

# Create a Kingdom Project

Mr. Kersey

Name:

Date:

Class:

It is the Middle Ages. It is a time of struggle for many of Europe's people. Marauding invaders, war, disease, and the occasional famine are all constant concerns. Most people spend their lives just trying to survive. Fortunately they have you, the best king or queen anyone could hope for. Your task, as the ruler of your people, is to create a kingdom that will improve the lives of your people and keep them safe. Follow the steps below to create a kingdom that will survive these dark times and maybe even grow to one day become a powerful modern nation-state.

## Feudalism

(Choose at least one in addition to the map).

Your kingdom depends on the political system now called feudalism. This system helps keep your people safe and fed, while providing you with a pretty comfortable life. Choose and complete at least one task from the options listed below in addition to the map, which is required.

\_\_\_ Create a *detailed* chart or diagram that explains the organization of your kingdom's feudal system. Be sure to include yourself (king or queen), any lords, dukes, or barons, knights, and serfs. You could also include any other people in your kingdom that might live in towns or villages such as freemen, merchants, or craftsmen. Your diagram should be clear, neat, and certainly colorful. You could even include short explanations of the duties and obligations of these people.

\_\_\_ Write the Oath of Fealty that you require your nobles to take before you give them land to control. Make sure to include some of the specific things that you want them to do for you. An actual oath will be given to you as an example.

\_\_\_ Create a copy of a contract between a lord and the free tenants, or *villeins*, of his or her land. Remember to include things that the *villein* must do for the lord in order to stay on the land. You might also include what happens if the *villein* dies or wants to move. An actual contract will be given to you as an example.

\_\_\_ Draw and label a detailed diagram of a typical manor in your kingdom. Be sure to include the manor house, church, farm fields, and any other buildings that you might find on a manor. Of course it should be neat, creative, and colorful.

\* \_\_\_ Draw a large, detailed map of your kingdom. Make sure to include all the major towns and cities and, of course, the location of your castle. You should also label any rivers, lakes, mountains, or other major landforms. You might even label the different lands granted by you to your nobles. Your map should be colorful and neat and it should have a title, key, compass rose, and scale. (This part is required).

\_\_\_ Create a list of at least ten laws you have declared as king or queen. Each of your laws should be aimed at improving your kingdom's economy, security, or the lives of your subjects. You should be able to explain how each of your laws does this.

## **Your Castle**

(Choose at least one).

As king or queen, you have the largest home in your kingdom. Your castle serves as not only your home, but also to protect the local people from invaders. It is important that your castle has strong defenses to keep your subjects safe. To describe your castle, choose at least one option below.

\_\_\_ Draw a floor plan of your castle using graph paper as if you were an architect. Your drawing should be to scale and you should include the square footage of the different parts of your castle. Make sure to include all the major parts of your castle, like the motte and bailey if it's an early castle, or the keep, moat, great hall, drawbridge, and walls, etc. if it is a later castle. Be creative in your layout. Definitely label all the parts. Or course, you'll need to do a little research and, as always, effort goes a long way here.

\_\_\_ Build a *small* model of your castle using whatever materials you can scrounge together. It should include all the normal castle pieces and parts, and it should be as detailed as you can manage. Label the major parts of the castle, such as the moat, keep, etc. Do not try to do this one the night before.

\_\_\_ Draw an illustration of your castle using colored pencils, watercolors, a computer, or even crayons. It should be detailed and neat. Of course, the better the illustration, the more impressed with your amazing abilities the world will be. Think about where your castle is located. Is it on a mountain top? Is it surrounded by the farms of your people? Is there a town nearby? Are you surrounded by forests? Food for thought.

## **Christianity**

(Choose at least one).

Christianity was a major force in Europe during the Middle Ages. It was a source of comfort and help for many people whose lives were otherwise difficult and harsh. Monasteries were a source of assistance in times of need, and of learning for the lucky few who were able to enter them. The Church made many efforts to spread the gospel, and there was usually a church in the nearby town or village. If you are going to maintain a good relationship with the pope and the Church, you need to know more about them. Choose at least one option from the list below.

\_\_\_ Research the design of medieval churches and create your own. You may design or draw your own church. It should be historically accurate. If you create an illustration of your church, you should try to include important details like stained glass and the bell tower. Your design or drawing must be labeled with all of the important features of a medieval church.

\_\_\_ Read the selections from the rules of St. Benedict and write a two page description of life for either a *novice* or a young monk in a monastery. Write from the point of view of the novice or young monk. (Reading selections will be provided if you choose this option). You will need to do a little extra research to make sure you learn the proper terminology and way of life for young monks.

\_\_\_ Copy a scripture passage from the Bible in the style of a medieval illuminated manuscript. Make sure to include at least one illumination (or illustration) in the style of these early manuscripts. If you can, try to use calligraphy to make your passage more authentic. (Passages will be provided upon request). Write a short, one paragraph description of what the passage is about or the lesson it is teaching.

\_\_\_ You are a missionary in Gaul in the year 793. You are trying to spread the gospel to the pagan people living in the hills surrounding the town in which you are staying. Write a two page description of your trials and tribulations. What is your daily life like? What challenges do you face while trying to convert the people to Christianity? When will you decide to move on?

\_\_\_ Research one of the Crusades that took place between 1095 and 1291 and write a two page, typed essay explaining the major events and outcomes of that crusade.

## **Some Guidelines**

No matter which tasks you choose to complete from the above options, there are a few things that you'll need to do.

### **Turning It In**

Because there are so many options everyone's project will be a little different, but all your work should be handed in at the same time. You should keep your written work together with a paper clip or in a folder unless it is on a large piece of paper or poster board. Make sure your name and class are on everything. **Please turn this assignment sheet in with your project.**

For written work, you may also turn in your completed tasks electronically in order to save paper. Simply place all work on your private drive in a folder entitled "Create a Kingdom." The work should be ready to print out, if necessary, and include your name and class.

### **Research and Bibliography**

You should be creative while imagining your kingdom, but your work should be historically accurate. That means you are going to need to use outside resources to help you research the different topics for this project. Almost every task will require you to do some research. You may use books, websites, articles, and videos to help you.

You must provide a bibliography of all the sources you use to help you complete this project. Make sure it is in proper MLA format. (Remember MLA format changed for 2009!) Turn in your bibliography with your project.

## Effort, Neatness, and Attention to Detail

Your effort on this project will go a long way to helping you earn a good grade. “A” projects will be creative, demonstrate effort and thought, and will be free of spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors. To earn an “A” you will need to go beyond just the minimum requirements given above. Have fun and use your imagination and the effort will follow.

## Rubric

This project is worth 20 points for each of the History, People in Societies, Economics, Government, Social Studies Skills & Methods, and Geography Standards. Points will be deducted for one or more standards depending on the content area involved.

### Grading Scale (Numbers are percentages).

A 93-100    B+ 90-92    B 85-89    C+ 81-84    C 76-80    D 70-75    F Below 70

**A** – Your project is awesome! The tasks you have completed are complete, neat, detailed, accurate, and colorful (where appropriate). You have obviously spent time researching your topics, and your bibliography is free of errors. Your project contains no spelling, punctuation, or grammatical mistakes.

**B/B+** - Your project is above average and very well done. The tasks you have completed are complete, neat, detailed, accurate, and colorful (where appropriate). You have obviously spent time researching your topics, and your bibliography is free of errors. Your project may contain a few spelling, punctuation, or grammatical mistakes. There may be a portion of the project that is not accurate or does not demonstrate your very best work.

**C/C+** - Your project is average. It is not bad, but there may be more than a few mistakes. There might be inaccuracies or missing requirements. Overall, though, you have done a decent job and show that you have learned about the Middle Ages.

**D/F** – Are you seriously turning this in? Really? Your project is incomplete or contains major inaccuracies or numerous errors. You may not have followed directions. This grade is unacceptable and you will need to redo your project until you earn at least a C.

### Your Scores:

People in Societies: \_\_\_\_\_ Economics: \_\_\_\_\_ Geography: \_\_\_\_\_

Government: \_\_\_\_\_ History: \_\_\_\_\_ Skills & Methods: \_\_\_\_\_

