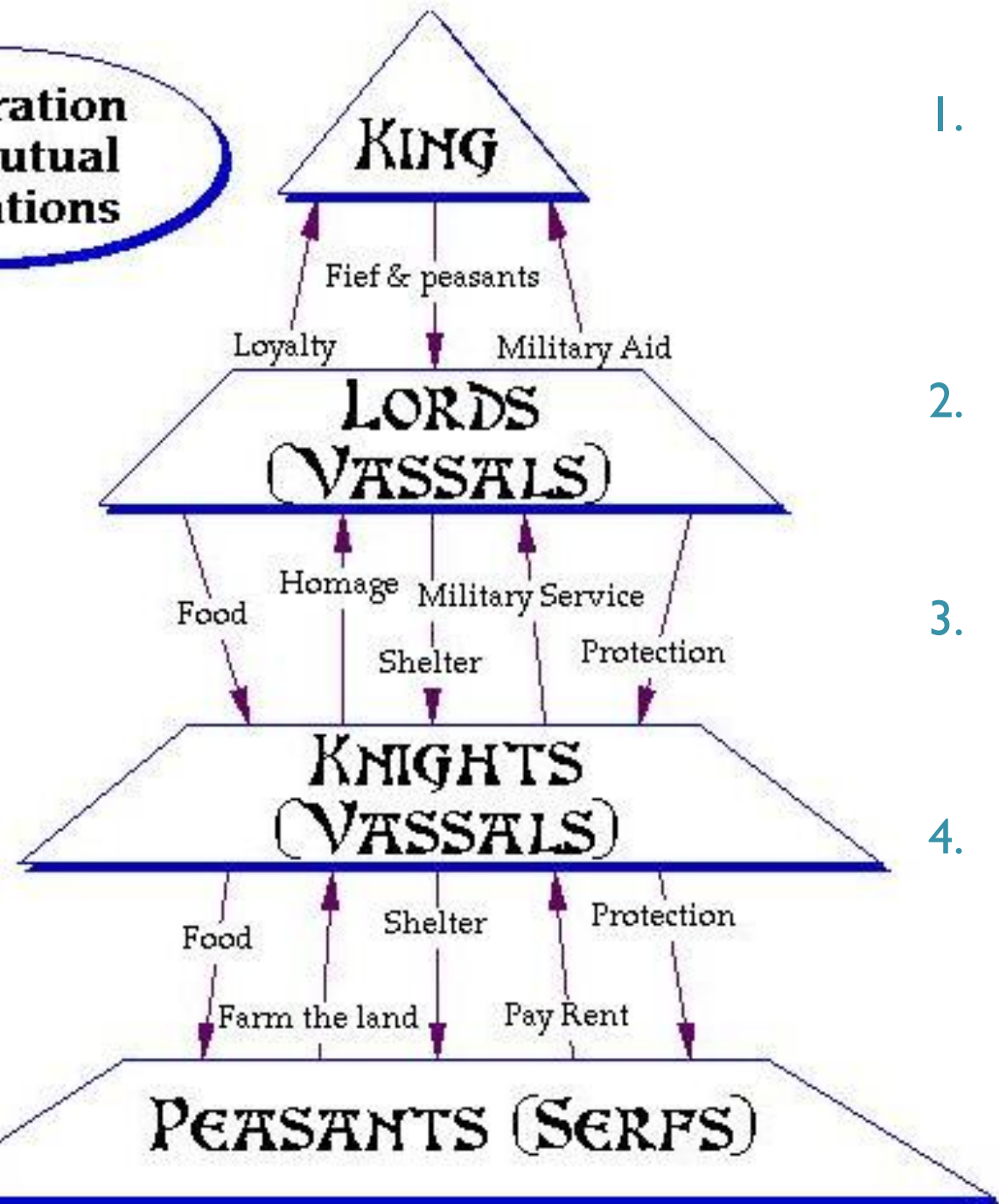## A. Social Pyramid

1. Feudalism is the legal and social system that existed in medieval Europe, in which vassals held land from lords in exchange for military service.

2. Based on the trade of land and service in return for loyalty.

Cooperation and Mutual Obligations

KING

Fief & peasants

Loyalty   Military Aid

LORDS (VASSALS)

Food   Homage   Military Service
         Shelter   Protection

KNIGHTS (VASSALS)

Food   Shelter   Protection

Farm the land   Pay Rent

PEASANTS (SERFS)

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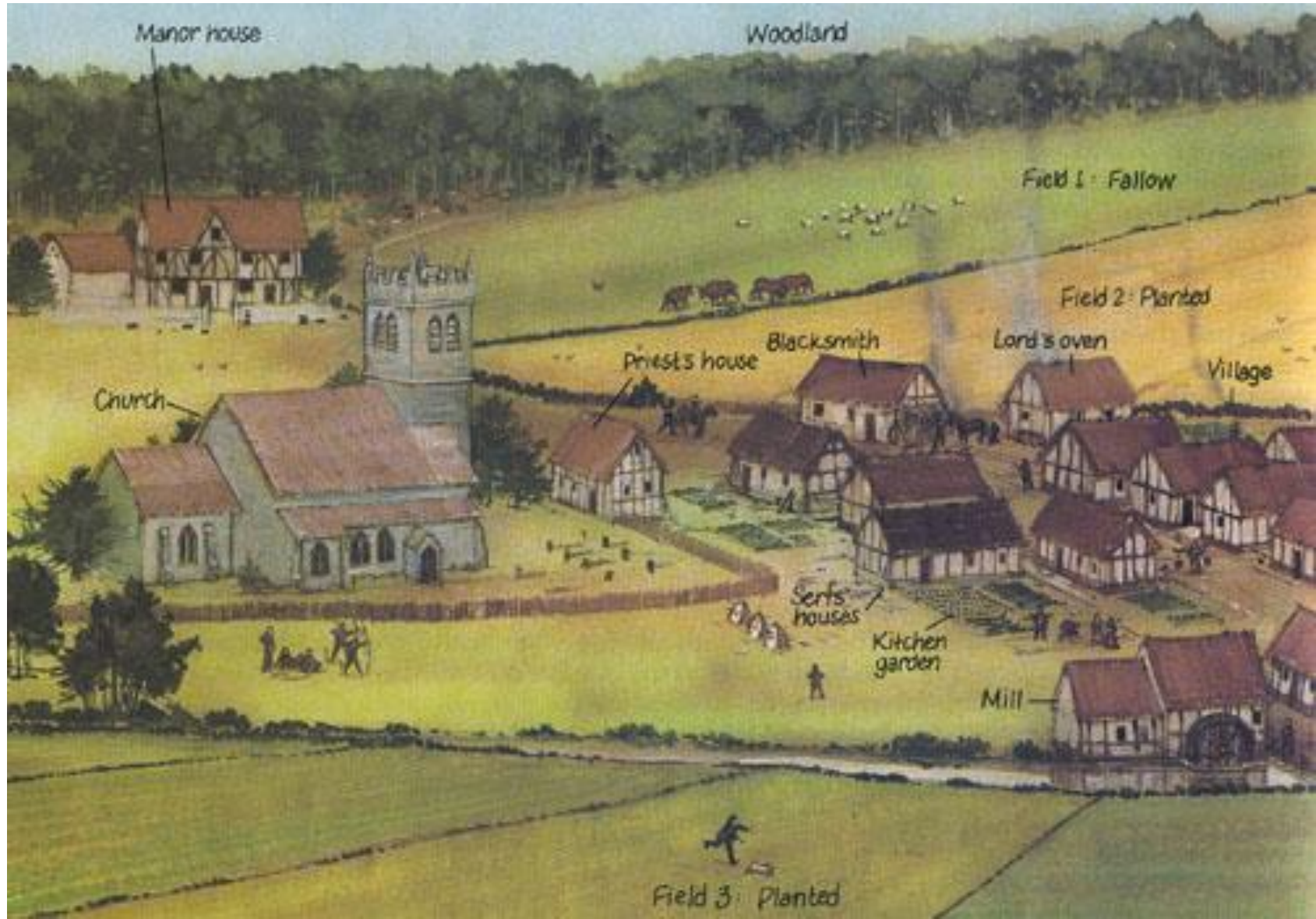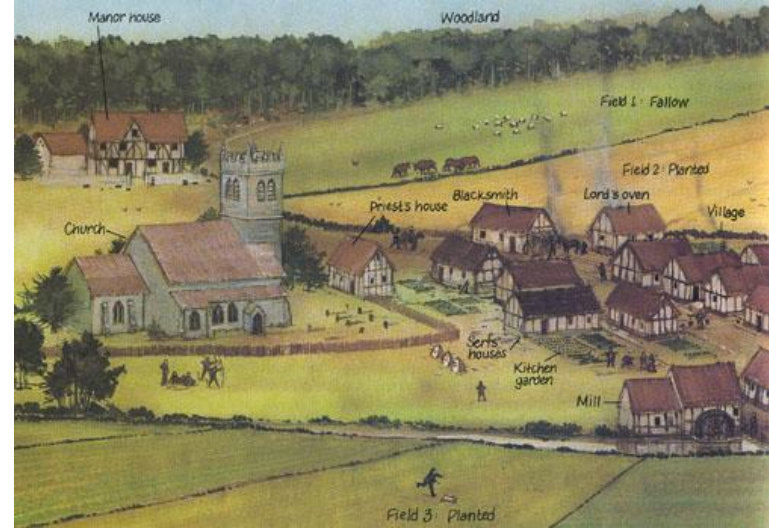
1. King distributed land (fiefs) to trusted friends and family making them Lords.
2. In return the Lords, or vassals, would lead troops in the kings army.
3. Knights were given land by the lords in return for manning the armies.
4. Serfs were forced to work the land in return for protection from barbarians and enemy lords.

B. The Feudal Manor

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- The Manor was a self sufficient and protected home of the lord.

Fields A manor usually had three fields for growing crops. Two fields were planted with crops and one field lay fallow, or unplanted. Fields were divided into long, narrow strips. Some belonged to the lord, some were owned by the Church, and the rest were divided among the peasants.

Fields

Manor House The manor house was set off from the rest of the village and surrounded by a wall or fence. In times of trouble, villagers took shelter behind the manor-house defenses.

Peasant homes

Pasture

VILLAGE

Church

Well

Priest's home

Blacksmith shop

Manor house
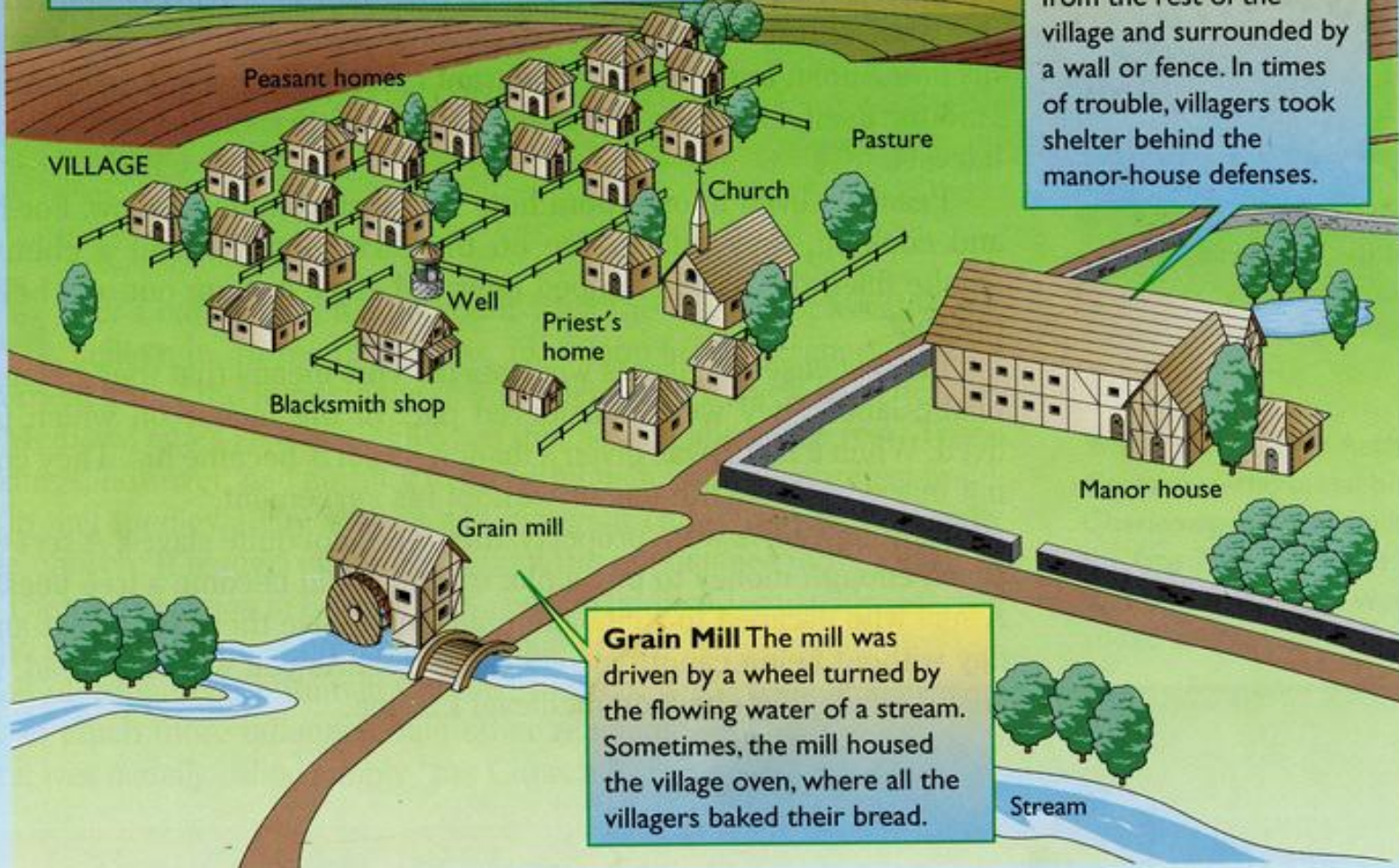
Grain mill

Grain Mill The mill was driven by a wheel turned by the flowing water of a stream. Sometimes, the mill housed the village oven, where all the villagers baked their bread.

Stream