

Date:

## How did William control England after his successful conquest?

**Baron:** Important landowners in Normandy (Similar to the Earls in England)

**Harrying:** Frequently carrying out attacks

**Feudal System:** A hierarchy of society (most important to least) with everyone having a role



rewrite this correcting any mistakes you find – there are **10!**

harold had to go up to stanford brige to have a fight with harald  
hardrada. This was about 250 miles. He then heard that  
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**H**arold had to go up to **S**ta**m**ford **B**rid**g**e to have a fight with **H**arald **H**ardrada. This was about **300** miles. He then heard that William had sailed across and invaded. He had to march all the way back really quick. He left some tro**O**ps.

can you think of ways to improve it? More facts? Better language?



There were over c.1.5 million people living in England and William only had a few thousand soldiers. He needed to be in control and most importantly, he needed his baron's support! This is why William introduced the Feudal System...

What can you remember about the Feudal System from a few weeks ago?

At this time, people believed that all the land in a kingdom was given to the king by God. To help rule the country, the king kept some land and gave the rest of it his tenants-in-chief. These were the most powerful barons and churchmen; they received the food and rent from this land and controlled the people who lived on it. In return for this gift of land, the king wanted these men to serve him loyally and to provide him with soldiers when needed. The tenants-in-chief had to pay **homage** to the king by kneeling before him and swearing **fealty** to him as loyal **vassals**.

Copy these key terms:

**Fealty:** An oath of loyalty and promise to defend the king in times of war by providing armed men, depending on the amount of land

**Homage:** The physical act of swearing this oath

**Vassal:** A person who has paid homage and taken land

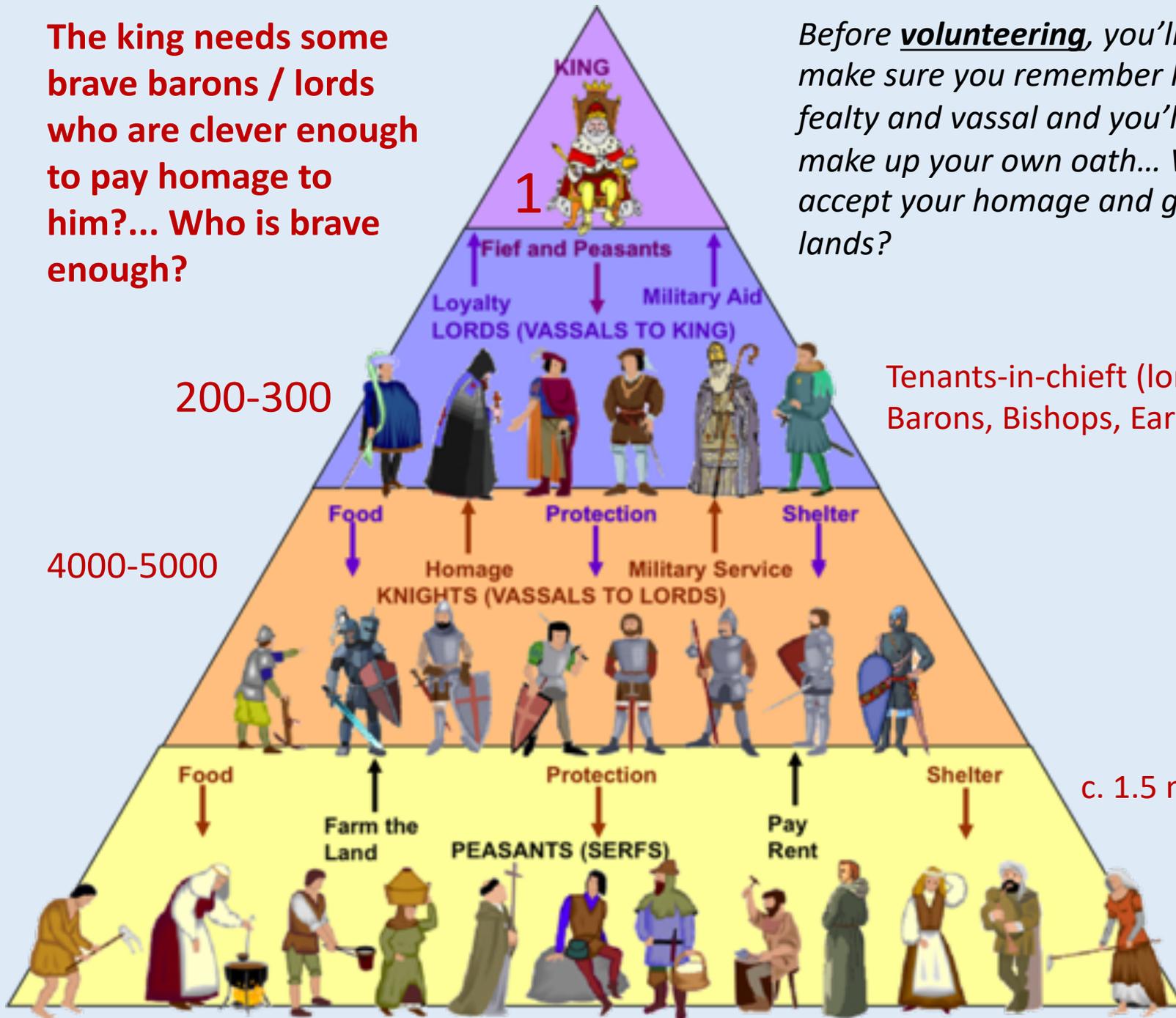
Answer in full sentences:

- 1) Who gave the king his land?
- 2) Who did the king give land to and why?
- 3) How would a baron / noble be given land?



The king needs some brave barons / lords who are clever enough to pay homage to him?... Who is brave enough?

Before volunteering, you'll need to make sure you remember homage, fealty and vassal and you'll need to make up your own oath... Will the king accept your homage and grant you lands?



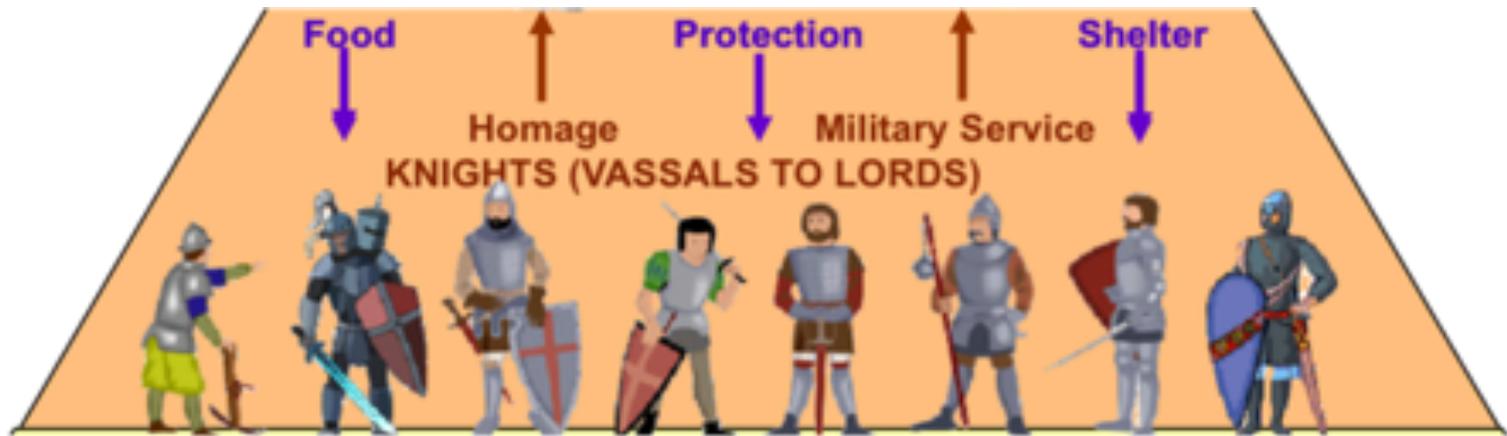
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Tenants-in-chief (lords)  
Barons, Bishops, Earls, Dukes

4000-5000

c. 1.5 million in 1066

## Who were the people below the tenants in chief?



To collect the armed men the tenants-in-chief promised the king, they gave land to lesser people, knights. These knights paid homage to the tenants-in-chief in the same way they paid homage to the king. In order for the knights to provide men for the lords / barons they too gave land to the people below them, such as **yeoman** (lucky enough to own his own land) farmers. This system ensured everyone below the king had a lord (master) to whom he owed fealty.

### Answer in a full sentence:

1) What was a yeoman and what was his role in the Feudal System?

## Who were the people at the bottom of the Feudal System (society)?



The peasants at the bottom made up the majority of the country, about 1.5 million of them. In total around 90% of the peasants worked the land. They did not own the land, they rented it off people above them, maybe even the Yeoman farmers. They sold their produce in local markets and paid their rent and taxes to their lords.

### Types of peasants:

**Yeoman** – Owning some land in order to provide fealty to his lord (knight)

**Villeins** – Peasants with land to farm. Villeins were not allowed to leave their manor

**Serf** – Peasants with land to farm. A Serf could move if necessary but it was safer to stay

Well this is all going rather well, I am a bit worried about these English rebelling, I know, I am going to try and keep some of the more powerful English on my side by letting them keep their lands. Earls Edwin and Morcar to start with, all they have to do is pay homage to me!

**Answer in a full sentence**

**How does William intend on ensuring he faces no further rebellion from the English nobles?**



## What opposition did King William face following his conquest?

The first and most significant revolt came in 1069 when English rebels, including Earls Edwin and Morcar, received support from the Vikings and Scots. The Norman defenders of York were all killed. William was furious and, after retaking York, he decided to teach his English subjects a lesson they would not forget.





**These are artist's interpretations of the Harrying of the North in 1069, William's revenge attack.**

Make a list of as many things as you can to show what happened during the Harrying of the North



## The Harrying of the North, 1069

William sent his army through the north of England, killing and burning everything in its path. This was known as the Harrying of the North and left areas such as Yorkshire a smouldering, burnt out, wasteland.

Unable to grow their crops, many people in these areas soon died of starvation. Most of the English rebellions stopped after this!

**Answer in a full sentence How did William punish the north for the rebellion?**

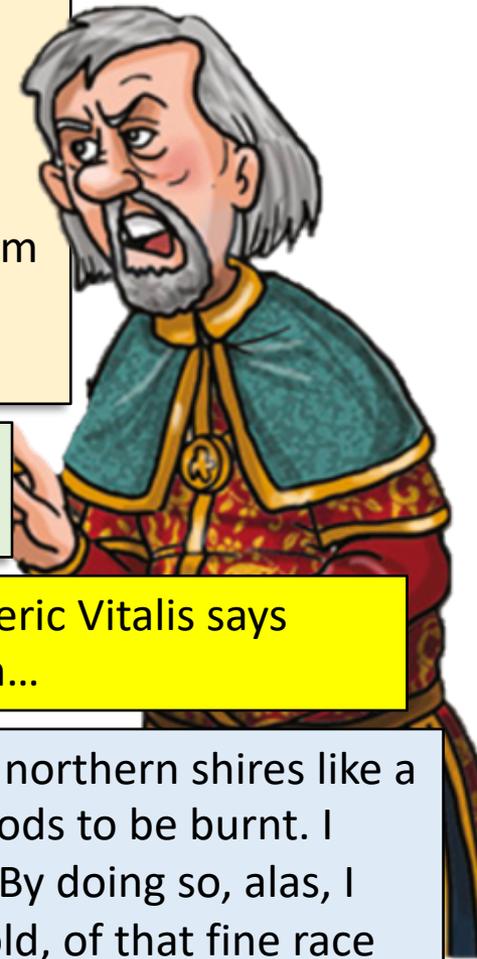


Simeon of Durham in  
the 1100's

There was such hunger than men ate human flesh, and the flesh of horses, dogs and cats. Others sold themselves into slavery so that they could live out their miserable lives. It was horrible to look into the ruined farmyards and houses and see the rotting human corpses, for there were none to bury them for all were gone, either in flight (running away), or cut down by sword and famine. None lived there and travellers passed in great fear of wile beasts and savage robbers. There was no village inhabited between York and Durham.

**Make a list of what has happened to the people of the north east, remember a subtitle.**

The king stopped at nothing to hunt his enemies. He cut down many people and destroyed homes and land. Nowhere else had he shown such cruelty. He made no attempt to control his fury and he punished the innocent along with the guilty. He ordered crops and herds, tools and food to be burnt to ashes. More than 100,000 people perished from hunger. I have often praised William but I can say nothing good about this brutal slaughter. such brutal slaughter cannot go unpunished.



**Orderic Vitalis was a half English, half Norman chronicler who mostly supported William. But he was nonetheless shocked by the Harrying of the north in 1069. He wrote this in his works The Ecclesiastical History between 1123 and 1141.**

Next to your list from Simeon of Durham, make a list of what Orderic Vitalis says happened – put a tick next to anything they agree on...

William said (according to Orderic Vitalis) – “I fell on the English of the northern shires like a fearsome lion. I ordered their houses and corn, with their tools and goods to be burnt. I ordered large herds of cattle to be butchered where they were found. By doing so, alas, I became the murderer of many thousands of people, both young and old, of that fine race of people”.

**Write a short (supported with evidence) paragraph:**

Does William’s confession mean Simeon of Durgam and Orderic Vitalis were right? What does William say that backs up their points? Do you trust Orderic Vitalis?



Hereward's last stand at Ely Cathedral

## Who was Hereward the Wake?

One man who refused to give up the fight against this foreign conqueror was Hereward the Wake. Hereward became a hero to the conquered English through the stories of his fight against the Norman invaders. He hid himself in the marshlands of East Anglia defeating the Normans time and time again.

It is said that when William eventually tracked down Hereward, he killed his own horse rather than let the Normans take it. No one is really sure what happened to Hereward, some say he escaped, some say he died and some believe William let him go free.

Regardless, he became a hero and symbol of hope!