

The Domesday Book

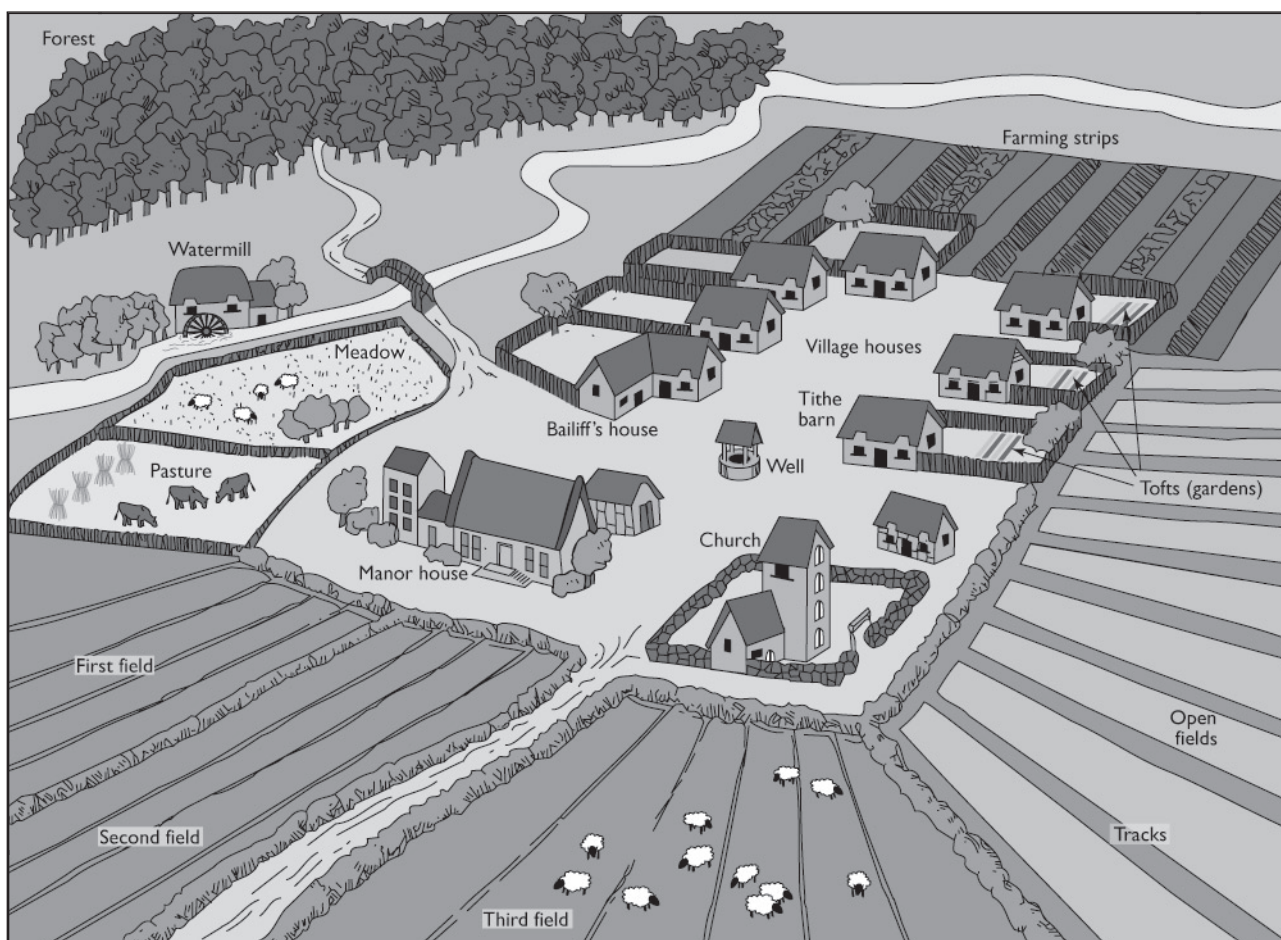
1. What is the Domesday Book?

The basis of wealth in the Middle Ages was land. And after William the Conqueror's Norman forces seized power in England, he wanted to know how much property he owned and exactly how much property everyone else owned. Based on these records, he could then work out precisely how much tax he should charge each estate. Therefore, his survey needed to be as detailed as possible, and history shows the Domesday Book took about two years and many regional assessors to complete. It included much information on the King's lands, the Nobles' lands and the Church's lands and all the assets stored upon them such as: buildings, livestock, farming equipment and grain stores.

- a. Use the Jacaranda SOSE 2, 2E **reference** listed below to provide meanings for the following words:
abbot cottar demesne hides hundred TRE virgate vill villeins

2. Make your own Domesday entry

- a. Use the diagram below as a starting point for your detailed entry. Create your own names and titles for the people and places. You will need to include all the items from the picture as well as create others if needed. Then place a final value and tax levy on the property.
- b. All Domesday Book entries were of course handwritten, and sometimes the pages were colourfully decorated. Use a blank sheet of preferably thick paper without lines for your final copy. Use a black or brown pen as well as other colours for border illustrations and calligraphy.



References: Jacaranda SOSE 2 2E, pp 12–14 • Jacaranda SOSE: Medieval History, pp 28–29
Retroactive 1 2E, pp 160–61, 178–79 • http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/museum/item.asp?item_id=1