

## Ciències Socials – 2n d'ESO

### Unitat 2. La societat feudal

1. Word cloud. Try to guess the meaning of these words and classify into the following categories: People – places - disasters – time – farming.



#### 2. Read the text about peasant's life.

1. During the Middle Ages, most of the people were peasants. Most of them lived near a castle or manor house, working for the lord.

2. Some of them were serfs. Serfs were under the lord's rule. 3. They had to stay on the lord's lands forever. In some places, they had to ask for permission to get married. 4. They did not earn any money for their work. They were part of the fief, part of the manor (land owned by the lord). Serfs' children became serfs too.

5. Some of the peasants were freemen. But they used to be poor. 6. Their lives were hard and they had to pay rent and a lot of taxes to the lord, and some of the harvest. 7. They also paid a tithe, a tenth of their crops that they gave to the Church.

8. A serf's life was hard. He had to obey his lord and work for him. He spent most of his life working in the fields. 9. He needed his lord's permission to travel outside the fief. He had to take his grain to the lord's mill to make flour. 10. But he paid a tax for it too and the lord kept some for himself. He paid for crossing the bridge over the river too.

**11.** He had to produce enough to survive and to pay the lord and the tithe to the Church. He had to make his own clothes and furniture and build his own house. Sometimes he gave presents to his lord to gain his favour.

**12.** In addition, a serf's life could get worse. Diseases, floods, droughts or plagues could kill them and their families. **13.** Serfs rarely lived longer than forty. A short and hard life.

**14.** Peasants lived in small villages in small mud and wood houses, sharing the house with their chickens, pigs, cows or sheep. They ate bread, vegetables, fruit and cereals. **15.** Sometimes they ate fish or meat (salted or smoked to keep it for long time). **16.** As the farming techniques were not very developed, the harvests were small. Every year they left half of their land to fallow. **17.** They worked from sunrise to sunset but they had hardly anything to eat. Many families often went hungry.

**2. Read the text again. Each of the numbered sections refers to a different sub-topic. Use the following chart to organize each of the sections.**

Serf's life	Freeman life	Serf's duties to the Lord	Taxes	Everyday life	Diet