



# The KING

Being a medieval King has **not** mean to have **the whole power** in their kingdom, it was just “*primus inter pares*” the first among the rest of the nobles.

Medieval kingship was about **relationships** tricky, dangerous, and expensive relationships. In modern terms, it had more in common with being a mafia “don” than with being a president or even a dictator. A king had immense power and privilege, but only insofar as he was clever and **diplomatic** enough to maintain them.

The king would have to cede considerable power to the nobles so that they, in turn, could effectively control their territories with **the help of the nobles**. As you might imagine, barons were pretty cunning and power-hungry in their own right, and many were prone to rebellion. So, the King had to try to **keep his barons happy** such that they didn't rebel (much). He had to **mediate disputes** between them without seeming to favor one over another. He also had to maintain his authority over them, often through coercion and brutality, mainly because he also had to collect money and services from them.

The king ruled the land and its people, but the Church was the representative of God on earth. The **Pope considered himself the ultimate authority** and believed he had the right to crown kings.

A king enjoyed the **highest standard of living in the land**. In the Middle Ages, this meant a pretty balanced diet and comfortable, even luxurious, surroundings. He also got the benefit of the “best” in medieval medicine. He could enjoy the most expensive horses, hunting with trained hawks, being entertained by the best storytellers and musicians.

A king could **marry just about anyone he pleased**, although it was important to choose wisely. Marriages were prime **opportunities for forming alliances**, and a king could only hope that his politically advantageous bride could also bear him a nice supply of heirs -- one son to rule after his death and both sons and daughters for use in the marriage-alliance business.

## Goals

**Goal n°1.** Write a letter to the Pope with the intention of get his permission to conquer a new muslim territory that limits with your kingdom. (Castilla y León)

### Standars of quality:

- Use a formal lenguaje
- Include in your letter information about the concrete places you want to conquer
- Explain the resources you are going to use for conquering
- Clarify what are you going to give to the Pope in exchange.

**Goal n<sup>o</sup>2.** Seek strategic marriages for your 5 children (2 sons and 3 daughters) Present your proposal in a genealogic tree.

**Standars of quality:**

- Be realistic, choose a real King of the Kingdom of Leon from VII to X century and include in your proposal posible marriages at that time.
- Draw a complete genealogical tree.
- Include pictures if posible.

**Goal n<sup>o</sup>3.** Desing a vassal ceremony and the following party.

**Standars of quality:**

- Include the different parts of the ceremony
- Include the list of guests
- Prepare the ítems you need to buy for the party, according to the number of guests
- Numerate the list of entertainments for the party.



**Goal n<sup>o</sup>4.** Reproduce a drawing of the homage tower and the flags that could decorate it.

**Standars of quality:**

- The drawing is accurate and colored.
- The flags follow the style of medieval times.
- All the symbols of the flag are explain.