

# Peasant



The peasants were at the bottom of the Feudal System and had to obey their local lord to whom they had sworn an oath of obedience on the Bible.

The one thing the peasant had to do in Medieval England was to pay out money in taxes or rent. He had to pay rent for his land to his lord; he had to pay a tax to the church called a **tithe**. This was a tax on all of the farm produce he had produced in that year. A tithe was 10% of the value of what he had farmed.

The lifestyle of peasants in Medieval England was extremely hard and harsh. Many worked as farmers in fields owned by the lords and their lives were controlled by the farming year.

The lives of peasant children would have been very different to today. They would not have attended school for a start. Very many would have died before they were six months old as disease would have been very common. As soon as was possible, children joined their parents working on the land. They could not do any major physical work but they could clear stones off the land – which might damage farming tools – and they could be used to chase birds away during the time when seeds were sown. Peasant children could only look forward to a life of great hardship.

It was said that a peasant could expect to be fully bathed just twice in their life; once, when they were born and when they had died! Face and hand washing was more common but knowledge of hygiene was non-existent. No-one knew that germs could be spread by dirty hands.

## Goals

**Goal n<sup>o</sup> 1.** Investigate and describe the new farming methods that appeared in medieval times.

### Standards of quality:

- The methods are described clearly and illustrate with some pictures.
- Include more than 3 methods
- All of them existed and were revolutionary.
- The presentation is tidy and well organized.

**Goal n°2.** The Black Death is scourging Europe. Make a mental map with the most relevant information about it

**Standars of quality:**

- The ideas are clear and concrete
- Include all the important aspects about the Black Death
- Include some pictures or graphics

**Goal n°3.** You have 8 children and the situation of your house is dramatic, try to plan the future of the 8 within the fief. Look for an occupation for each of them among the possible tasks to perform in the fief

**Standars of quality:**

- Your plan is realistic and clear
- You find different tasks for everyone
- The tasks of each one are describe in detail.



**Goal n°4.** Identify the possible areas of farming near the castle, draw a map and plan its exploitation and other necessary resources.

**Standars of quality:**

- The drawing is accurate and colored.
- The farming plan is realistic and complete
- The resources for farming are enough and typical of medieval times