Kings

This person lived in the best castles, wore the best clothes and had jesters to entertain them when they were bored!

He ruled and protected the country. In order to maintain control, these rulers often claimed they were given the right to rule by God.

If there was a war, he either had to go and lead the army himself or choose somebody else to do it. He had to raise the taxes to pay for his government and his wars. So he was a busy man.

Nobles

Within the castle was a building called the keep where the nobleman and his family lived.

These people ate rich and fancy food prepared by the servants. Many spices were used to make the food tasty.

These people offered peasants protection using knights in return for them farming their land or doing duties they required.

Knights

They often appeared in tournaments or jousts. They went face-to-face with another knight to try and knock him off his horse using a lance. This was done as practice for real warfare.

The easiest way to become a knight was to be the son of a noble.

They spent their time becoming strong, riding horses and mastering the use of weapons. They learned how to read, write and speak Latin and French.

The Church

It was the largest unifying organization in medieval England. It touched everyone’s life, no matter what their rank or class or where they lived.

The clergy were the religious people in Medieval Britain. Following the pope, in order of rank, there were bishops, priests, monks and nuns.

People were taxed to support the church. In return for their tax money they received the “way to everlasting life” and happiness.

Tradesmen

 Generally these people lived in cities. They formed guilds, which were associations of craft people with a specific trade or business.

Sometimes called merchants, these men commonly traded items such as salt, iron and textiles.

Tradesmen generally had a higher level of education and had more privileges than people who worked as farmers.

Peasants

They generally lived off the food they grew. Their diet basically consisted of bread, porridge, vegetables and some meat.

As they were poor, their clothing was usually rough wool or linen. They generally had only one set of clothing and it was almost never washed.

They worked long hours every day just to ensure that their family had a roof over their head and food to eat.

Knights

The other weapons that this person used were a knife and a lance. Metal axes, battle hammers and maces were introduced when armour became too strong.

Peasants

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