



# 7th Grade World History

Lesson # 20, April 17th



**Learning Target:** Analyze the economic systems of the New World and the impact on people's behavior and choices.

**I can** compare and contrast the feudal manor in Europe and the Encomienda in the New World.

# Supplies Needed

Paper  
and  
pencil



Internet  
access



Your  
brain



# Warm Up: Key Terms

Use Google to define these key terms. You should recognize some of them. Others are brand new. Write the key term and definition on your paper.

1. Feudal Manor
2. Peasant
3. Serf
4. Encomienda

# Warm Up: Key Terms (definitions)

1. Manor
  - a. a large country house with lands; the principal house of a landed estate., HISTORICAL (especially in England and Wales) a unit of land, originally a feudal lordship, consisting of a lord's demesne and lands rented to tenants.
  
2. Peasant
  - a. a poor farmer of low social status who owns or rents a small piece of land for cultivation
  
3. Serf
  - a. an agricultural laborer bound under the feudal system to work on his lord's estate.
  
4. Encomienda
  - a. a grant by the Spanish Crown to a colonist in America conferring the right to demand tribute and forced labor from the Indian inhabitants of an area

## Warm Up: Prior Knowledge



Think back to what you learned about life in the Middle Ages. On your paper, write a description of a feudal manor. Make sure to include the main features of a manor, a description of the different types of people, and an explanation of the feudal relationship.

# Warm Up: Prior Knowledge (Sample Writing)



A feudal manor was the most common community in the Middle Ages. The King owned the land and granted manors to his Lords. A manor centered around the Lord's manor house and the church. A wall usually surrounded the important buildings and the homes of the nobles. The peasants and serfs lived in huts outside the walls and near the farming fields.

The Lord was a noble who was given the land by the King. He owed the King taxes and he owed the peasants protection. He freely attended Catholic Mass, or church services regularly with his family.

Peasants were free people who worked for the Lord of the manor. They may have been blacksmiths, millers, or farmers. In return for their home and the Lord's protection, they owed him taxes. If they had enough money to afford it, they could move away if they wanted to. Just like the Lord, they regularly attended church.

Serfs were tied to the land. They were not allowed to move, start a business, or even marry without the Lord's permission. Most of them were farmers. In return for working on the farm, the Lord gave them a small home and some food. They often had barely enough to live. They also regularly attended church.

# Activity 1: Video-The Encomienda System



Click the link below to watch a video segment from Khan Academy about the Encomienda system.

[The encomienda system](#)

While you watch the video, write down answers to the following questions to help guide your viewing.

1. Encomienda actually means \_\_\_\_\_ in Spanish. (0:41)
2. Spanish men sent to the colonies and entrusted with dividing up the labor of the Native Americans were called \_\_\_\_\_. (1:00)
3. What two things did the Encomenderos offer the Native Americans? (1:46)
4. What did the Encomenderos expect to get from the Native Americans? (2:31)
5. Why didn't the Spanish send their own people to be the farmers in the New World? (3:10)
6. Who was the first official Encomendero appointed in 1502? (4:13)
7. When the encomienda system was officially established, how did the Spanish change their relationship to Native Americans? (4:47)
8. What did Bartolome de las Casas do when he visited the New World? (5:47)



# Activity 1: Video-The Encomienda System (answers)

1. Encomienda actually means \_\_\_\_\_ in Spanish.
  - a. Entrust
2. Spanish men sent to the colonies and entrusted with dividing up the labor of the Native Americans were called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Encomenderos
3. What two things did the Encomenderos offer the Native Americans?
  - a. Protection and Catholicism
4. What did the Encomenderos expect to get from the Native Americans?
  - a. Labor
5. Why didn't the Spanish send their own people to be the farmers in the New World?
  - a. The New World was a death trap to Europeans. They wanted to stay in the court of Europe.
6. Who was the first official Encomendero appointed in 1502?
  - a. Nicolas de Ovando
7. When the encomienda system was officially established, how did the Spanish change their relationship to Native Americans?
  - a. They replaced protection and teaching Catholicism with threats, extreme labor, and forced Catholicism. Becoming Catholic was no longer optional.
8. What did Bartolome de las Casas do when he visited the New World?
  - a. He released his encomienda and petitioned the King for new laws to protect Native Americans



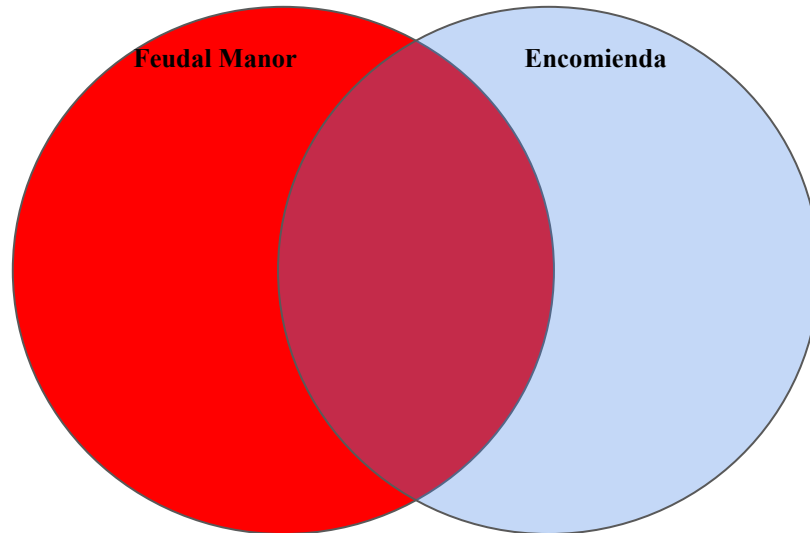
## Activity 2: Compare and Contrast-feudal manor vs encomienda

Now that you have an idea of what the encomienda system was, let's think about how it is similar to and different from the feudal manor system. Review what you wrote about the feudal manor in the warm up. Look at the sample writing that was given to you in the warm up. Now, rewatch the video and look for similarities and differences between the two. [The encomienda system](#)

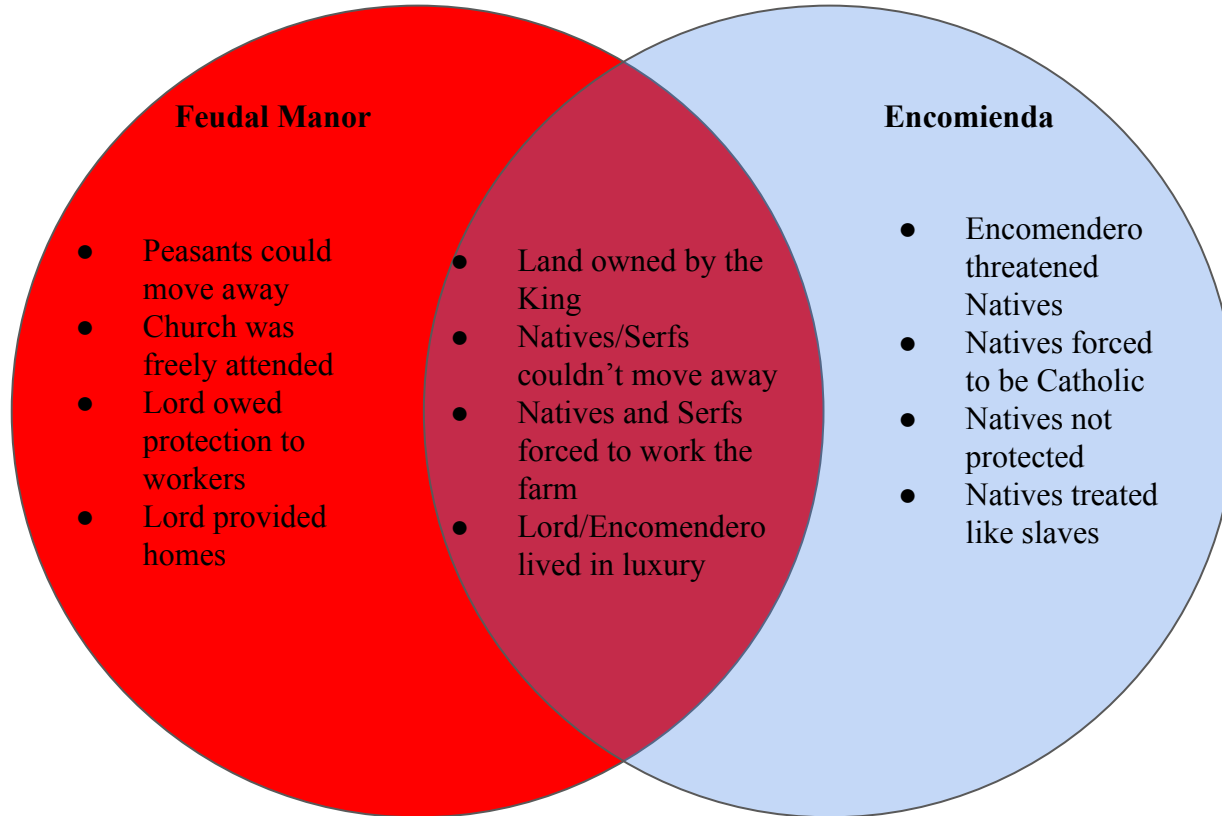
The video specifically mentions some similarities starting at 1:00, but there are many other similarities and differences you can find. Make sure you consider who owned the land, who was free to move away, the role of the church, where the Lord/Encomendero lived, and how the workers were treated. You might want to make some notes on your paper before going to the next part of this activity.

## Activity 2: Compare and Contrast-feudal manor vs encomienda

On your paper, create a Venn diagram. Label one circle “Feudal Manor” and the other one “Encomienda.” Make sure that they overlap enough to include similarities. Now, fill in the Venn diagram with the information you gathered about who owned the land, who was free to move away, the role of the church, where the Lord/Encomendero lived, how the workers were treated, and any other notes you made.



## Activity 2: Compare and Contrast-feudal manor vs encomienda (sample diagram)



# Wrap up/Extend Your Learning

You now know how the encomienda system of the Spanish worked in the New World. You have shown that it was similar to the feudal manor system that was used in Europe in the Middle Ages. In both systems, the King owned the land. He gave some of it to a Lord or Encomendero to run and make money for himself and the King. Both systems had people who were tied to the land and could not freely move away. This shows how the feudal manor led to the encomienda. But the chain doesn't stop there.

The plantation system started in the United States with the expansion of colonies in what would become the Southern States. Watch this short video and jot down on your paper any similarities you see between the plantation system of the Southern United States and what you learned today about the encomienda system. [Plantation Life](#)