**GUIDED READING Feudalism in Europe**

**Section 2**

**A. Summarizing Written Texts** As you read about the development of feudalism in Europe, fill out the charts by writing notes in the appropriate spaces.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Structure of Feudalism</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Explain the mutual obligations of the feudal system.</td>
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<td>2. Explain why the feudal system often resulted in complicated alliances.</td>
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<td>3. Describe feudal social classes.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Economic Structure of Feudalism</th>
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<tr>
<td>4. Explain the mutual obligations between lord and serfs under the manor system.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Explain why the serfs rarely had to leave their manor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Explain why the serfs accepted their economic hardships.</td>
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**B. Perceiving Relationships** On the back of this paper, define vassal, fief, serf, manor, and tithe and explain how each was related to feudalism.
To William, most illustrious duke of the Aquitanians, Bishop Fulbert, the favor of his prayers:

Requested to write something regarding the character of faith, I have set down briefly for you, on the authority of the books, the following things. He who takes the oath of faith to his lord ought always to keep in mind these six things: what is harmless, safe, honorable, useful, easy, and practicable. Harmless, which means that he ought not to injure his lord in his body; safe, that he should not injure him by betraying his confidence or the defenses upon which he depends for security; honorable, that he should not injure him in his justice, or in other matters that relate to his honor; useful, that he should not injure him in his property; easy, that he should not make difficult that which his lord can do easily; and practicable, that he should not make impossible for the lord that which is possible.

However, while it is proper that the faithful vassal avoid these injuries, it is not for doing this alone that he deserves his holding: for it is not enough to refrain from wrongdoing, unless that which is good is done also. It remains, therefore, that in the same six things referred to above he should faithfully advise and aid his lord, if he wishes to be regarded as worthy of his benefice and to be safe concerning the fealty which he has sworn.

The lord also ought to act toward his faithful vassal in the same manner in all these things. And if he fails to do this, he will be rightfully regarded as guilty of bad faith, just as the former, if he should be found shirking, or willing to shirk, his obligations would be perfidious [treacherous] and perjured.

I should have written to you at greater length had I not been busy with many other matters, including the rebuilding of our city and church, which were recently completely destroyed by a terrible fire. Though for a time we could not think of anything but this disaster, yet now, by the hope of God's comfort, and of yours also, we breathe more freely again.


Discussion Questions
**Determining Main Ideas**
1. What were the six things that a faithful vassal should have always kept in mind?
2. What was a vassal expected to do besides avoid injurious behavior?
3. **Making Inferences** According to this letter, what formed the basis of the bond between a lord and his vassals?
According to legend, Leif Ericson discovered America 500 years before Columbus and brought Christianity to the Vikings in Greenland. Modern historians say neither idea is true, though one of the legends has a germ of truth.

Leif Ericson was one of three sons of Eric the Red, who apparently had a violent temper. Eric was forced to leave his native Norway because he had committed some murders. He moved to Iceland, but again had to leave after he killed two men. After settling in yet another area of Iceland, he killed another man in another argument. This time his neighbors forced him to leave the island.

Having heard tales of a region to the west of Iceland, Eric sailed in that direction. He and his family reached Greenland in 982. The climate there was warmer than today and better than Iceland’s. He found he could graze cattle year-round. The next year he returned to Iceland and told many Vikings of the virtues of this new area. Eric convinced the other Vikings, and they returned to Greenland where they formed three settlements.

One source of history about the Vikings is the sagas, or epic poems. In Eric’s Saga, Leif sailed back from Greenland to Norway to meet King Olaf, a Christian. The saga then says that the king charged Leif with the task of converting the Vikings in Greenland. Leif accepted the challenge, but as he sailed for his father’s home a fierce wind blew him off course. He was pushed across the Atlantic Ocean until he reached a rich land farther west. When a member of his crew found grapes growing in this beautiful land, Leif “the Lucky,” as he was called, named his discovery Vinland, or Wine Land. He then returned to Greenland, told everyone of his discovery, and converted most of the Vikings to Christianity.

This legend includes some truth and much exaggeration. Leif was probably not the Viking who discovered North America, though he did sail there. He was also probably not the person who converted the Vikings to Christianity, though he may have been a Christian. The Saga of the Greenlanders, which is about 200 years older than Eric’s Saga, gives what appears to be a more accurate story.

Around 1000, a Viking named Bjarni Herjolfsson was blown off course while sailing to Greenland. The wind took his ship farther west, and he reached North America. When he returned to Greenland, his description of the pleasant land apparently caught the imagination of Leif.

Leif set off for this new place. He and his crew sailed down the coast of Greenland and turned west. They reached what may have been modern Baffin Island and turned south. They then sailed along the eastern fringes of what is now northern Canada until they finally touched ground at Newfoundland. Leif and his crew spent the winter there and returned to Greenland the next year.

Other Vikings later made efforts to settle the area. Leif’s brother Thorvald sailed to the new place, but he was killed by a Native American. Another Viking, Thorfinn Karlsefni, tried to establish a colony in the new region. However, it lasted about three years until the hostility of the natives forced the Vikings to leave. Leif spent the remainder of his life in Greenland, where he died about 1020.

In the 1960s, archaeologists discovered the remains of a Viking community at a place called L’Anse-aux-Meadows in Newfoundland. In an attempt to try to establish the truth behind the stories of Leif, a Norwegian explorer began an investigation. He found that the foundations of a number of the buildings in Newfoundland greatly resembled Viking buildings in Greenland and Iceland. Nevertheless, the mystery of Leif Ericson continues.

Questions

1. **Determining Main Ideas** What made Greenland attractive to the Vikings?

2. **Developing Historical Perspective** Which version of the story of Leif Ericson is more accurate than the other? Explain.

3. **Drawing Conclusions** What physical evidence supports the saga’s story of the Vikings in North America?
RETEACHING ACTIVITY  Feudalism in Europe

Section 2

Determining Main Ideas  The following questions deal with the emergence of feudalism in Europe. Answer them in the space provided.

1. What was the main reason why feudalism developed in Europe?
__________________________________________________________________________

2. What were the main ideas behind feudalism?
__________________________________________________________________________

Reading Comprehension  Find the name or term in the second column that best matches the description in the first column. Then write the letter of your answer in the blank.

3. people who were bound to the land of a lord and who could not lawfully leave the place where they were born  a. lord

4. a church tax paid to the village priest  b. fief

5. a landowner who granted land in exchange for military protection and other services  c. manor
d. tithe

6. mounted horsemen who pledged to defend their lords’ lands in exchange for their own land  e. vassal

7. land granted by a landowner  f. Vikings

8. a lord’s estate  g. serfs

9. the person receiving land from a landowner  h. knights

10. a Germanic people sometimes referred to as Northmen or Norsemen