

## Activity Two: Sworn to Serve Simulation (approximately 2 weeks)

\* This simulation allows the students to develop an understanding of the political structure of the feudal system and the impact Christianity had on Medieval thought and life. They will also learn about the values and beliefs held during the Medieval period

\* Procedure: Form groups of four students, ensuring that there are males and females in each group. If your class does not divide evenly, extra students can take on the roles of Lord and Lady Whinesalot and the Abbott. Distribute the Sworn to Serve Information sheet (next page) and allow members of each group to choose roles. Provide the class with a detailed time line and go over the requirements of the assignment. Allow time for the groups to peruse non-fiction resources and develop a family history based on fact. Provide work periods (3-4) for individual group members to create prescribed components and for the group to practise its oral presentation. Oral presentations occur and the groups appeal to Lord and Lady Whinesalot to become vassals.

\*You may wish to give the students a first hand experience of feudalism. A good simulation, Feudal M&M's is available from the Curriculum and Evaluation Office (8252).

\* Extension - Students can complete a take-home exam based on the concepts learned in the simulation (see sample following).

### Assessment Suggestions:

- self assessment
- group work
- individual assignment
- oral presentation
- take-home exam

### Possible Mini-lessons

- preparing an oral presentation - pages 102 to 105 of Curriculum Guide
- short essay writing techniques - Writer's Inc.

## **Medieval Studies Sworn to Serve**

You are a member of a wealthy family in eleventh century England. The Roman Empire has long since fallen and feudalism is now prevalent in England. Your family seeks to become vassals to Lord Drufus Whinesalot (husband of Lady Cillia Whinesalot). As vassals, you will get land, protection, knights, wealth, and power. In return, you must provide the lord with loyalty, taxes, and soldiers when he is at war.

**\*For Lord Whinesalot to choose your family as vassals, you must first provide him with your family's portfolio which will include the following:**

- a story about an heroic event from your family's history
- a family coat of arms
- a design for your proposed castle
- a map of your fief (which you hope you will grant you)
- a code of chivalry
- an oath of fealty

1. As a group (four members, mixed), draft a family history on which future decisions can be based. Remember that your family history must be based on historical fact. Take time to read and consider the events chronicled in the reading materials found in the class and the library. Because religion played such an important role in medieval life, be sure to address this in your family's history. Also include heroic events to depict your strong family character.

2. Choose group member roles and tasks:

- **Herald** - create a coat of arms (family crest) and a written documentary of the historical events supporting the components of the coat of arms. Please consider: What do the emblems you choose depict or represent? How can your family prove these qualities?
- **Architect** - design a floorplan for your castle, with a supporting written explanation for design decisions. Please consider: What is the purpose of each castle part? What do you need to consider when designing a castle?
- **Cartographer** - draw a map of your proposed fief and explain how your family will rule its subjects. Please consider: What are common structures and buildings in medieval towns? What necessities and luxuries will you provide in your plan? What problems should your family anticipate or plan for (e.g; invasions, serfs uprising)
- **Knight** - develop the oath of fealty and code of chivalry your family will swear to. Please consider: What is the purpose of the oath of fealty and code of chivalry? What values are these based on? How can you personalize these to reflect your family's strengths? What medieval terms or vocabulary can you use to give your oath and code an air of authenticity?

3. When meeting with your family, be sure to compare information, check for consistency, and get feedback from group members.

4. Lord and Lady Whinesalot have invited your family to their court on \_\_\_\_\_ when you will try to persuade him to choose your family as his vassals. You will give him a brief outline of your family's history and present the fruits of the labours of the Herald, Architect, Cartographer, and Knight. When presenting to Lord and Lady Whinesalot, remember to capture their attention with visuals, an enthusiastic attitude, and unique style. Be well prepared. Have all the components complete, memorize your parts, and know background information about your role so you can respond to questions. You might consider using costumes and/or models.

### EVALUATION

Your final product will be evaluated with consideration to the following criteria:

1. Was there consistency between all components of your family's portfolio?
2. Was your presentation unique, convincing, and interesting?
3. Did your group work effectively as a team, supporting each other to complete all components of the portfolio?
4. Are all components based on medieval fact and yet unique and creative (not copied)?

This group assignment is worth 200 marks based on the following breakdown:

* Coat of Arms and documentary	30
* Castle floorplan and explanation	30
* Map of fief and how you will rule	30
* Oath of fealty and code of chivalry	30
* Team work	30
* Presentation	50

\* adapted from ITDC Webquest; <http://www.itdc.sbcss.k12.ca.us/curriculum>