Europe in the High Middle Ages:

Peasants’ 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 peasants, please go to Ms. Adamson’s website ([www.theadamsonadventure.com](http://www.theadamsonadventure.com)).

This challenge will be due at the end of class on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Define Your Terms. As a peasant, there are specific terms with which you should be familiar. Please use your textbook and online resources to write the definition to each term in your own words. Note: some of the terms have definitions today which are significantly different from what they were in the 13th century. Make sure your definition is appropriate to the time period.

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| **Villein** |  |
| **Serf** |  |
| **Tithe** |  |
| **Three-field system** |  |
| **Commons** |  |
| **Baliff** |  |
| **Fallow** |  |

2. Choose Your Name. 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 “Peasants’ 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.

**Peasant’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

3. Create a Peasant Paper Doll.Yes, it sounds juvenile. However, we tend to know a lot more about what wealthy people in medieval Europe wore than we know about what peasants wore-- so let’s see if you can do some research on this front. Your task is to use the resources on the “Peasant’s Instructions” page of Ms. Adamson’s website, other online resources, and your textbook in order to help you come up with a reasonably historically accurate understanding of what peasants wore on a daily basis during the 13th century.

In order to complete this assignment, you will need to first draw a generic outline of your peasant. (You may want to use one of the templates linked on Ms. Adamson’s website if you are not particularly artistically gifted.) Just a note: please equip your paper doll with some fitting undergarments. No need to work on biology right now. Your doll should be drawn on a regular sized sheet of printer paper. You should, on a separate sheet of paper, draw a set of clothing which you could cut out and have your doll wear. (You don’t need to actually cut it out, if you’re afraid you would lose parts of the outfit.) Both your doll and its outfit should be neat, colorful, and hand-drawn (tracing is fine, but NO computer print-outs, please). Your doll and its outfit should have:

**Required Elements (Men and Women):**

* Appropriate undergarments
* Clothing of a realistic color for your peasant’s social status
* A knife for eating and a cup for drinking, worn at the waist
* Boots, bare feet, or wooden clogs, depending on your fief’s location

**Required Elements (Men):**

* Overcoat or mantle
* Woolen trousers
* Woolen cap (winter) or coif
* Homespun tunic
* Belt or girdle
* Laborer’s apron

**Required Elements (Women)**

* Wimple or veil for hair (absolutely required for respectable women)
* Wool cape for winter
* Long tunic or dress
* Apron
* Belt or girdle

Of course, depending on the life you imaging for your peasant, they may have more or less clothing than is listed above. Feel free to be creative and take your time with this assignment. Please know that you will not be evaluated on your artistic skills, but rather on the thoughtfulness of your work.