

Life on the Manor

1. The Manor
2. Ordinary People
3. The Lord and Lady of the Manor



1. The Manor

- Large fiefs were divided into parcels of land called manors
- Each manor had farming lands, woodlands, common pasture, and at least one village

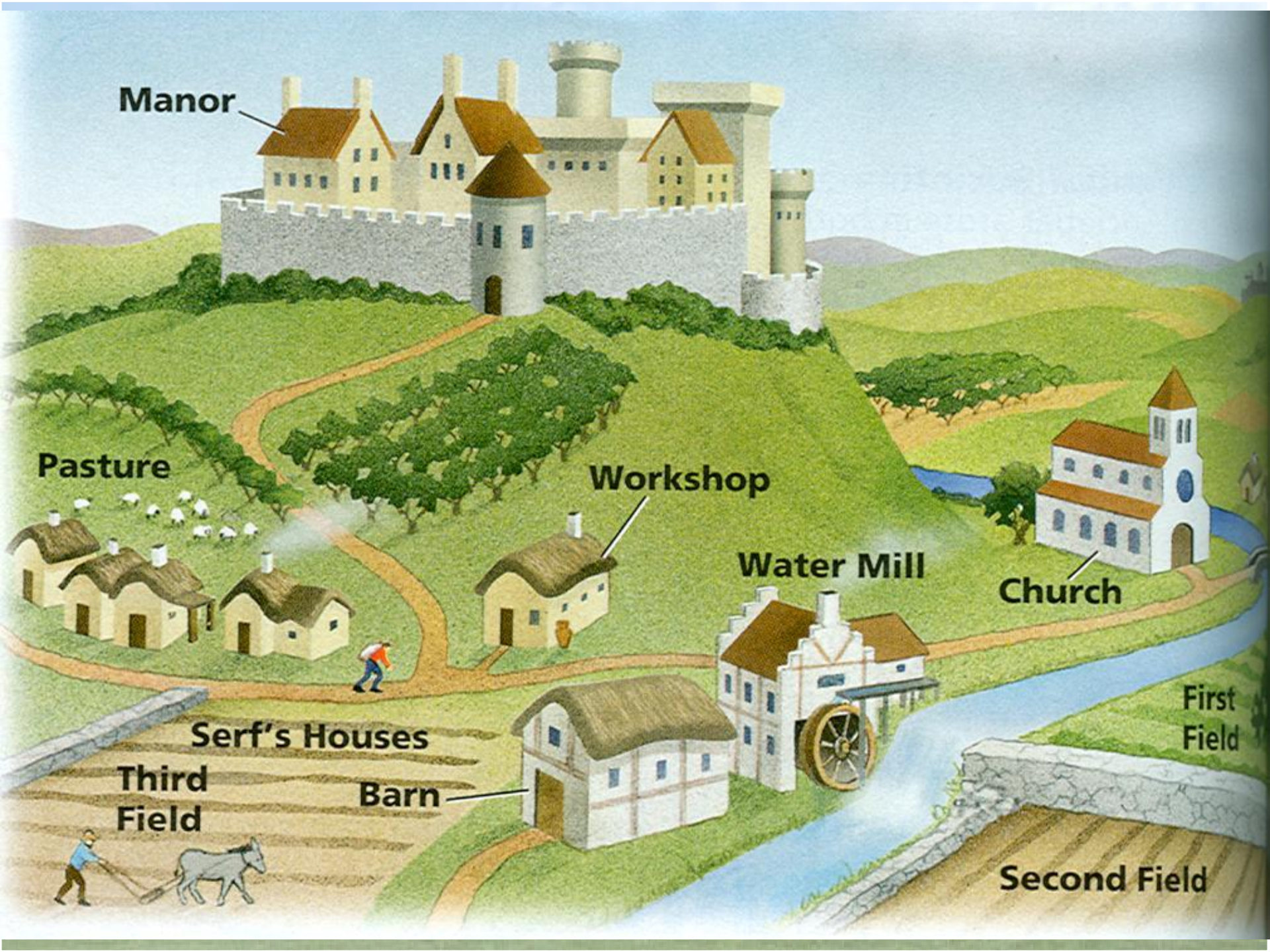


- Most manors were self-sufficient
- Villages had a church, a mill, a blacksmith, and a tannery



- The lord always kept some land, called the *demesne*, for his own use and profit
- The *demesne* consisted of gardens and orchards as well as some farm land





Manor

Pasture

Workshop

Water Mill

Church

Serf's Houses

First Field

Third Field

Barn

Second Field

2. Ordinary People



- The serfs and freeholders provided all the labour, but had the lowest standard of living
- Serfs were considered property of the lord and therefore were not free to come and go as they pleased

- Serfs had to “donate” two or three days of work per week on the lord’s *demesne*
- Serfs did not own any land, but did have a strip of land belonging to the lord for them to work



- Serfs had to give a percentage of what they produced to the lord and could live off or sell the rest (which usually wasn't much!)



- The freeholders owned the land they worked
- Instead of paying the lord with their work, they paid him with money they made from working their own land
- This was like a property tax to the lord

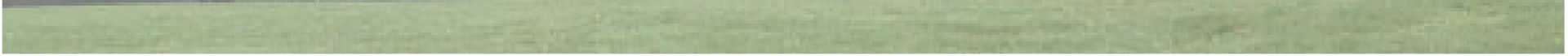


- Unlike serfs, freeholders were free to come and go on the manor as they pleased



- Houses were very small, and usually had only one or two rooms for 6 or more people to share
- Bed mattresses were stuffed with straw





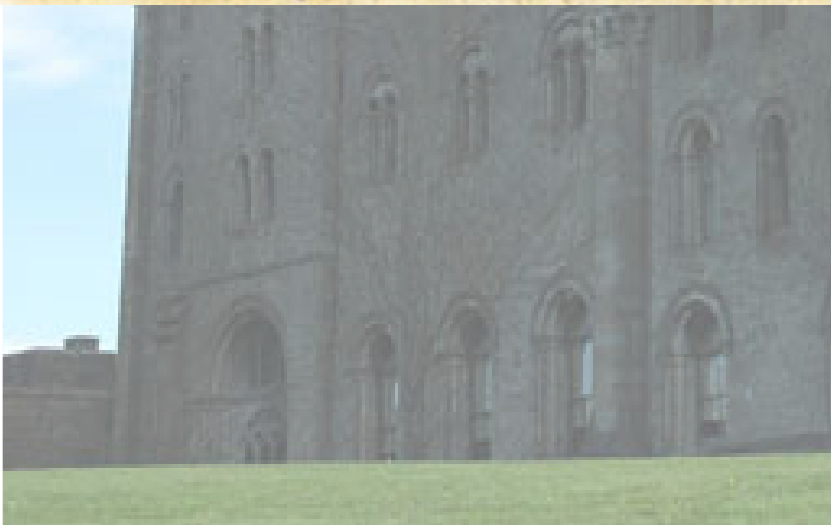
- Men and women worked from dawn to dusk, and children were expected to begin work from a very early age
- No formal education for them!



3. Lord & Lady of the Manor

- Compared to the serfs and freeholders, the lords and ladies of the manors lived very well





- While the rights and privileges of boys increased as they got older, girls and women had very few rights
- They were often treated like prizes to be won or possessions to be traded

