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# UNIDAD 5: FEUDALISM

@rosaliarte



# 1. What are we going to learn?

**This chapter is about society in the Middle Ages. After the Carolingian Empire was split into three parts, a new system of government developed. We call this system feudalism. The chapter covers:**

- **The reasons why feudalism developed**
- **The relationships between different social classes, and what life was like for each class of people**
- **The Catholic Church in the Middle Ages**
- **Polgrimages and crusades**
- **the Romanesque style of art and architecture**



## 2. A dangerous world

In the 19th century, many invaders were attacking the people of Europe

- **The Vikings from Scandinavia** attacked many countries including Britain, Ireland and France
- **Magyars from Hungary** raided Germany and Italy.
- **Saracens from North Africa** attacked Italy, France and the Byzantine Empire.

Most people were peasant farmers, and they couldn't defend themselves against these arrackers. They needed protection, but there were two big problems:

- The kings were too poor to hace a big permanent army, so they couldn't protect the people
- The invaders attacked suddenly and then disappeared again, so there was no time to gather an army



## **PROTECTION AGAINST THE INVADERS:**

The peasants needed permanent, local protection. They got this protection from nobles with private armies. The nobles also built strong castles where people could go when the invaders came.

In return for protection, the peasants had to pay rent and taxes, and work on the nobles' land. This situation made the nobles very powerful - even more powerful than the king.





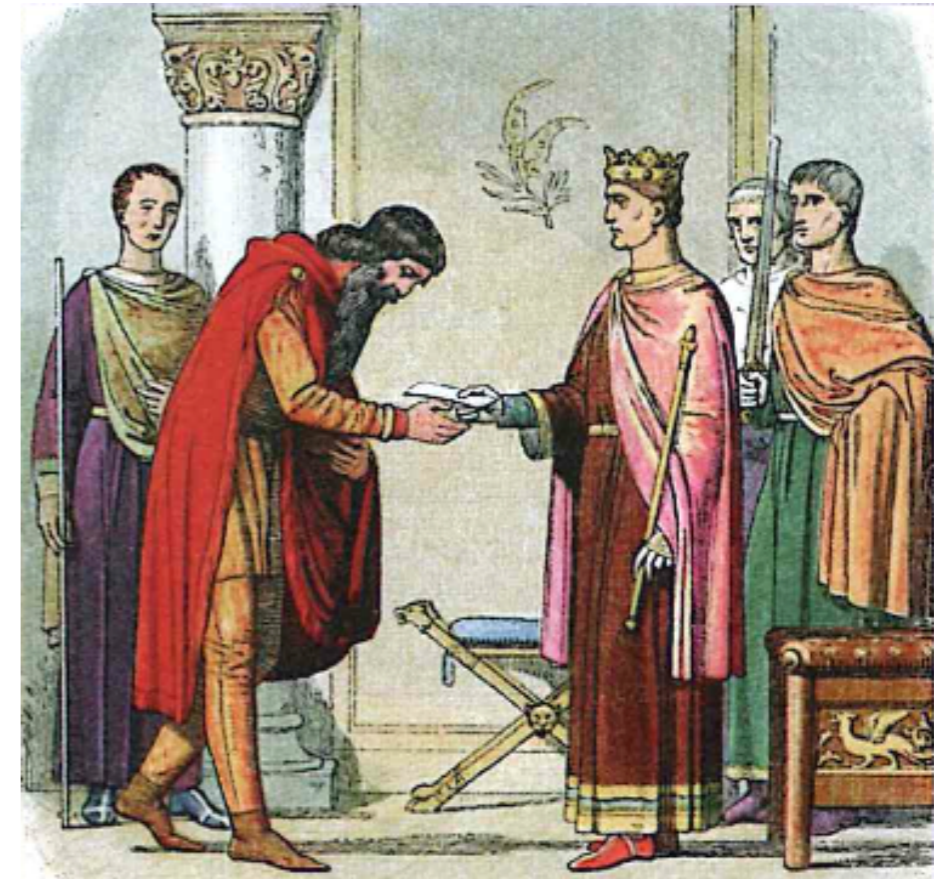
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## HOMAGE

Although the nobles were often more powerful than the king, they still recognized the king as the ruler of the country, and so they paid homage to him. Homage was a ceremony in which a noble promised to be loyal and obedient to the king or to a more powerful noble.



The person who promised to be loyal was called the **VASSAL** of the other person.

Sometimes kings paid homage to other kings. In this case, they often paid a tax called a **TRIBUTE**.

Even after they had paid homage, nobles often rebelled against the king!



# 3. What was feudalism?

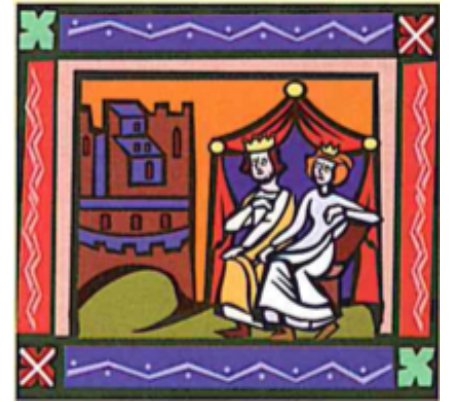
In the feudal system, the king, nobles, and peasants all had different responsibilities and rights. The system was quite complicated, but basically:

- one person gave protection and/or land to someone else
- in return, the other person had to fight or work for their protector

The king was the lord of lords, he was the "Primus inter pares" first among equals. He was who distributed the fiefdoms, he directed the military campaigns, he collected taxes and the judge of the kingdom, but he still depended on the nobleman.



- **The king,** was the ruler of the country, and he owned all of the land. However, he did not have a big army, so he was quite weak. He needed help from the nobles to fight wars.



The king gave the nobles:

- land
- Protection

## **NOBLES:**

in return for:

- Homage
- military aid

- **Barons,** were the vassals of the King. They paid homage to the king. In times of war, they had to provide knights to fight in the king's army. In return, the king gave them large areas of land. On their land: they acted as judges and they collected taxes for themselves (not for the king!)



- **Caballeros,** eran menos importantes, pues eran los vasallos de los varones. Prometían luchar para el barón y a cambio el barón le daba tierras.

The nobles gave the peasants:

- land
- Protection

## **PEASANTS:**

- in return for:
- work on the land
  - Paying rent



- Peasants were farmers who rented land from a noble (baron or knight). Often they paid the rent by working for the noble, they also had to work for the Church, in return, they were protected by the noble.
- **Serfs,** could not leave the noble's land without permission. However, they were not slaves, they could not be bought and sold.
- **Free Men,** could leave if they wanted to; for example, they could go to work on another noble's land.

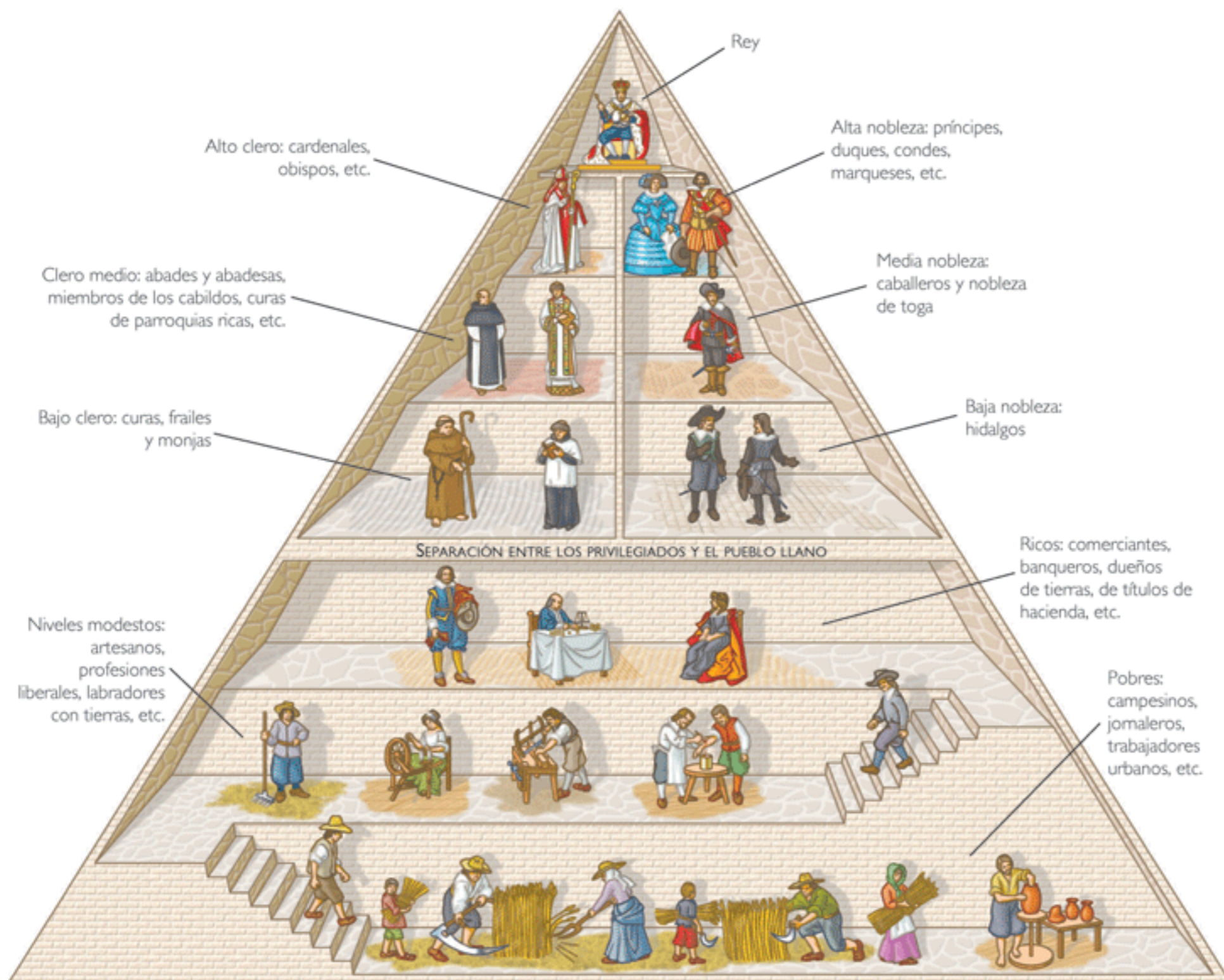


## DECÁLOGO DEL BUEN CABALLERO

**E**l ideal caballeresco se atenía a normas y estas llevaron a que se formularan distintos decálogos que las resumían. El famoso historiador francés León Gautier, sobre la base de fuentes medievales, reprodujo uno en su libro *La caballería*, publicado en 1895, que podría considerarse una síntesis de los conocidos.

- 1 Creerás en las enseñanzas de la Iglesia y obedecerás sus mandamientos.
- 2 Protegerás a la Iglesia.
- 3 Defenderás a los débiles.
- 4 Amarás el país en que naciste.
- 5 Te mantendrás firme ante el enemigo.
- 6 Lucharás contra los infieles.
- 7 Cumplirás tu deber feudal siempre que no sea contrario a tu deber hacia Dios.
- 8 No mentirás ni traicionarás la palabra dada.
- 9 Serás generoso con todos.
- 10 En todo momento y lugar defenderás la Justicia y el Bien.





Pirámide estamental





Vestimenta de la  
época



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Caballero y Dama



# Ejercicios en la libreta:

Para la próxima clase hay que traer los apuntes  
en tu libreta.



## 4. The fief

In feudal society, towns were no longer important. Instead, life was based around **fief**. A fief was the **area given to a knight** in return for providing military service. **Each fief** consisted of a castle or manor house, one or more villages, farming land and forest.

- **The nobles** lived in a castle or a big house called a manor house.
- **The peasants** lived in simple houses in the village. The peasants had to collect firewood and build roads and bridges. They had to pay the noble to grind their corn in his windmill.
- **The farming land** was divided into sections. At least a third of the land belonged to the noble, some land belonged to the Church. The peasants could grow they own food on the rest of the land.



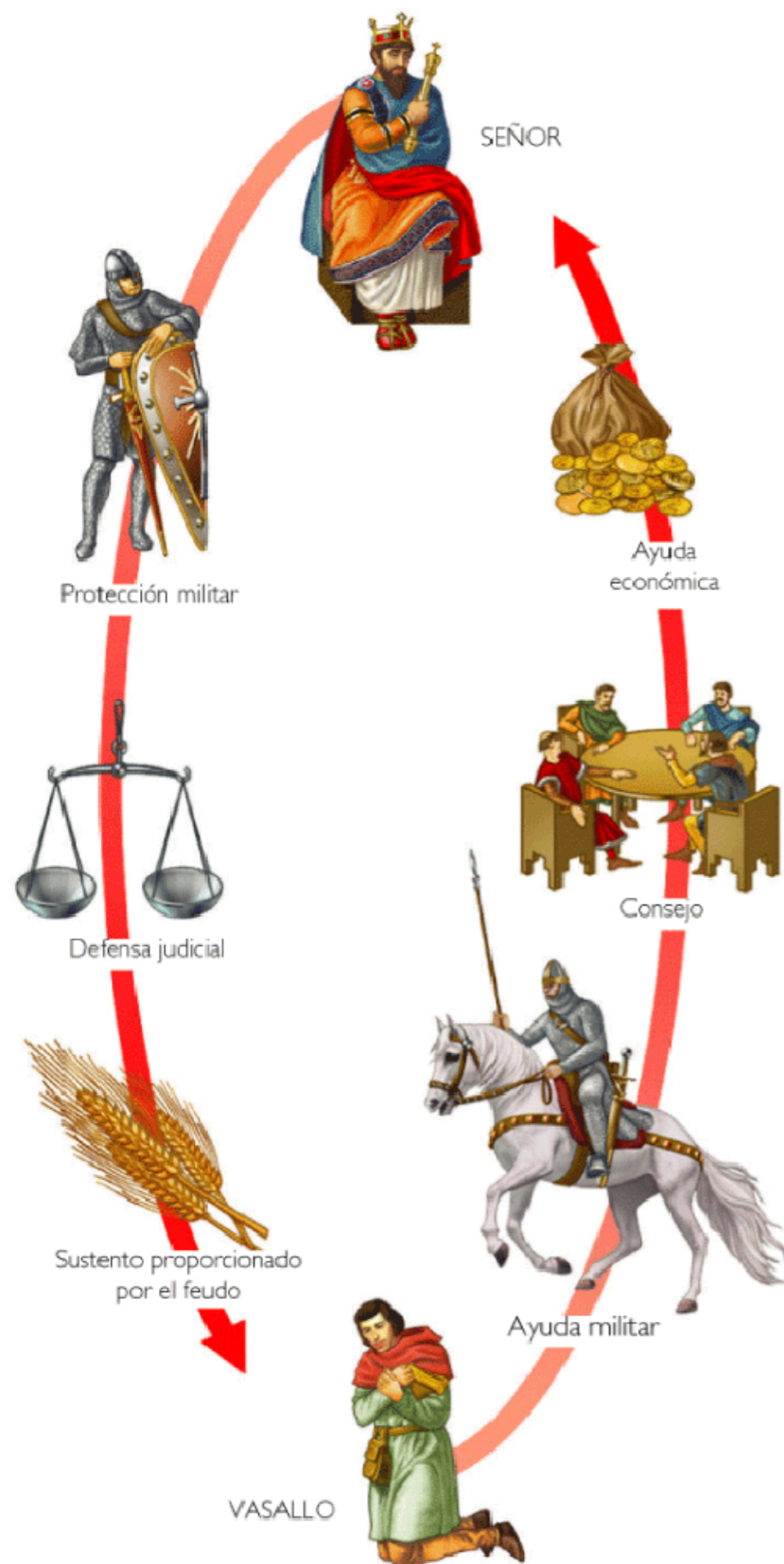


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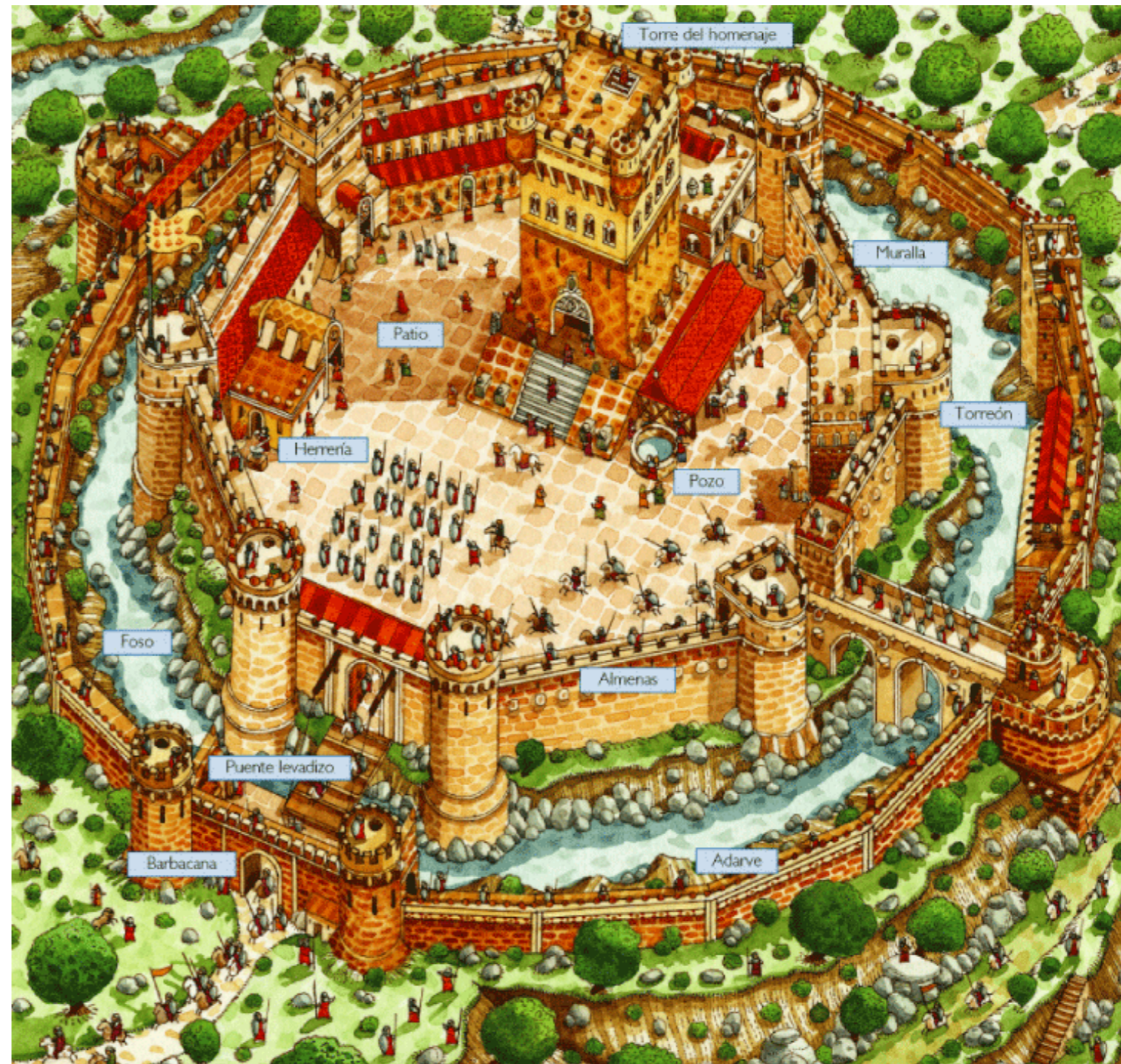




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## **AGRICULTURE:**

People grew crops like wheat, barley, beans and grapes. There were no fertilizers, so each year half of the land was left fallow (uncultivated). This allowed the land to recover its fertility, but it reduced the amount of food that they could grow.

There were few advances in technology in this period, but it is when windmills were invented. They were used to grind corn into flour and extract oil from olives.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF FEUDALISM:**

Each fief produced what it required, so there was no need for trade between different fiefs. Trade almost disappeared, which meant that the different parts of Europe became isolated from one another. It became harder to share knowledge, so progress slowed down.



# Ejercicios en la libreta:

Toma los apuntes en tu libreta y realizamos en clase “Las partes del todo”



## DESTREZA: LAS PARTES DEL TODO

EL "TODO"

PARTES DEL "TODO"

PARTE CONSIDERADA

¿QUÉ LE PASARÍA AL "TODO" SI LE FALTARA ESA PARTE?

¿CUÁL ES LA FUNCIÓN DE ESA PARTE?

PARTE CONSIDERADA

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¿CUÁL ES LA FUNCIÓN DE ESA PARTE?

## 5. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN FEUDAL SOCIETY

We have learned about the nobles and peasants, but there was also a third class of people in feudal society: the **clergy**. The Roman Catholic Church played a very important role in people's lives in the Middle Ages. It was also very rich:

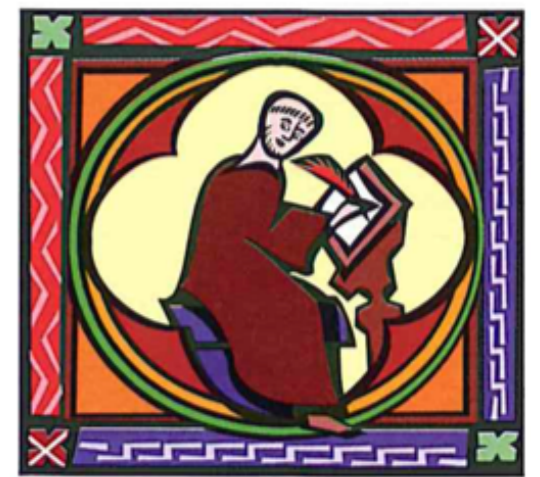
- Kings gave lots of land to the Church. The Church got money by renting out the land to peasant farmers.
- Everyone paid taxes called **tithes** (a tenth of their income) to the Church.
- In everyday life, it regulated acts of worship (prayers, masses), personal rites (baptisms, marriages).
- Masses were given in Latin, a language spoken only by educated people in the Middle Ages.



# 5.1 Life in a Monastery

In the Middle Ages, many people chose to serve God by living in a monastery or convent. When they entered the monastery, they had to make certain vows (promises):

- **Obedience**: They promised to obey the abbot or abbess, and the rules of the religious order. Each monastery belonged to a particular order, like the Order of St. Benedict, and each order had different rules. In some orders, the monks were not allowed to speak at all.
- **Chastity**: They were not allowed to marry.
- **Poverty**: They gave away all of the things that they owned before becoming a monk or nun.
- The most important activity in a monastery was praying, which the monks had to do eight times a day. There were also many other tasks: working in the orchards, looking after the sick and the poor, and doing chores (preparing meals, washing up and cleaning).
- Monasteries were also centres of learning. The monks studied and copied Greek and Roman manuscripts, and gave lessons to boys and new monks.





The monastery was arranged around a central courtyard called a cloister. It included accommodation for monks and guests, a church, a library, gardens and orchards.

The monastery was directed by an abbot or abbess, who served as feudal lord in the lands surrounding the monastery.

In the area of the monastery called "scriptorium", the monks dedicated to writing translated or copied manuscripts in the strictest silence.

## This is hoe the Church was organised:

Pope:

- leader of the Roman Catholic Church
- had a private army
- governed the Papal states in central Italy
- could excommunicate people

Below the pope, the clergy were split into two groups:

### **REGULAR CLERGY:**

Members of the religious orders

Abbots, abbesses

Monks, nuns

**SECULAR CLERGY:** did not belong to a religious order

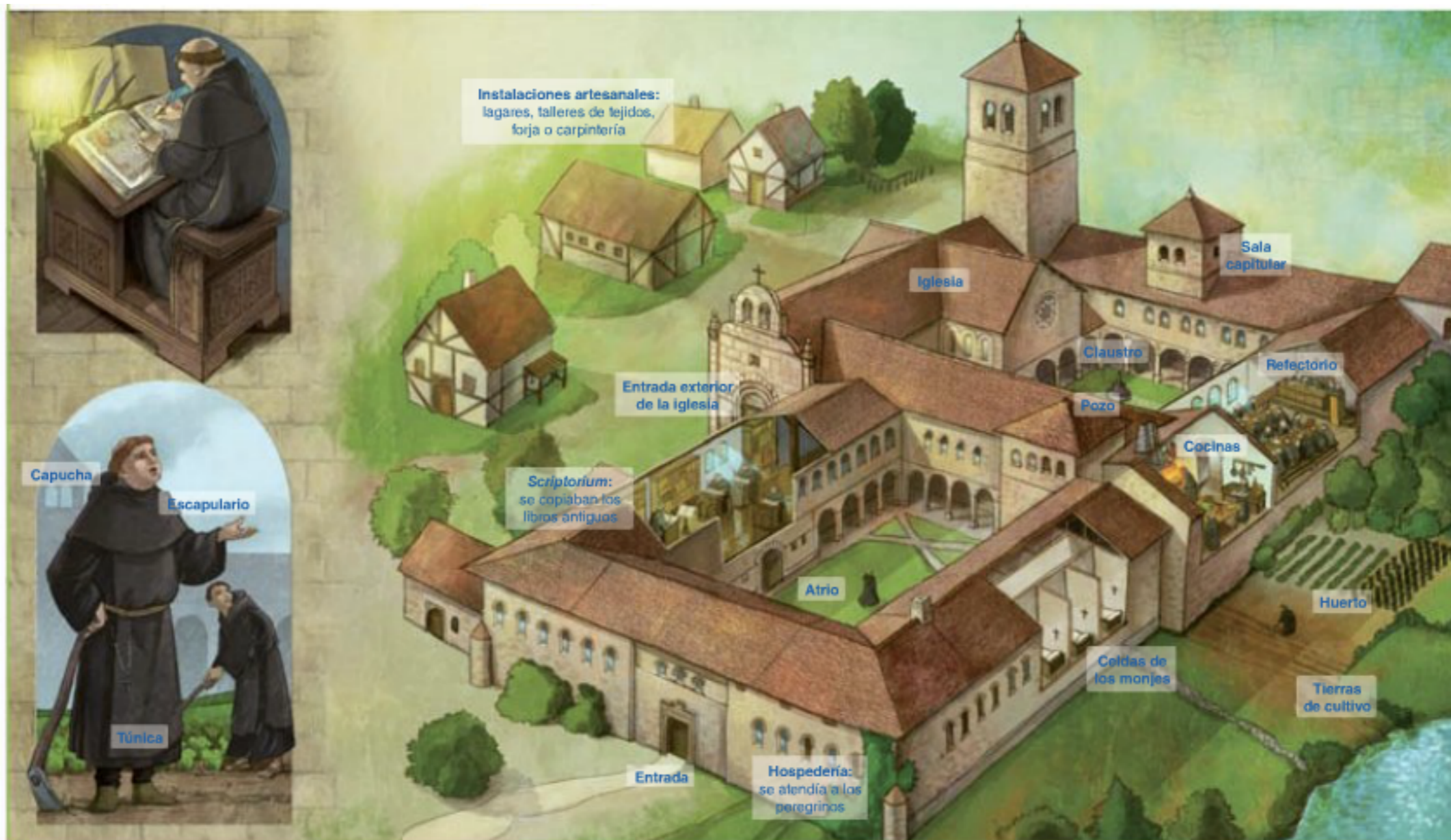
archbishops, bishops

priests

← High Clergy (came from the noble classes) →

← Low Clergy (came from the poorer classes) →







Recreación  
de un  
monasterio



## 5.2 Pilgrimages

In the Middle Ages, many people went on pilgrimages. A pilgrimage was a journey to a place where a saint was buried, or where important relics were kept. When they got there, people would pray to the saint, and ask for help with their problems. Three of the most important destinations for pilgrims were **Jerusalem, Rome and Santiago de Compostela.**

### Why did people go on Pilgrimages?

- People wanted to see holy places and objects.
- They visited holy sites as penance: it was a way of paying for their sins, so they could be forgiven.
- Pilgrims often wanted to ask a favour: maybe they were ill, and they hoped to be cured.
- Finally, some people went on a pilgrimage because they wanted to see the world.



## **THE JOURNEY:**

Most pilgrims went by foot or rode on horseback. Many even walked barefoot, to show their humility. Bandits waited in the mountains and forests, as it was easy to steal from the pilgrims. Pilgrims also faced bad weather, disease and wild animals like wolves.

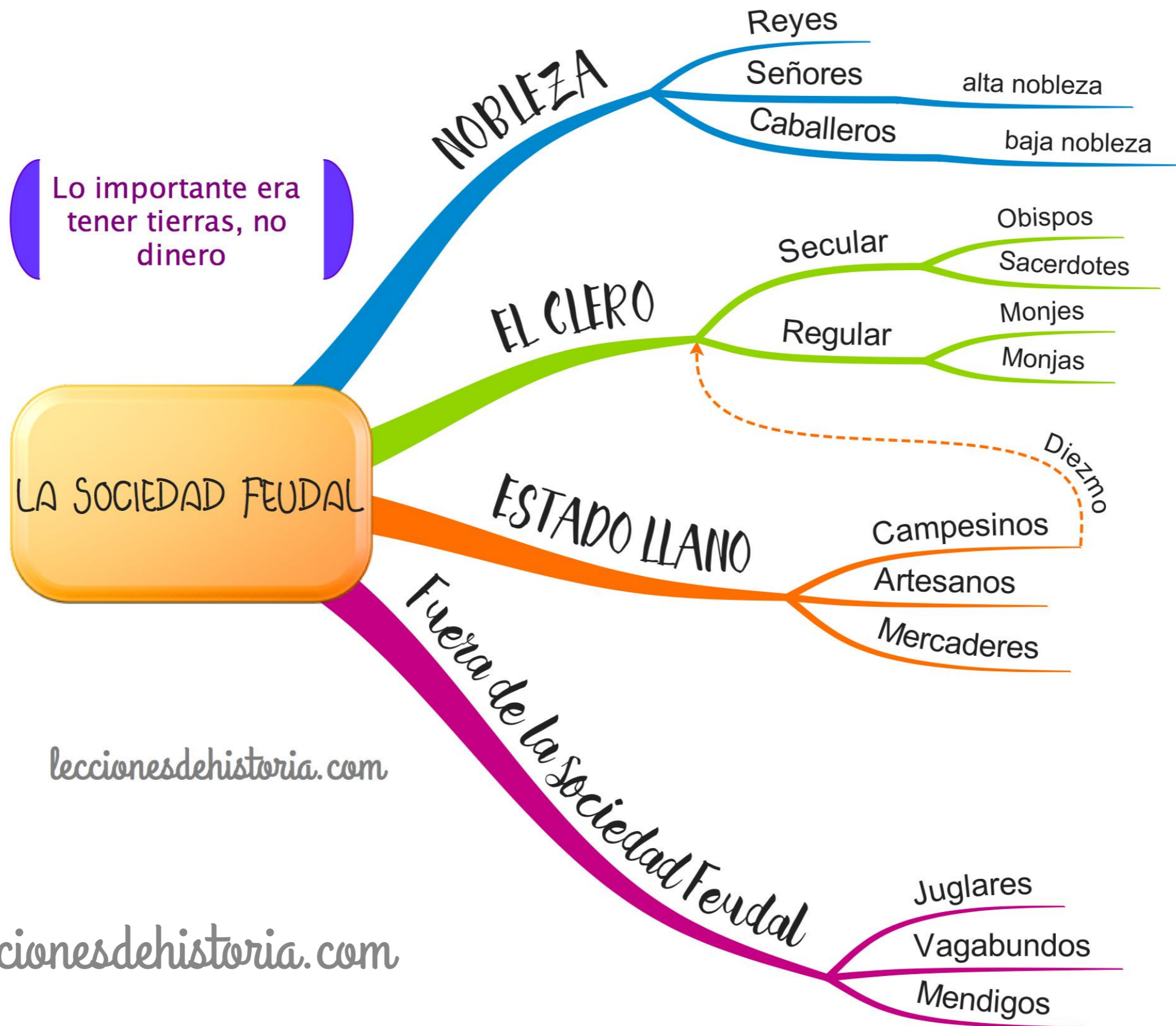
People from all countries and all social classes went on pilgrimages, so you met people who you would never normally meet at home. It was safer to travel in groups, so people preferred to walk together. Although shorter pilgrimages only lasted a few days, long journeys took months: plenty of time to become good friends with the other pilgrims!.

## **CONSEQUENCES:**

- **Towns developed,** along the main pilgrim routes. The towns had inns where the pilgrims could eat and sleep, and markets where they could buy the things they needed.
- **Spread ideas across Europe,** because people from many different countries travelled together on pilgrimages. For example, it helped to spread the Romanesque style of architecture.



# 6. LA SOCIEDAD FEUDAL



## ¿Cómo vestía la nobleza?

### Varón



### Dama

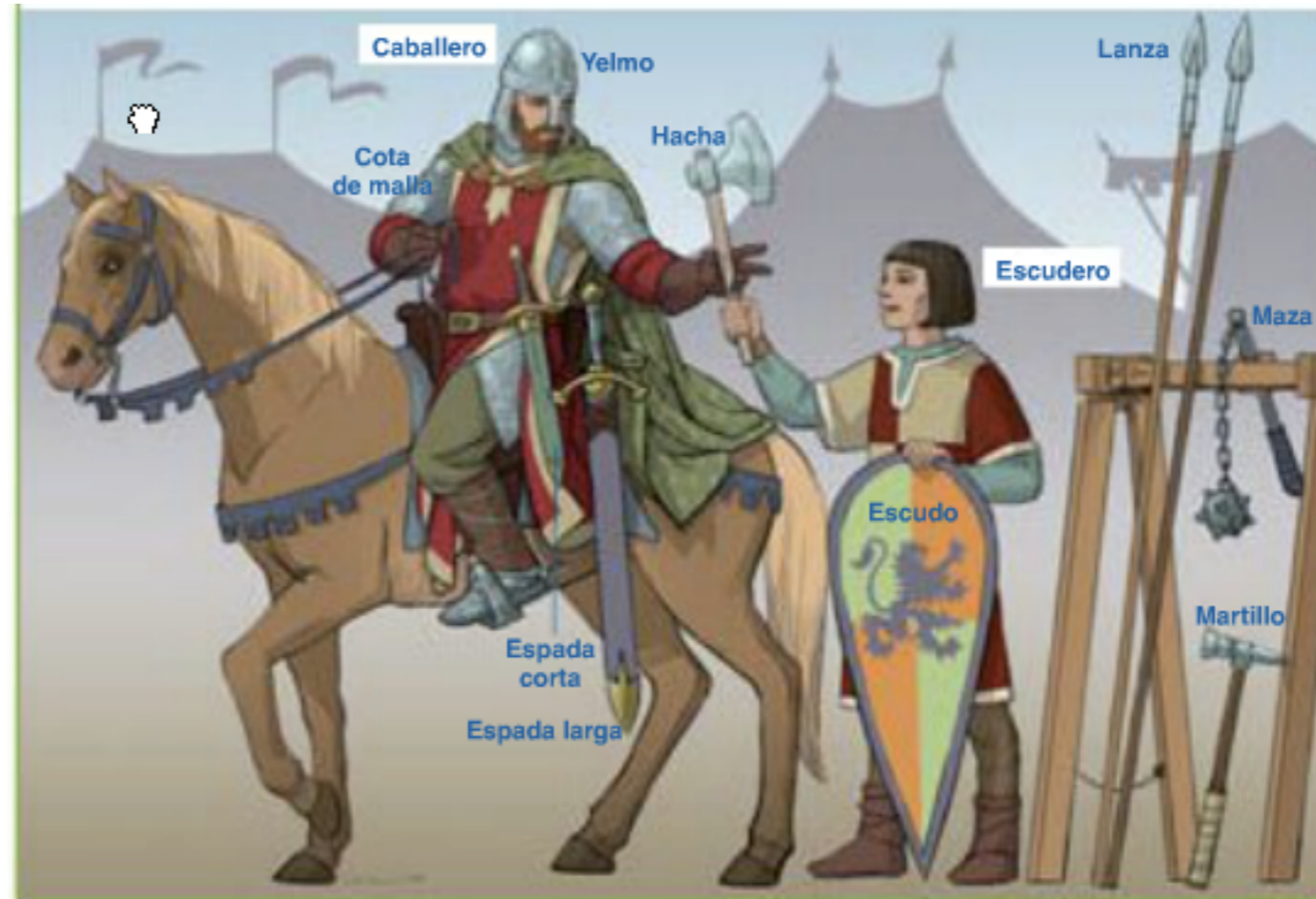


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# Ejercicios en la libreta:

Para la próxima clase hay que traer los apuntes en tu libreta.



# 7. Entertainment

For most people, life was very hard in the Middle Ages, but occasionally they were able to relax and enjoy themselves. At weddings, festivals, tournaments and fairs, people would sing and dance, and have fun playing sports and games.

## **FAIRS:**

Medieval fairs were big markets, where people came to buy and sell things. Some of the really big fairs, like the ones in Champagne, lasted for six weeks! Although the main purpose of the fairs was trade, they were also a chance to have fun. The local people and visiting merchandise were entertained by singers, jugglers, acrobats and stilt walkers. You could also participate in archery and wrestling competitions, or play games.

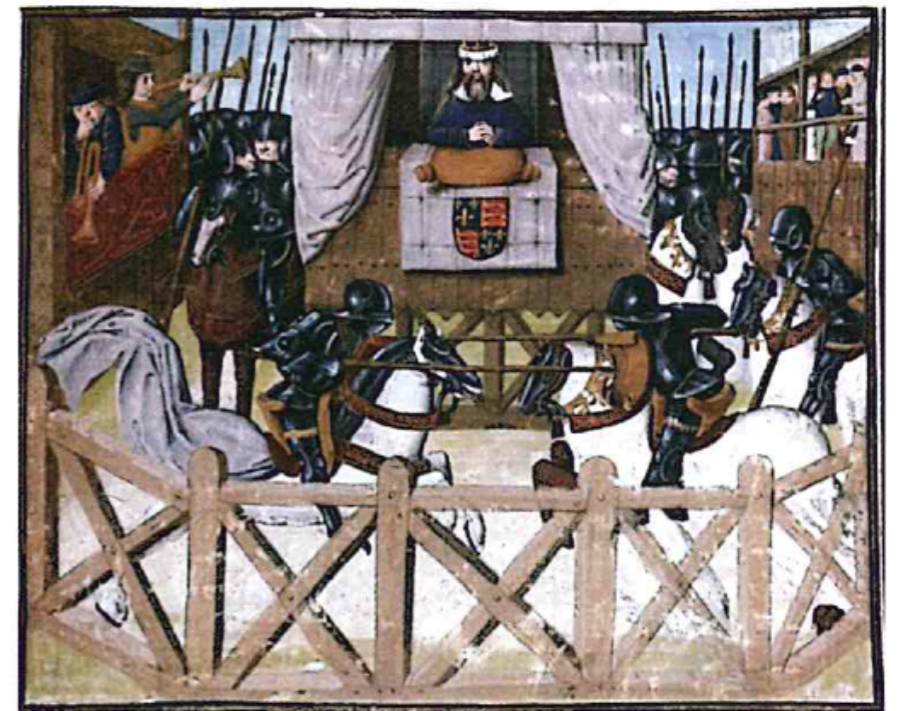


## TOURNAMENTS:

Tournaments were originally a chance for knights to practise their battle skills. Later, however, they were mainly for entertainment, and lots of people came to watch the knights, including women and children. There were two main parts to a tournament:

- **THE MÊLÉE:** the knights were divided into two teams, which fought against each other.
- **THE JOUST:** A fight between two knights on horseback. You had to knock your opponent off his horse with your lance, but hitting his horse or his legs was cheating!.

The knights used special weapons and armor which were supposed to stop people being badly injured. Even so, tournaments were very dangerous, and participants were often killed. At the end of the tournament, the host held a big banquet, and the bravest and best knights were given prizes.



## **CARNIVAL:**

It was celebrated just before Lent (Ash Wednesday), when there are privations to prepare the Holy Week. So the carnival was a party in which the faithful could eat those foods that would later be prohibited and practice activities that later could not be.

Only in carnival was a moment of non-religious fun allowed.





Celebración  
de Carnaval  
en la época



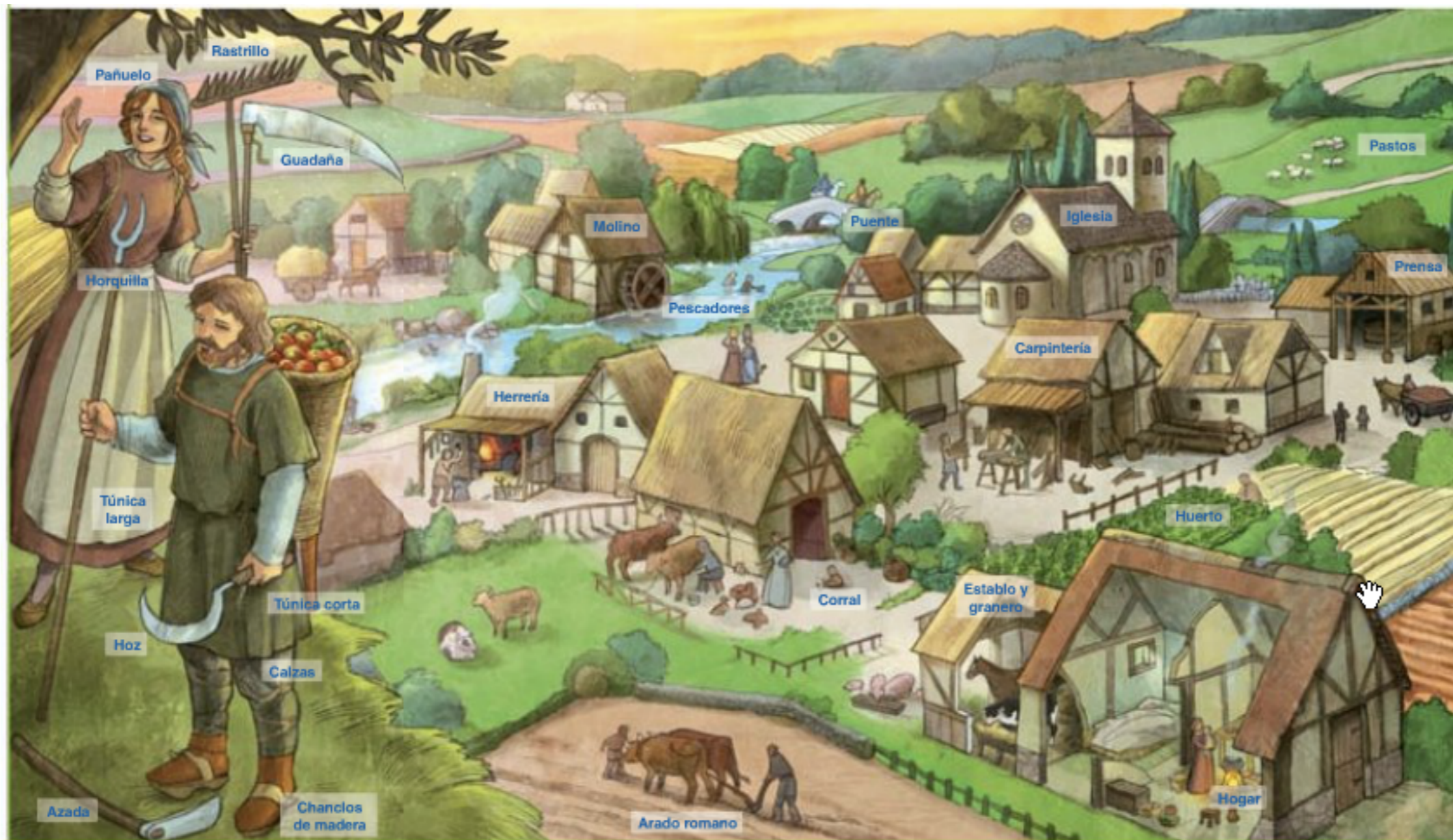


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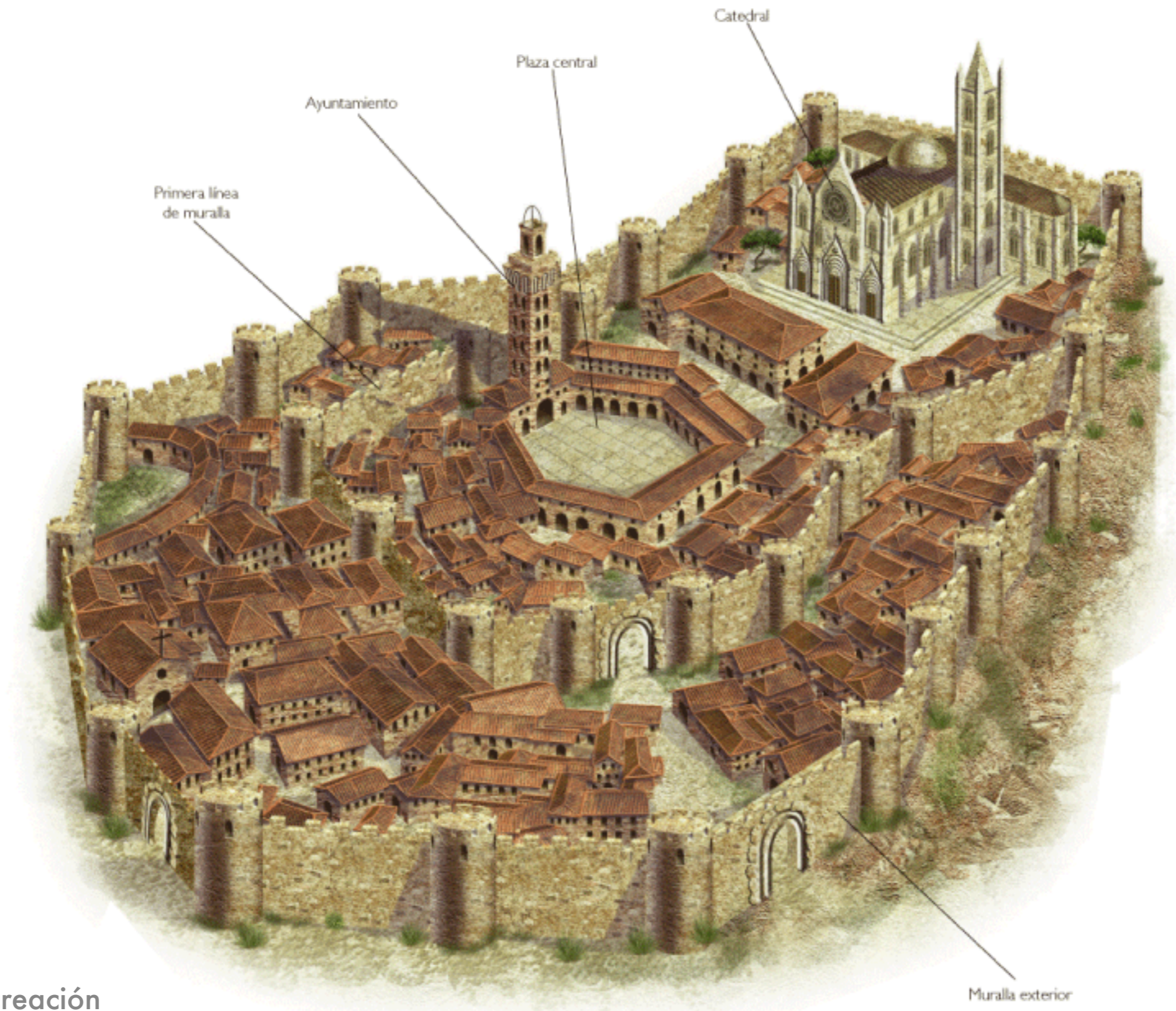


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Casa  
campesina  
de la época





Recreación  
de una  
ciudad  
medieval



# Ejercicios en la libreta:

Para la próxima clase hay que traer los apuntes en tu libreta.



# Ejercicio en el blog:

Para la fecha que indique la profesora, hay que realizar el siguiente ejercicio en el blog:

- Investiga en internet y publica una entrada hablando sobre algunas de las Cruzadas. (Máximo 10 frases)



## 8. THE CRUSADES

In the 11th century, the Turkish Muslims expanded their empire. They conquered many parts of the Byzantine Empire, and took the city of Jerusalem from the Egyptians. Many Christians in Europe were worried, because:

- They were afraid that the Muslims were becoming too powerful, and that the Byzantine Empire was collapsing
- The Turks were less tolerant of Christians than the Egyptians; this made it harder for Christian pilgrims to visit Jerusalem

### **THE FIRST CRUSADE:**

In 1096, Pope Urban II said that it was the duty of Christians to help the Byzantines fight against the Turks. He called for a crusade. Many barons and knights set out on the First Crusade. It was a long and dangerous journey, but in 1099 they took Jerusalem. The crusaders established several Christian Kingdoms on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean.



## LATER CRUSADES:

There were many more crusades, but gradually the Muslims took back the land that they had lost. Eventually, in 1291, the last crusader kingdom disappeared.

Of the later crusades, probably the most famous is the Third Crusade, which started in 1187 when Saladin took Jerusalem from the Christians.

The crusade was led by Richard I of England. Neither side was completely victorious: Richard I had to go back home without taking Jerusalem, but Saladin promised to let Christian pilgrims visit the city.





## Las 3 primeras Cruzadas

### PRIMERA CRUZADA

- Raimundo de Tolosa
- Roberto de Flandes y Roberto de Normandía
- Godofredo de Bouillon y Balduino de Flandes
- Itinerario conjunto

Musulmanes    Cristianos

### SEGUNDA CRUZADA

- Itinerario conjunto
- Luis VII de Francia
- Conrado III de Alemania

### TERCERA CRUZADA

- Federico I Barbarroja
- Ricardo Corazón de León
- Felipe II Augusto

Territorio conquistado



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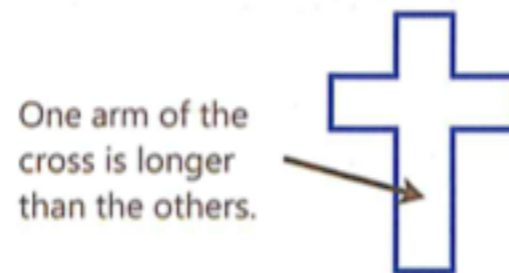
# 9. ROMANESQUE ART

In the Middle Ages, lots of people travelled on pilgrimages and crusades, which helped to spread ideas. This led to a similar style of architecture and art being established in much of Europe. This style was called Romanesque, and it was the first consistent style to appear since Roman times. The Romanesque style was widely used until the end of the 12th century, when the Gothic style started to take over.

## ARCHITECTURE

There were not many towns, so most Romanesque buildings were churches, monasteries and castles in the countryside. They were built from stone.

Most churches had a cruciform plan as a symbol of Christ's crucifixion:





Thick walls

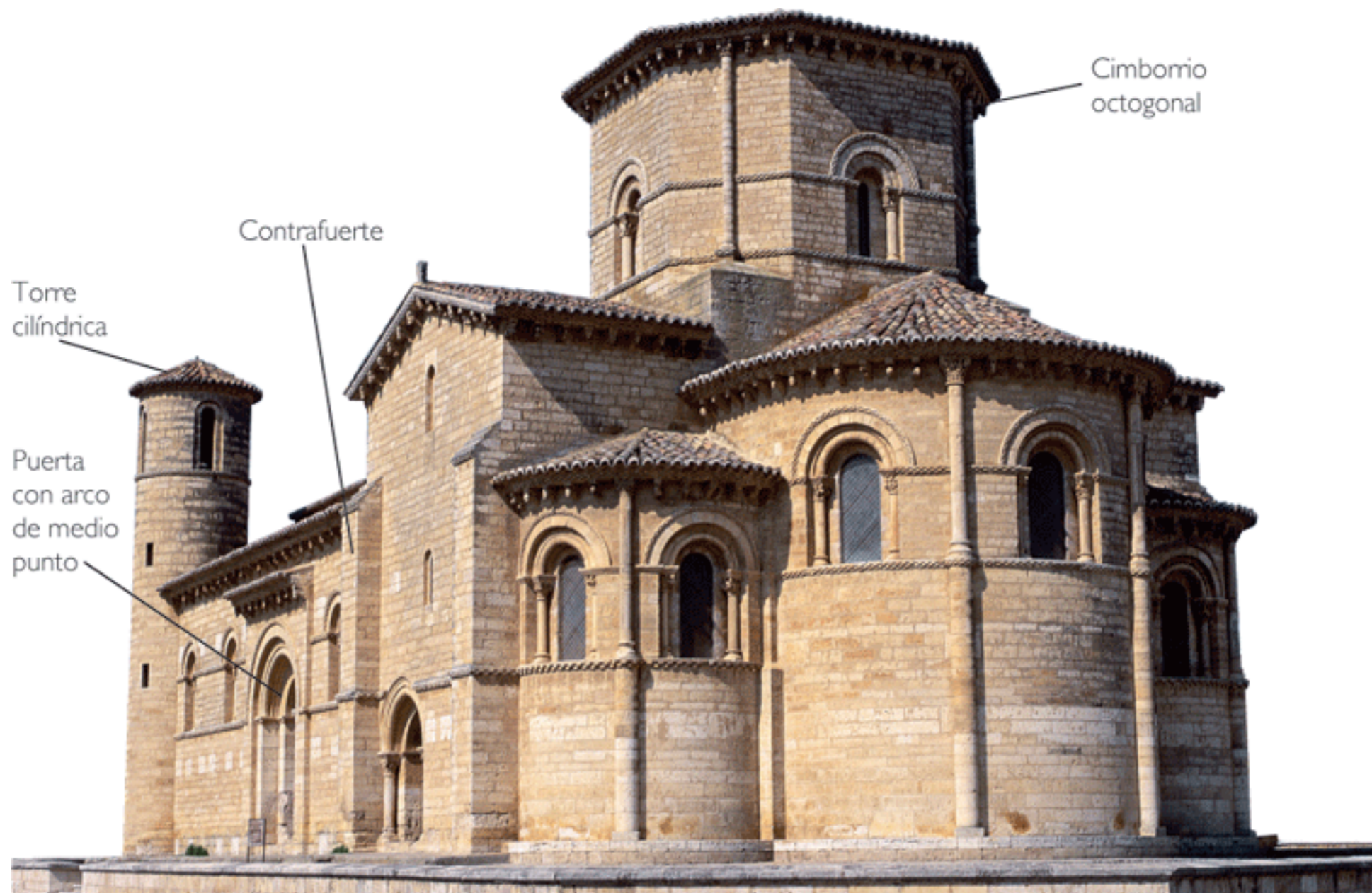
Small windows

Semi-circular arches

Imágenes extraídas de Linguaframe



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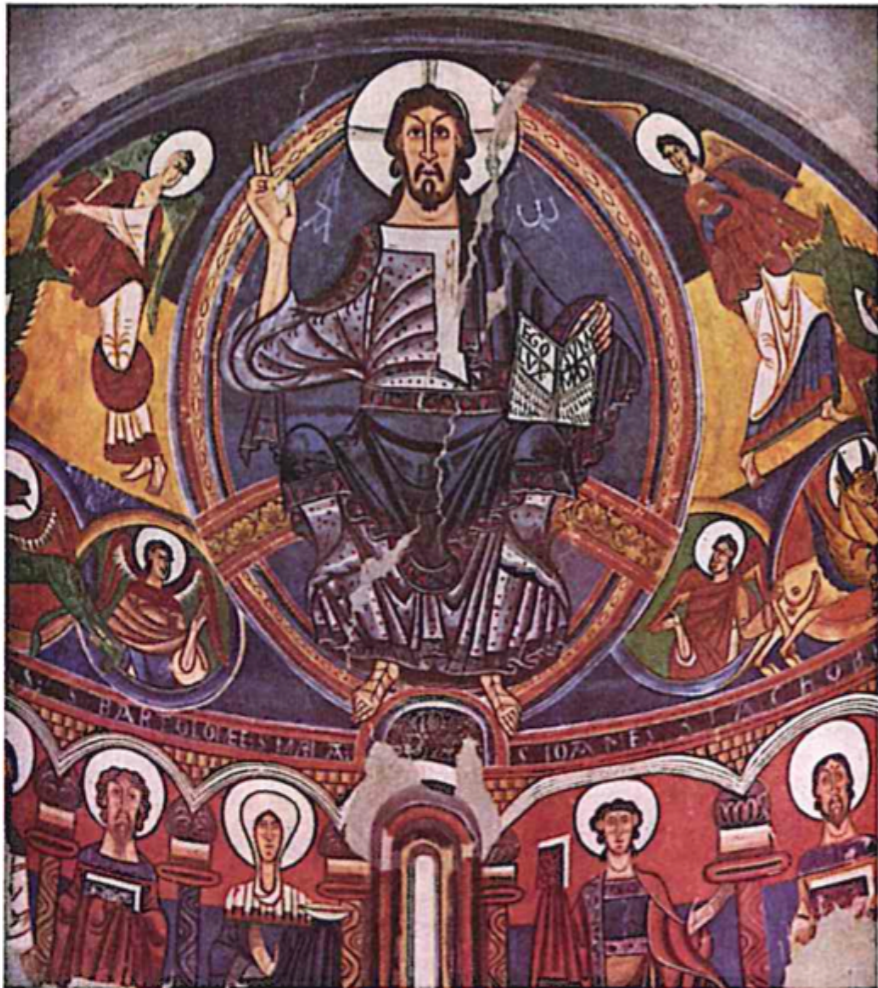
Ejemplo de una iglesia románica en  
España (Palencia)



## **PAINTING AND SCULPTURE:**

Romanesque paintings were simple in style. Most people could not read or write, so churches were decorated with murals showing scenes from the Bible. The walls of the church were like a “picture Bible”. This mural of Christ is from the church of Sant Climent de Taüll. It uses very strong colors, which means that the picture looks very flat or two-dimensional.

Sculptures and reliefs on church buildings also showed scenes from the Bible.



### La escultura exenta



El cristo crucificado, de cuatro clavos, no muestra sufrimiento.



La Virgen no muestra ninguna relación maternal con su hijo.

Imágenes extraídas de Anaya

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(ofrecen  
protección)

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fidelidad)

**FEUDALISMO**



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# MAPAS PARA SABER MÁS



# MAPAS PARA SABER MÁS



Europa hacia el año 1000



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# MAPAS PARA SABER MÁS



Europa hacia el año 1360



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# Ejercicios en la libreta:

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# Glosario

Vasallo, Homenaje, Tributo, Barón, Siervo, feudo, feudalismo, Románico, Cruzada, peregrinos, reliquias, barbecho, sarracenos, magiares, vikingos.

# Glossary

<http://www.students.linguaframe.com/gh2-audio-glossary>

baron, crusade, fief, homage, peasant, pilgrimage, privileges, rights, serf, vassal



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EL TEXTO DE LOS SIGUIENTES APUNTES HA SIDO REALIZADO CON UN TOTAL FIN EDUCATIVO Y NO LUCRATIVO. LAS IMÁGENES EXTRAÍDAS PARA SU ELABORACIÓN HAN SIDO RECOPIADAS DE WEBS DE INTERNET MENCIONADAS, Y EN SU MAYORÍA DE WIKIPEDIA. EN EL CASO QUE RECONOCIERA ALGUNA IMAGEN COMO SUYA Y TUVIERA COPYRIGHT, POR FAVOR, HÁGALO SABER A [LECCIONESDEHISTORIA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LECCIONESDEHISTORIA@GMAIL.COM) Y ÉSTA SERÁ RETIRADA LO MÁS BREVE POSIBLE.



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