

Manor Life

The land that was owned by the lord was called the manor. A manor consisted of a village with land around it. The peasants lived in the village which was surrounded by large fields. Each field was divided into long strips. A peasant would farm strips in each of the fields. This made sure that everyone had a share of the good and bad land.

Each year the peasants changed the crops they grew in each field. This was called crop rotation. Have a look at the table below to see how it worked.



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Year	North Field	West Field	South Field
1	Fallow	Barley	Wheat
2	Barley	Wheat	Fallow
3	Wheat	Fallow	Barley

Every year, one field was left fallow, or empty, so that the soil could get its goodness back.

The other land around the village was also important. Peasants collected wood from the woodland; their animals grazed on the common land, fish could be collected from the river, which was also used for washing and cooking. The land around the village supplied the peasants with nuts, berries and mushrooms.

Peasants lived in small houses with a small garden where they grew cabbages. They usually built their own houses and had very few possessions. They would have

animals like pigs, sheep cows and chickens, but other than their day to day tools and equipment, they owned very little.

What a peasant owned

- Animals
- House
- Hay to use a socks to cover the floor and use as a mattress
- A few stools
- Table
- One change of clothes
- A few small blankets

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