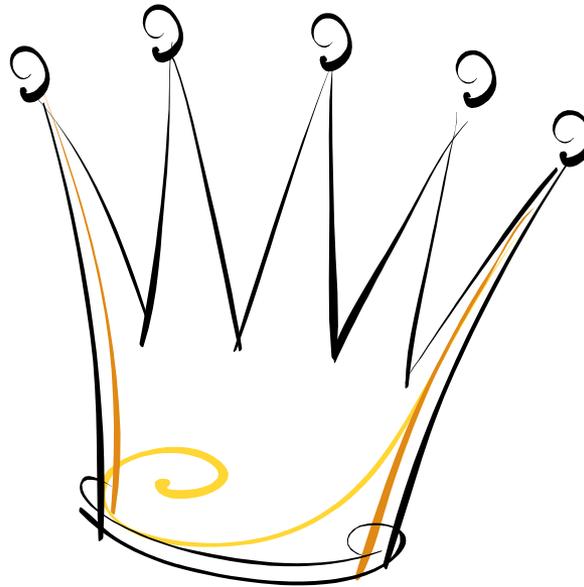
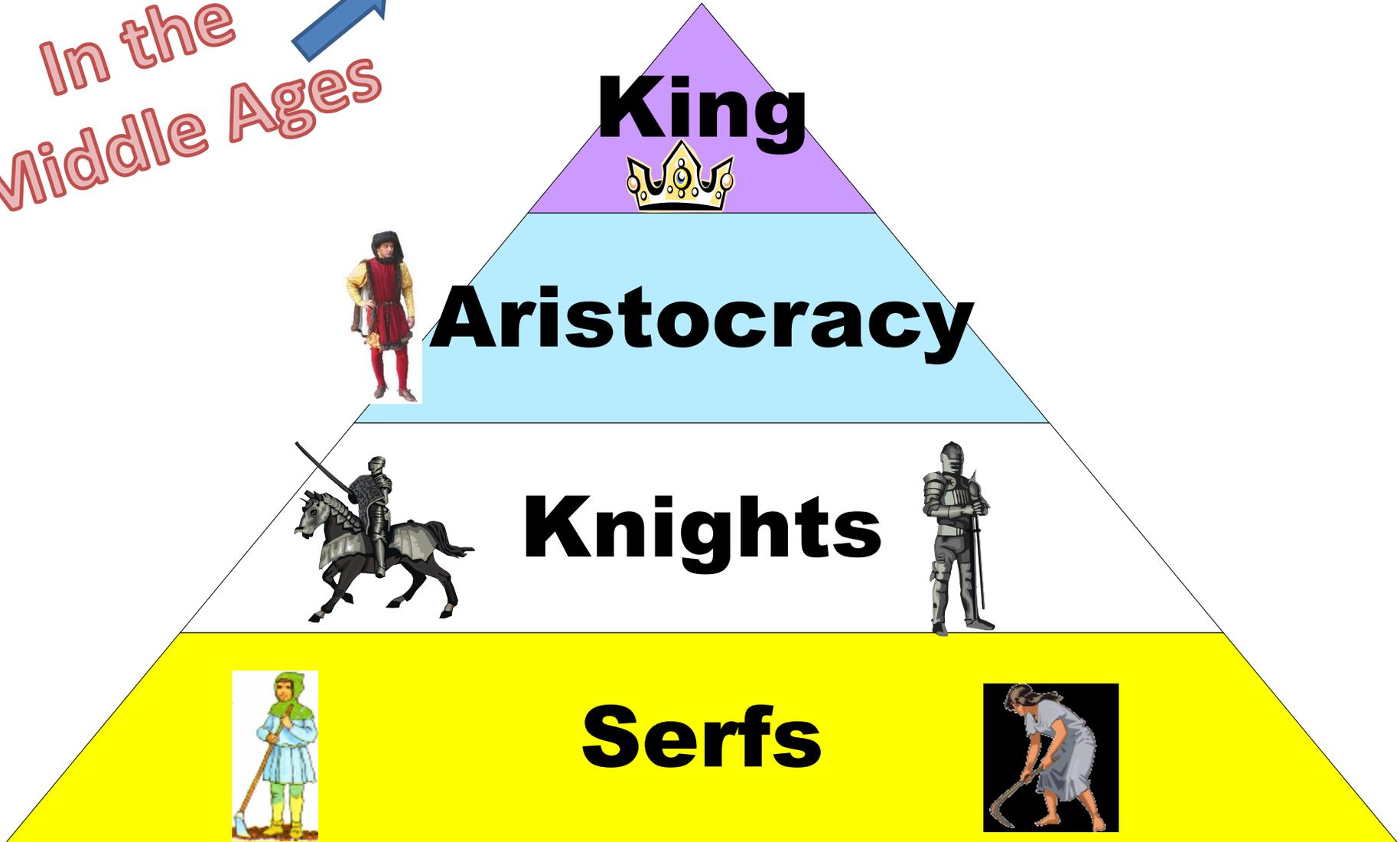


Absolute Monarchs Activity



Feudalism

In the Middle Ages 



Medieval Monarchs' Power



Feudalism was the basis of European governments



Kings maintained power & control through the support of their nobles (vassals)

- **Since nobles each had their own knights (small armies), a king would need the agreement of his nobles in order to go to war**

Beginning of Absolutism

Factors that strengthened monarch's power:

Reformation gave monarch powers that used to be held by the church

Middle class supported monarch in order to protect their property & trade

Medieval wars killed many aristocrats

Absolutism

- **Monarch (king) had absolute, unlimited power**

Absolutism

- **King ruled by God's authority**
- **Obedience to king = obedience to God**
- **King could do no wrong**

"Divine Right of Kings"

1: Louis XIV of France



- Reigned for 72 years (crowned at age 5)
- Represented the height of absolutism (ruled by divine right)

Versailles

- Louis built a huge palace at Versailles (ver-SY), a few miles outside of Paris, and moved the French government there.
- The elaborate palace was so expensive to build that it strained the French economy.
- He insisted that the most important nobles live at Versailles. In this way, Louis could always keep his eye on them.

Sun King

- “I am the state”, was the motto he proclaimed.
- Nicknamed the Sun King: because sun’s rays reached far and wide, just like his power.
- Other monarchs soon took on the customs of France.

War and Foreign Conquest

- His explorers claimed a region of North America for France named Louisiana in honor of Louis XIV.
- The French also occupied Haiti and other West Indian islands. They set up colonies in Asia.
- Louis XIV’s wars took a toll. The military effort cost many lives and placed a heavy strain on the French treasury.

Religion

- He only allowed the French to practice Catholicism. He persecuted Protestants.

At his death:

- France was the leading nation in Europe.
- The nobility sought to gain back their power.
- The middle and lower class resented nobles’ wealth.
- Eventually this led to French Revolution.

2: Elizabeth I of England



The Battle of the Spanish Armada—1588

- King Philip II of Spain was angered by English ship raiders.
- 1588 Philip launched a fleet of 130 ships toward England (armada means a fleet of ships).
- English ships were smaller and swifter, and their guns could shoot faster and farther than those on the Spanish ships.
- As a result, the English slipped through the Spanish formation of ships and damaged and sank some of the vessels.
- Only about half of the “Invincible” Armada made it back to Spain.

Religious problems

- Still unrest even after the creation of the Church of England (Anglican) under Henry VIII.
- Puritans—wanted to “purify” the new church even more. They objected to the fact that the Anglican Church kept some Catholic practices.
- She want to unite her subjects under the Anglican faith.
- Any non-Anglican had to had to pay fines.

Relations with Parliament

- England’s Parliament included representatives from the entire country who had the power to pass laws and approve all taxes. People viewed Parliament as a check on the power of the monarchy.
- Elizabeth managed Parliament skillfully. She consulted Parliament often and gave the appearance of taking its advice.
- She obtained the taxes she needed without letting members influence policy too directly.

“Chapter 19: Monarchs of Europe.” Holt World History: The Human Journey. Austin: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2005. 220-235. Print.

3: Peter the Great of Russia



One of Peter's major goals was to end Russia's landlocked situation. He wanted to acquire warm-water ports.

Czar Peter I Westernizes Russia

- In 1697 Peter, disguised as a private citizen, visited several western European countries.
- He met with leading scientists and artisans. He even worked as a carpenter in a Dutch shipyard to learn about shipbuilding.
- Peter reorganized Russia along western European lines. Influenced by France, Peter improved his army's training and weaponry.
- War with Sweden—he started a long war with Sweden that helped him gain territory on the east coast of Finland. Now Russia had access to the Baltic Sea.
- He moved the capital from Moscow to St. Petersburg (a new city he built), closer to the nations of Western Europe.
 - St. Petersburg represented the new, westernized Russia.
 - Peter undertook a major building program to construct the city along Western architectural styles. He wanted St. Petersburg to be viewed as the capital of a progressive nation.
- **Changes:**
- Women became less socially isolated and took a greater part in the community.
- Peter forced the nobles to shave off their long beards and dress in European styles.
- He modernized the army and reformed the government's administration.
- He also encouraged manufacturing and foreign trade.

Politics

- Peter followed the absolutist ideas of Louis XIV of France.
- He increased the number of serfs in Russia and worsened their condition. Now the serfs were bound not only to the land but also to their lords.
- Peter's reforms and his actions to achieve absolute power caused strong resentment among many Russians.
- Peter elevated the army, making it one of the government's most powerful institutions.
- Like Louis XIV in France, he sought to increase control over the boyars (nobles) by restricting their freedom of movement and by isolating them from others.
- Peter required many of his most powerful nobles to build homes in St. Petersburg. There they were obliged to spend a great deal of time at court, where they could be kept under Peter's watchful eye.

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4: Catherine the Great of Russia



- Peter I's grandson, Peter III, married Catherine II, a German princess.
- Peter III was unpopular and in 1762 was murdered by nobles who supported Catherine II. Known as Catherine the Great, she ruled from 1762 to 1796.

Enlightened Ideas

- Catherine supported art, science, literature, and theater. These efforts meant nothing, however, to most Russians, who lived in great poverty and ignorance.
- The Enlightenment was a period in Europe when philosophers promoted ideas of liberty, progress, reason, fraternity, and ending the abuses of church and state.
- Catherine formed the first schools for women and also the first medical school to supply medical insurance for her subjects.
- Catherine abolished torture to criminals and allowed subjects to practice different religions.

Foreign Policy

- Russia still wanted control of the Black Sea.
- She instigated the Russo-Turkish War. By the end of the war, Catherine won from Turkey a large area on the Black Sea coast and gained Turkish agreement to Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula.
- By 1741 the Russians had crossed the Bering Strait to North America and set up a colony in Alaska.

"Chapter 19: Monarchs of Europe." Holt World History: The Human Journey. Austin: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2005. 220-235. Print.

"Catherine the Great." Encyclopedia of World Biography. Detroit: Gale, 1998. World History in Context. Web. 15 Jan. 2016.

5: Constitutionalism in England

Charles I Fights Parliament

- King Charles I always needed money. Several times when Parliament refused to give him funds, he dissolved it (ended their meetings).

English Civil War (1642 to 1649)

- 1641, Parliament passed laws to limit the king's power and the king refused the limits. Thus, a war began between the king and Parliament.
- Royalists or Cavaliers = supports of King Charles I
- Roundheads = Parliament's supporters (called b/c these men wore their hair short over their ears)
- 1649, Charles found guilty of treason against Parliament and sentenced him to death. The execution of Charles was revolutionary.

Constitutional Monarchy Formed

- After the Civil War, a military government took over England. In 1659 that government collapsed, and a new Parliament was selected.
- **Restoration:** Parliament voted to ask the older son of Charles I to rule England.
- 1689—King William and Queen Mary signed the English Bill of Rights, which were laws limited the ruler's power. Some of the laws include:
 - no suspending of Parliament's laws
 - no levying of taxes without a specific grant from Parliament
 - no interfering with freedom of speech in Parliament
 - no penalty for a citizen who petitions the king about grievance.

