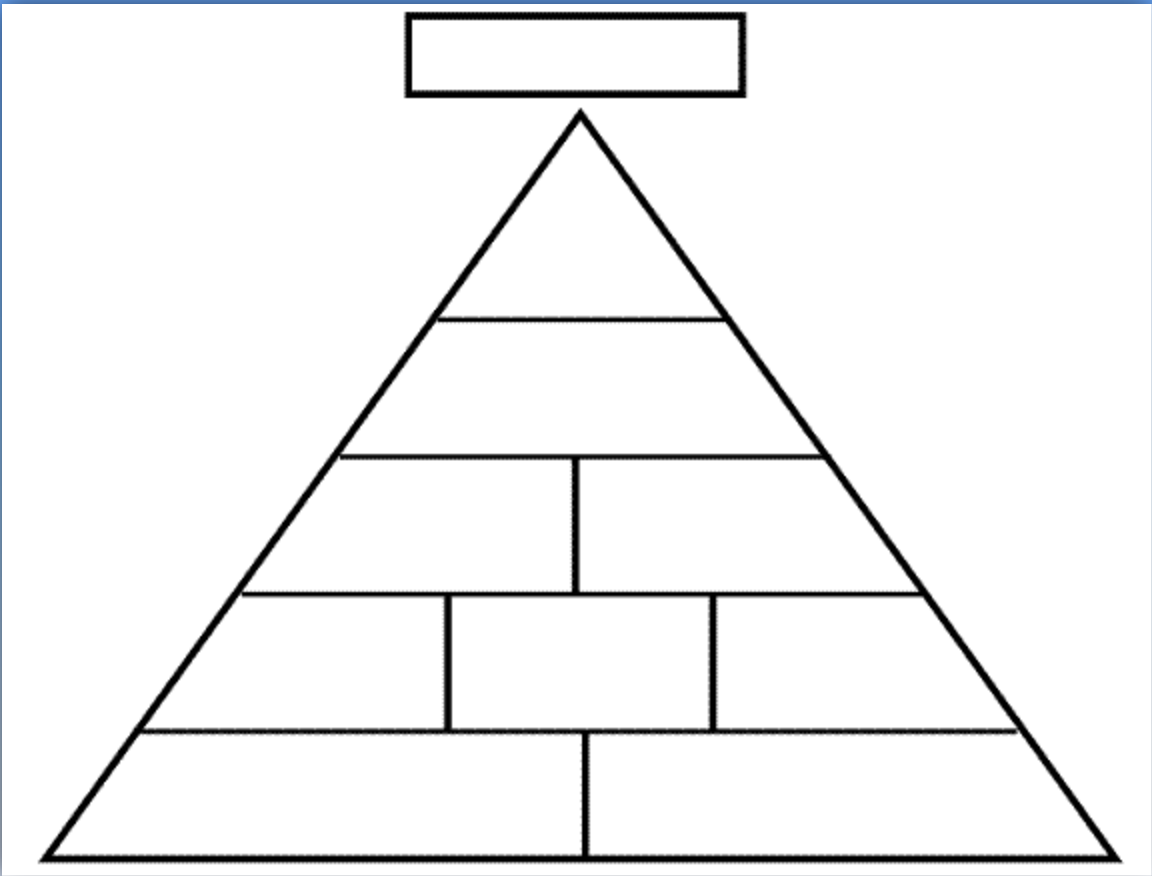


# Feudalism



Pope / Church

Monarch

Nobles

Knights

Vassals

Merchants

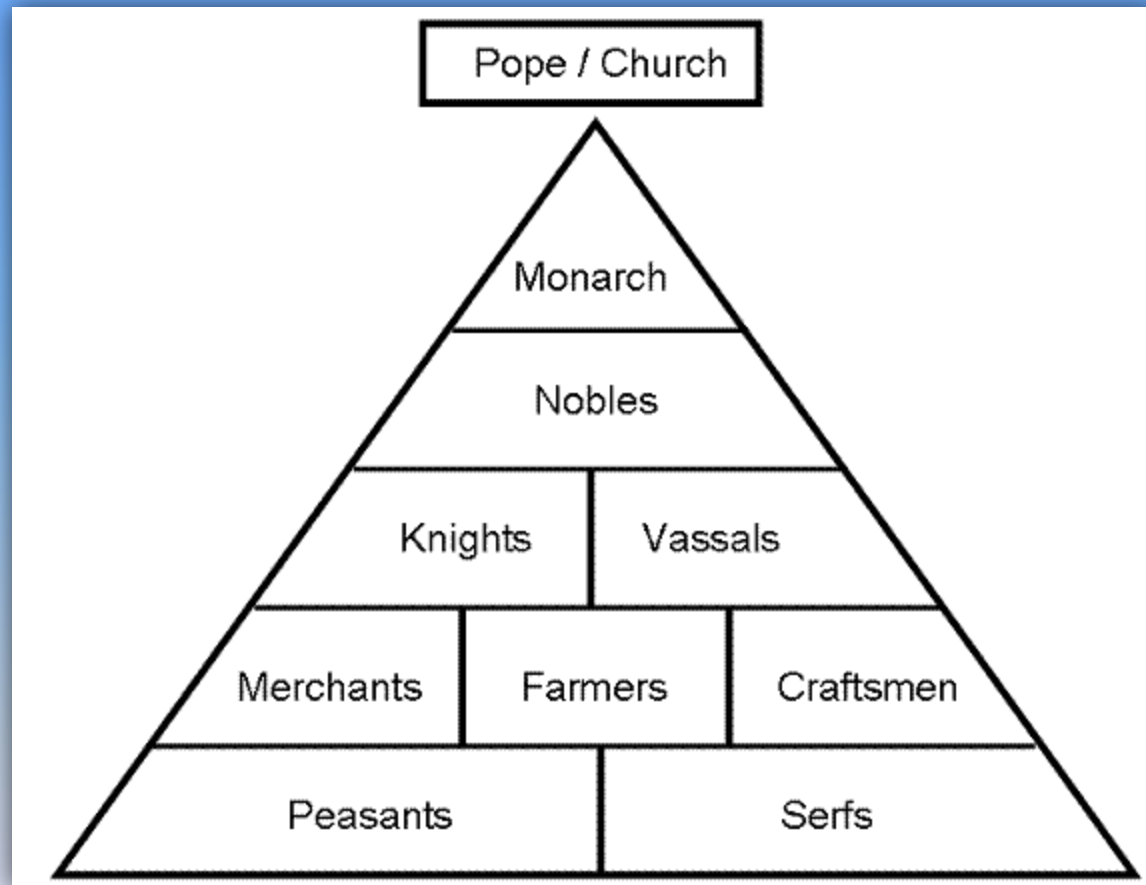
Farmers

Craftsmen

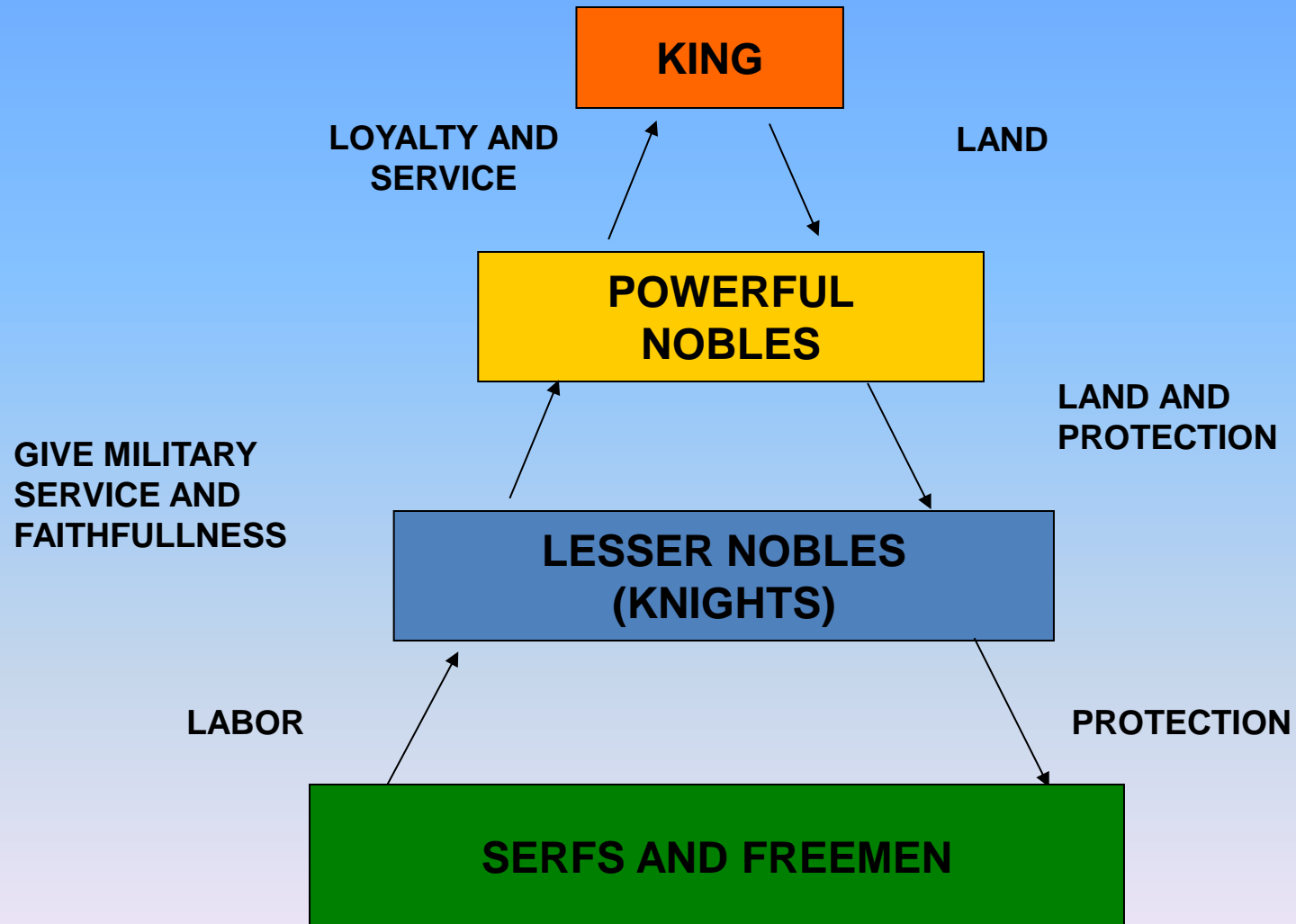
Peasants

Serfs

# Feudalism



# Feudalism

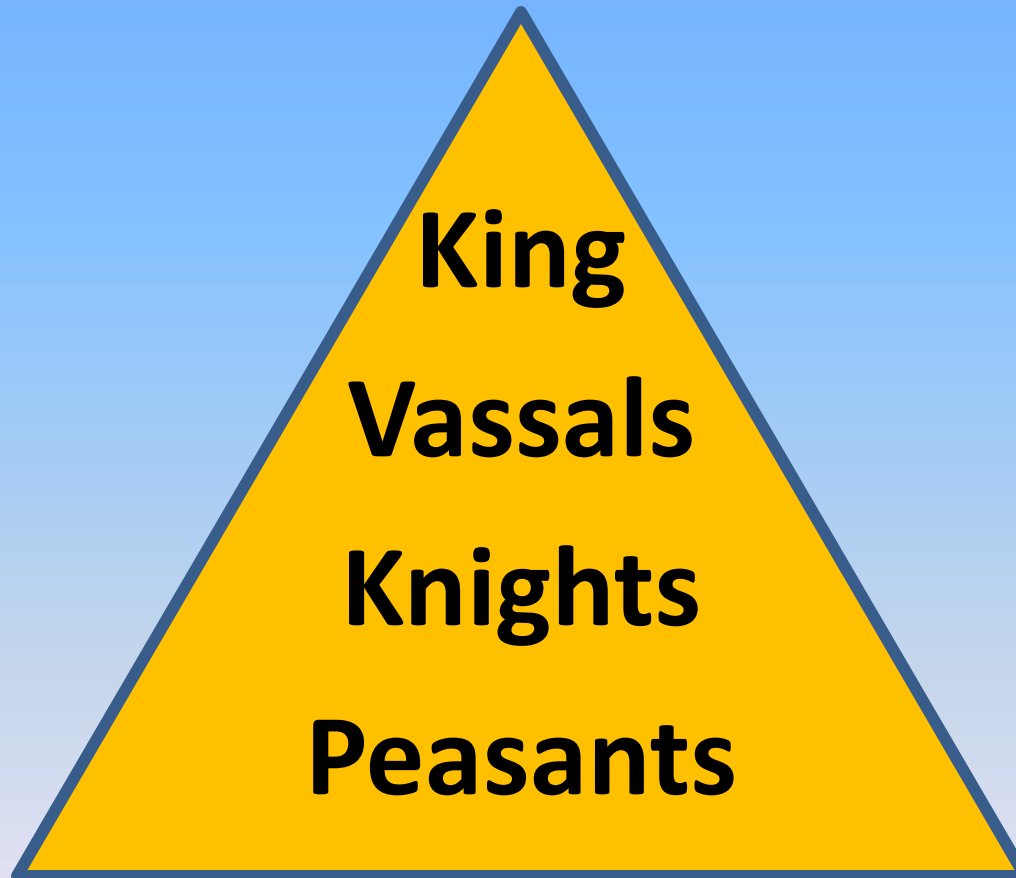


# Feudalism Structures Society

- **Feudalism**-The system of governing and landholding , based on rights and obligations.
- **Lord** – wealthy noble who gave land to vassals
- **Fief**- land granted by a lord in exchange for military and other services
- **Vassal**- wealthy land owners(nobles, bishops etc.) receiving the fief.
- **Knights**- mounted horsemen who pledged to defend their lords' lands in exchange for fiefs.
- **Serfs**- ( mostly peasants) people who by law could not leave the place that they were born.
  - Even though they were bound by land, serfs were not slaves.
  - Could not be bought or sold by their lords.

# Feudal Pyramid

- Feudal society was structured like a pyramid



# WHY WAS FEUDALISM NECESSARY?



# Relationship Between Lords and Vassals



- **The relationship between lords and vassals made up a big part of the political and social structure of the feudal system**
- **Vassals had certain duties to perform for the lord**
- **All nobles were ultimately vassals of the king.**



# What is a Knight?



- **Almost all nobles were knights**
- **Training began at age 7, as a page, under the guidance of the lady of the manor**
- **Became squires at age 15 and were trained by other knights**
- **Age to become a knight was usually 21**
- **Those deemed worthy were “dubbed” knights**



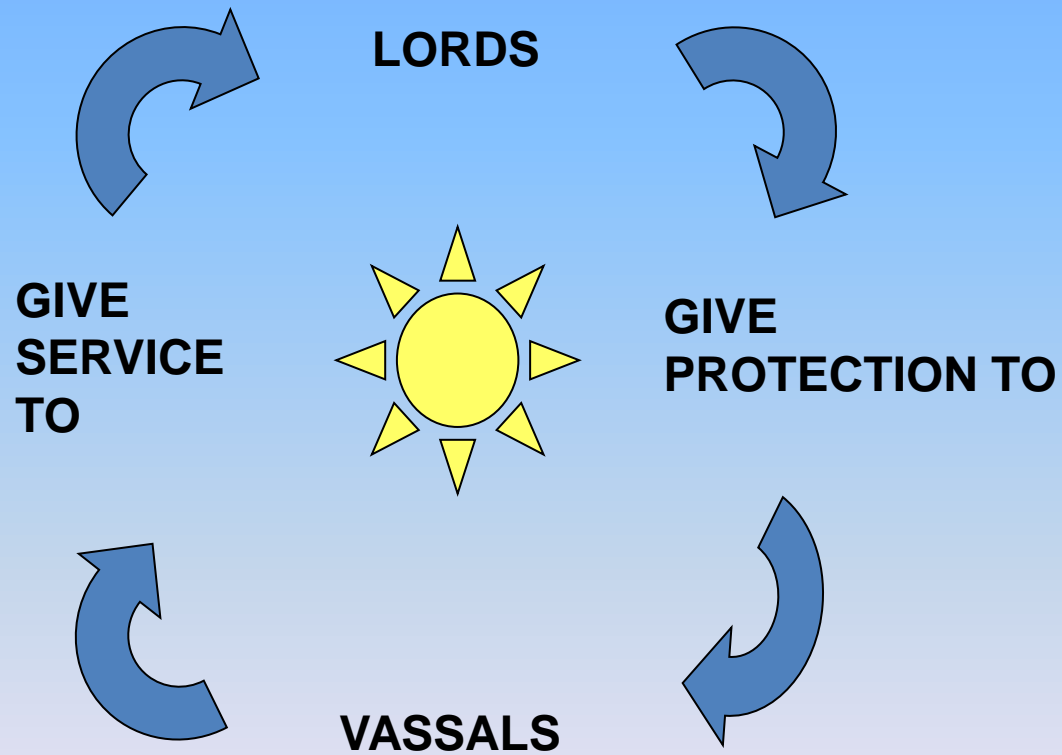


# Workers on the Manor



- There were two groups of peasant workers on the manor
- **Freemen**- skilled workers who paid rent and could leave the manor whenever they wished. (They usually had a skill needed by others on the manor.)
- **Serfs** – workers bound to the land by contract with the nobles. (They had no freedom - they were the noble's property.)

# Feudal Contract



# Social Classes Well Defined

- There were three main social classes
  - Those who fought (nobles and knights)
  - Those who prayed (men and women of the church)
  - Those who worked (the peasants)