Europe in the High Middle Ages:

Nobility’s Challenge

Directions: Working on your own, please follow the instructions on this sheet in order to complete this challenge. You will need to use the resources in your textbooks and those listed on Ms. Adamson’s website. To access the instructions for the nobility, please go to Ms. Adamson’s website (<http://www.theadamsonadventure.com>).

This challenge will be due on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Define Your Terms. As a member of the nobility, there are specific terms which with you should familiarize yourself. Please use your textbook and online resources to write the definition to each term in your own words.

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| **Manor** |  |
| **Gentry** |  |
| **Lay investiture** |  |
| **Demesne** |  |
| **Escheat** |  |
| **Magna Carta** |  |

2. Choose your name and rank. For this and your next challenge, you’ll need to have a sense of exactly where your fiefdom is located-- if your fief is in France, you probably want to go with a French name, for example. Use the resources located on Ms. Adamson’s website located under the heading of “Nobility’s Challenge” in order to help you with your work. (By the way, don’t feel that your character must necessarily be the same gender as you. If you would prefer to work on this project from the position of another gender, that is perfectly acceptable.)

**Noble’s name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Rank or title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

3. Map Your Fiefdom. After reviewing the PowerPoint on the Middle Ages which Ms. Adamson has posted on her website as well as watching the portions of The Dark Ages documentary which are also posted, please create a detailed map of your character’s fiefdom. You may also want to do some online research to help you complete this task.

Consider the region where your group has decided your fief is located; you should include local geographic features in your map. Your fief should also be indicative of your particular social status-- that is, a dukedom is going to be considerably larger and grander than the fief of a mere lord. Your map should be at least the size of one sheet of printer paper (although it may be larger if you prefer), and should be hand-drawn (NO COMPUTER PRINTOUTS), neat, and colorful. Your map should contain the following:

**Required Elements**

* A key, explaining any symbols you choose to use and a compass rose to indication directionality.
* The name of your fief along with its motto. This may be located within your key, or on the map proper.
* A manor house or castle, depending on your rank.
* Defensive structures as you see fit.
* Barracks and stables for your knights and horses.
* Training yard for knights.
* A church, a rectory, and cemetery. If you like, you may include a monastery or convent on your land as well.
* Modest houses for artisans and peasants.
* A mill (this will either require a windmill or a water wheel, as that grain doesn’t grind itself), a bakery, a public house (this was both an inn, a restaurant, and a brewery), a smithy, and any further businesses and shops you think your fief might need.
* Fields for peasant farmers. Mark which are for autumn planting, spring planting, and fallow fields.
* Common grazing and planting areas.
* Hunting forest and water sources such as rivers, streams, and wells.
* Any necessary roads and bridges.

You may, of course, include details which are not listed above, so long as they are appropriate to the time period. Be creative, and take your time on this. I’m looking for quality and thoughtfulness of work, not necessarily artistic skill.