The Feudal Society

Feudal society operated on a system of fealty where a lord offers protection in return for loyalty and taxes.
Kings owned all the land in a kingdom and decided who to lease to. In order to get land, lords had to swear an oath of loyalty to the king.
Feudal Lords

Operated on a system of upper and lower nobles where upper nobles reported to the king, and had a number of lower nobles who reported to them.
Knights

Knights were used by lords to protect their lands and make sure the serfs/peasants stayed productive. When needed, knights were gathered by higher lords.
Serfs/Peasants

Serfs were tied to the land which they worked as farmers. Serfs made up most of European Society. Lords offered protection in return for them working the land.
Lords lived in manors (large houses) near the village.

Peasants lived in the village where shops, a church, and workshops were located. Often they had small garden in their backyards.

The fields were located near to the village.
Crop Rotation System

Fields were changed in three year cycles to allow for nutrients to be replenished in the soil.

Two years the field was used for planting crops.

The third year it was left fallow and animals were allowed to graze on it.
Monasteries/Abbeys

Religious structures where monks (men) or nuns (women) resided

Often centers of culture, and economic activity
The Vikings

Nordic raiders from Scandinavia
Attacked using their famous longboats that could be used on oceans and rivers
Mostly raided villages and monasteries
Later colonized British Isles, Iceland, Greenland, and North America
Impact of the Vikings

Monasteries and cities lived in constant fear of Viking attacks

Lead to the building of high walls and castles for protection

Vikings converted to Christianity in 1100s

Ended raids on Europe
Edinburgh Castle – 12th Century
Cardiff Castle - 11th Century
The Tower of London - 11th Century
Dover Castle - 12th Century
The Kremlin - 15th Century