

TASK: Draw this mind-map in your book. Then add information to each of the three branches by using the material below.



Villeins were villagers who worked on the lord's land. In return, they were given some land to farm themselves. In the village of Elton, for example, there were 48 villeins. **Freemen** paid rent to the lord to farm their land. In Elton, in the twelfth century, there were 22 freemen.



We're supposed to be **freemen** but we have to do *boon-work* for the Lord when he wants us to – ploughing in spring or summer and, worst of all, helping to bring in the harvest when we're meant to be collecting our own. This puts us behind. And we have to pay lots of money to the lord. We have to use his mill to grind our corn into flour and pay him for using it. We can't bake bread in our houses. We have to use the lord's ovens. Still, at least we're better off than the villeins.

Why are you freemen complaining? We **villeins** have to do all you do and more. We only have a little plot of land for our own needs but when do we get a chance to work on it? We have to work for him every week of the year (*week-work*). That means at least one day's ploughing per week. We also have to do other jobs for the Lord like weeding, mending fences and removing stones from fields. At harvest time, he makes us work really hard. We also have to ask the Lord's permission to live outside the manor or if our daughters want to get married. Is this fair?





We **women** have to do the same jobs as men, but others, too! Before dawn, we have to light the fire, and bring water for cooking from the well. AND we have to look after the children – at busy times, we put the babies in trees so that they don't get into trouble.



At age 7, a nobleman's son began training for knighthood. In this first step, boys were called **pages**.

As a page, a boy learned how to fight, how to use weapons, and how to ride a horse into battle. He learned manners from the nobleman's wife. Like everyone, pages had a strict rule of conduct (behaviour):

1. *When you enter a lord's place, say, "Good Speed" and greet everyone*
2. *Do not rush in rudely, but enter with head up and at an easy pace, and kneel on one knee only to your lord.*
3. *Make obeisance (bow) to your lord always when you answer, otherwise stand as still as a stone until he speaks.*



At age 15, a page could become a **squire**. Each squire was assigned to a knight. A knight could have several squires. His duties included dressing the knight in the morning, serving all of the knight's meals, caring for the knight's horse, and cleaning the knight's armour and weapons. He followed the knight to tournaments and assisted his lord on the battlefield. Squires continued to learn how to fight and how to behave.

Once a squire proved himself in battle, and his knight felt he was ready, he could **become a knight himself**. Squires were knighted in grand ceremonies and had to obey a **Code of Chivalry**. This said all knights had to: be brave in battle; keep their promises; defend the church and treat noblewomen in a courteous manner. Chivalry became the basis of good manners.

Knights were covered in multiple layers of armour, and could kill many foot soldiers standing in his way. It was terribly expensive to be a knight. The horse alone could cost the equivalent of a small airplane. Armour, shields, and weapons were also expensive. Becoming a knight was part of the feudal agreement: in return for military service, the knight received a **fief** (land area).