Working For The Lord

I must make sure I harvest enough for my family as well as for my Lord and the tithe.

KEYWORDS

Villein - a peasant
Tithe - tax on produce paid to the Church
Week-work - work done by a peasant each week on the Lord's land
Reeve - a foreman

A villein's life was hard. He had to obey his lord and do work for him. He spent most of his time working out in the fields, doing week-work. He needed his lord's permission to travel outside the village, and to get married. He had to take his grain to the lord's mill to have it ground into flour. He had to give his lord some of his produce in return for his land, and he had to make payments of money to him.

All Villagers had to give one tenth of everything they produced to the Church. This was called the tithe.

Peasants had to make sure that they produced enough food for themselves and their families and make sure they had enough for the tithe and for their lord! At some times in the year, they had to give extra gifts to the lord, as Source 1 below explains:

Source 1. WORK SERVICE

Each villein must give the lord 5 shillings at Christmas and 5 shillings at Easter and 32 pence at St. Peter's feast... and all the villains must give 32 hens at Christmas.

* Read the packet directions on each page and do what it asks. *
Source 2: The Village Year

SPRING: Plough ground, clear stones, sow barley, oats & wheat, put animals out to grass, shear sheep.

SUMMER: Harvest time, pick fruit and gather crops.

AUTUMN: Thresh barley and wheat, plough ground, clear stones, sow winter wheat, store hay, kill pigs and other animals, hang meat in chimney to smoke it or salt it.

WINTER: Mend tools, fences and buildings, move animals into barns.

ALL YEAR: Brew beer, make cheese, spin wool, work in garden.

7. Look closely at Source 2. Which jobs does a villein have to do all year?

8. Using Source 2, write a paragraph to explain what a villein has to do throughout the whole year.

Bonus Question.
Do you think a villein's life is hard?
Explain your answer.
Making sure that all the villeins were always working was the **reeve**. The reeve watched over the villeins at work and could punish them if they did not work hard enough. The reeve was also in charge of the land the villeins worked on. He decided what was planted and who got the strips of land. He also sold spare crops and could hire extra people at busy times, like the harvest.

Now try and complete the tasks below.

Put today's date and the title 'Working for the Lord' in your exercise book. Remember to answer each question in a full sentence.

1. Write down the following words and their meanings:
   Villein, Reeve, Tithe, Week-work.

2. Write down three things that a villein had to do for his lord.

3. Write down two things that a villein had to ask permission from his lord for.

4. Write down one thing that a lord gave a villein in return for his hard work.

5. Look at Source 1. Why might a villein have grumbled about such payments to the lord?

6. Look at the unfinished job advert for a reeve shown below. Copy the outline and finish it.

**REEVE WANTED FOR LOCAL VILLAGE**

Required for this coming Harvest. Your jobs will be.............
washing and cooking. The land around the village supplied the villagers with nuts, berries, mushrooms, and animals grazed on the common land. Fish could be collected from the river, which was also used for corn. The other land around the village was also important. Villagers collected wood from the woodland. Their closest with his neighbour to get this work done.

Strip farming meant that villagers had to work together. A whole field would be sown and harvested, and each villager worked.

Every year, one field was left follow or empty, so that the soil could get its goodness back.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>South Field</th>
<th>West Field</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Follow</td>
<td>Follow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Follow</td>
<td>Follow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Follow</td>
<td>Follow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

South Field

West Field

Source: Crop Rotation

Below to see how it worked:

Each year, the villagers changed the crops they grew in each field. This was called crop rotation. Have a look at the table:

Strips were divided by mounds of earth or by rocks:

The land that was owned by the lord was called the manor. The manor was surrounded by three large strips. Each field was divided into long strips. A villager lived in the village, which was surrounded by three large strips. The land that was owned by the lord was called the manor. A manor consisted of a village.
enough food.

child in every three would die before his first birthday, because there was not

Source: 4. Villains' Daily Diet

of Vegetables and sometimes meat. With ale to drink. 4 p.m. - Supper. Course black bread, porridge, a slice of soup. With ale to drink.

10 a.m. - Dinner. Course black bread, eggs and cheese.

6 a.m. - Brunch. Course black bread, with ale to drink.

Source: 4. Villains' Daily Diet

Try and spot similarities and differences to your own diet.

A Villains' diet was very different to ours. It did not change very much year in year.

Source: 2. A Cuck-

1. Describe the medieval village. What was life like in the 13th century? What were the reasons why it was important for people to work on the land?

2. Copy and complete the paragraph:

The medieval village was surrounded by fields. Each field was divided into different parts:

- A village had
- Each field was owned by
- Different crops were grown:
- Each field could grow:
- The soil was
- The way the crops were grown was called
- The field was always

3. Draw and label:
- The village
- The common land
- The church
- The mill
- The castle


5. Look at source 4: What did villagers eat?
   - (a) Breakfast
   - (b) Dinner
   - (c) Supper
   - (d) Other meals

6. Label:
   - What kinds of meat did villagers eat?
   - Each item on the picture to show where a small village would own.

7. Fish were important for cooking and washing and for collecting e.g. The river was important for common land and.

8. Write reasons why it was important to make a list of each crop of land and:

9. Finally, add colour.

10. On your own copy of the medieval map, add the following:

   - The village
   - The common land
   - The church
   - The mill
   - The castle

11. The Woodland River.
What a Life!

As a peasant farmer, write an entry in your diary describing how you feel about your lot in life. Your entry must be a minimum of 8 sentences. You must reference the readings in the packet.

April 14,
(April)