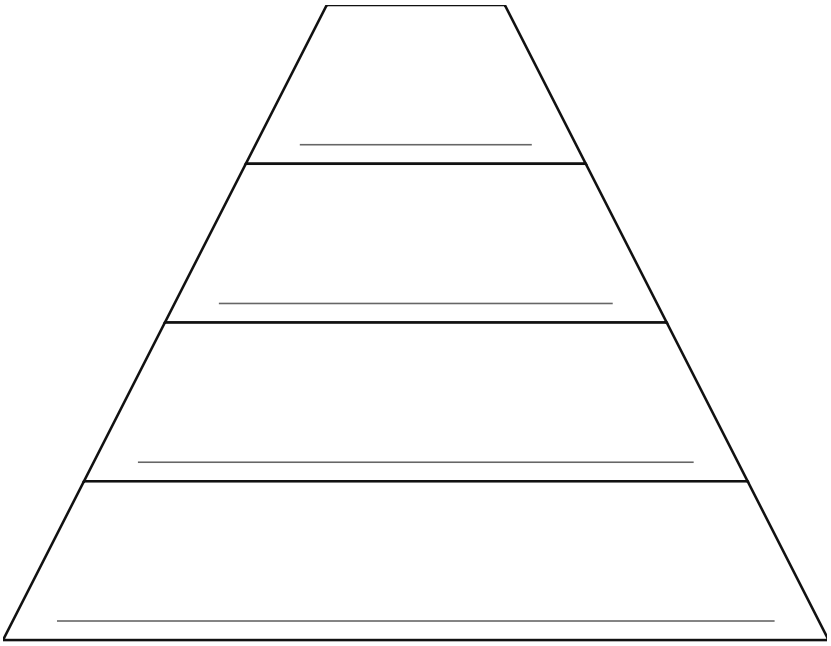
Name _____

THE FEUDAL PYRAMID

Use the clues to write each group in its place on the pyramid. The top had the most power and land. Medieval people did not draw this pyramid: historians use it as a simple model, and real ties were messier.



GROUPS

- King
- Peasants and serfs
- Knights
- Nobles and church leaders

CLUES

A. Trained for years as page and squire, then fought on horseback in mail armor. Held small fiefs as vassals of greater lords and were expected to follow chivalry.

B. The largest group. They farmed the land; many were bound to the manor and owed the lord work on his demesne, part of their crops and fees for his mill.

C. Ruled the whole kingdom and in theory owned all its land. Gave large fiefs to great lords in return for their loyalty and soldiers, and led the army in war.

D. Lords, barons, bishops and abbots who held large fiefs from the ruler and swore an oath of fealty. They sent soldiers to fight and gave smaller fiefs to their own vassals.

1. **What did a lord give a vassal, and what did the vassal give in return?**

2. **Why were most people at the bottom of the pyramid?**

3. **How could one man be a lord and a vassal at the same time?**