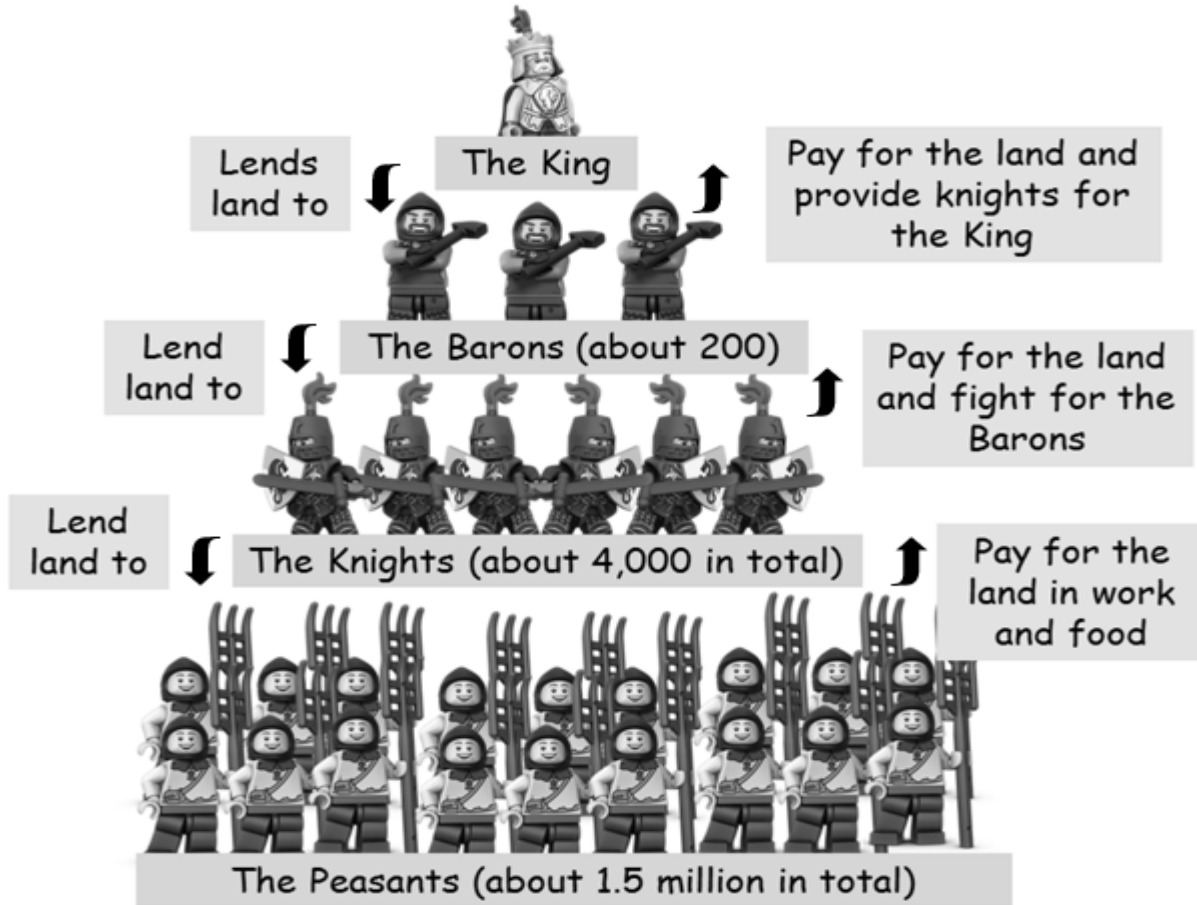


Life in Norman Britain



The Feudal System

Key Terms:

Motte and Bailey Castle: Style of castle used by Normans

Domesday Book: Lists possessions of William's people.

Harrying the North – When William harshly and repeatedly attacked the North

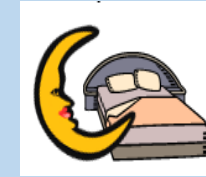
Feudal System – System of control whereby William is supported by his Knights and Lords.



The Development of Castles

What was the purpose of the Medieval Castle?

- To sleep in/be a home
- To defend
- To store weapons/money
- To store food from the harvest
- As a prison



Castle Life

The first castles were built from wood. These castles were quick to build and the materials to construct them could usually be found nearby.

Wood was eventually replaced by stone which was much stronger. Planning these stone castles could be a difficult job however. Building supplies sometimes had to be transported to the castle site, often by sea or river. A castle could take up to 10 or even 20 years to build and cost the equivalent of millions of pounds to build.

The great age of castles began almost 1000 years ago and lasted for nearly 500 years.

Castles acted as a base from which a lord and his soldiers could launch attack on enemies. They could also provide protection for the lord and his men. With high towers and thick walls they became impressive and intimidating defensive structures. But, they were also homes to many people with comfortable chambers, halls and chapels.