



The Norman Conquest



Learning Objective:

To know about life in Norman times under the feudal system

Next

Think about your school. Who has the most **power** and **control** out of the following people?

Teachers



Pupils

Deputy Head

Teaching Assistants

Headteacher

Put them in order of who you think has the **most to least** power and control.

Back

Next

Did you order them like this?

Most
control
and power

Headteacher

Deputy Head

Teachers

**Teaching
Assistants**

Pupils

Least
control
and power

Do you think the headteacher could control the school and carry out all of the duties involved in running the school **by themselves**?



**Think, pair, then
share your ideas.**

Back

Next

It would be almost impossible for one person to control the school and carry out all of the necessary duties themselves!

In Norman England, William the Conqueror had a similar problem... he was the king, but he was only one man - how could he successfully control everyone in the country?



How do you think he might have solved this problem?

Back

Next

William introduced the **feudal system**.
This was a power structure where people were given
land in return for **loyalty** and **services**.



Knights



The king



Peasants



Lords

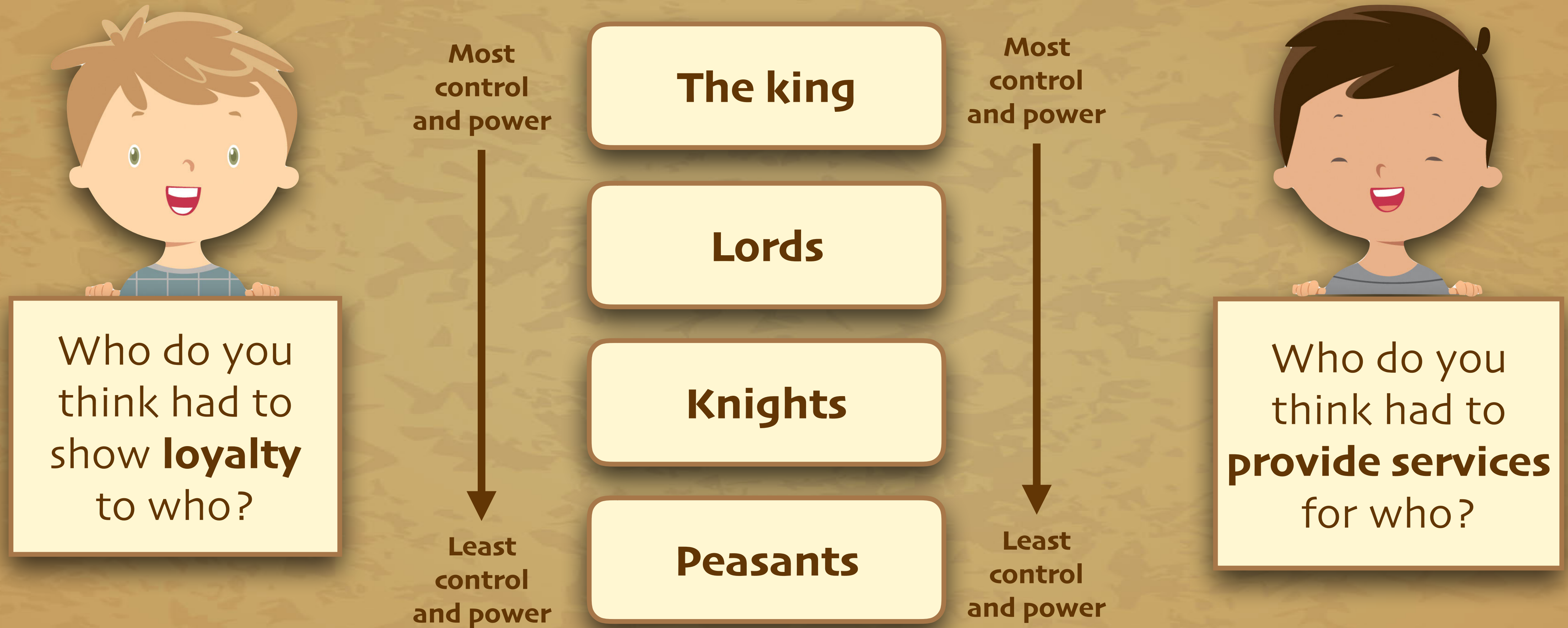
How do you think the above people were ordered in this power structure? Who would have had the most and least power?

Think, pair, then share your ideas.

Back

Next

This is what the power structure in the **feudal system** looked like:



Back

Let's see exactly how it worked...

Next



It was the **king's** role to rule and protect the country.

However, he couldn't do this all by himself, and needed to give some power and control to others.

He needed to be certain that these people would not rebel against his leadership.

He gave his most trusted **lords** large areas of **land** across the country.

In return for this, he expected their **loyalty**, **money** in taxes, and the provision of men for **military service**.

Back

Next

It was the **lords'** role to look after the land that had been given to them by the king.

However, it was difficult for the lords to control all of their land themselves, so they gave some of it to knights.

In return, the knights offered them **protection** and **promised to fight** for their lord or the king when needed.



Who do **you** think got the better deal here? The lords or the knights? Or did they both benefit from the system?

Back

Next



It was the **knights'** role to oversee the land they had been given by their lord.

However, the knights themselves didn't work on the land. They gave small pieces of the land to **peasants**.

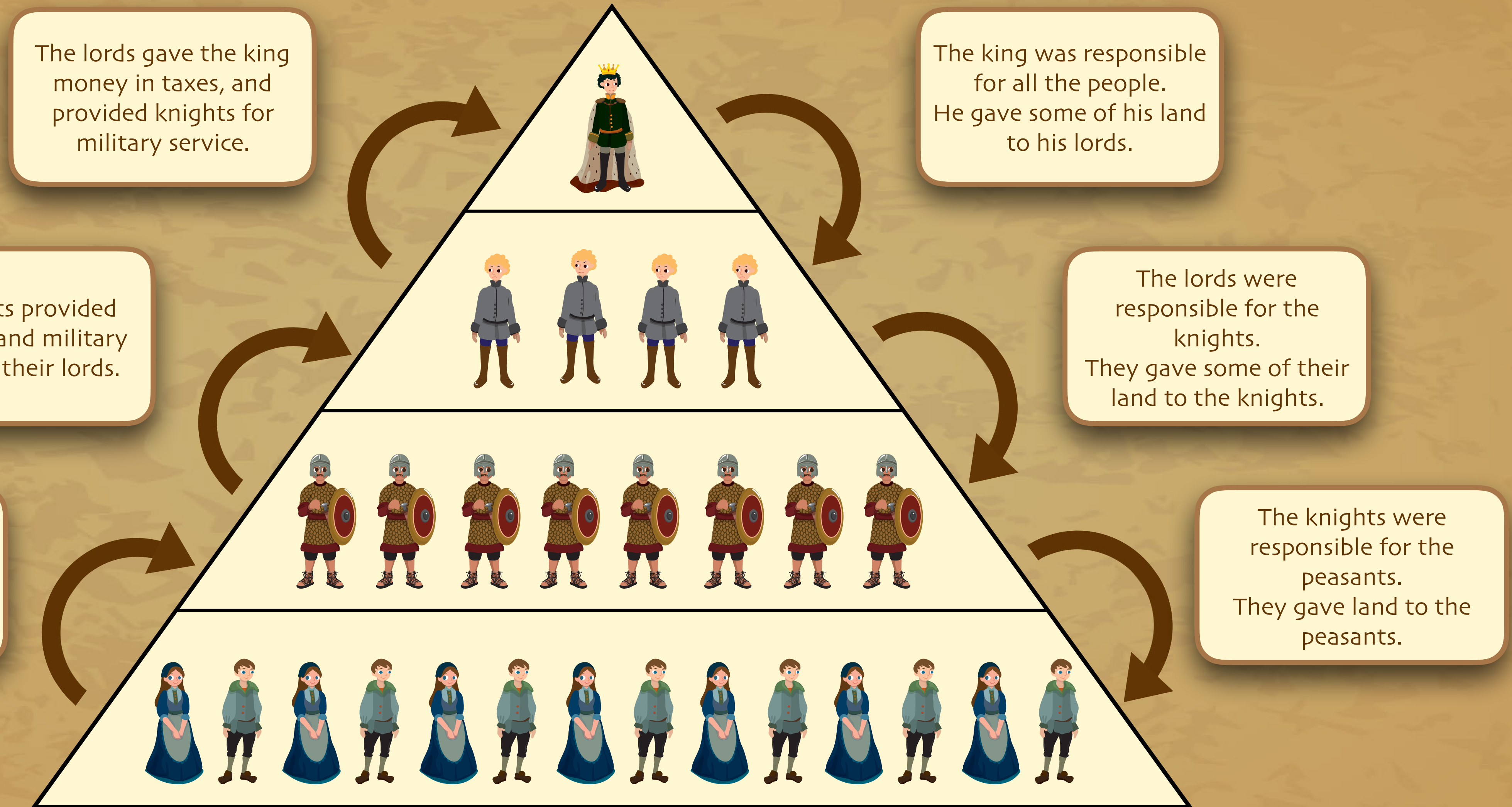
In return for having some land on which to live and farm, the peasants had to provide **food and other goods** to the knights.

Most peasants were not allowed to leave the village they lived and worked in. They even had to ask for permission to get married.

Back

Next

Here is a diagram which summarises the feudal system:



Back

Can you explain how it works with a partner?

Next

How did the feudal system help William to control the population of England?



**Think, pair, then
share your
ideas.**

Back

Next

Now it's time for you to do
some of your own work
about the feudal system!



Back

Next

Plenary:

What were the **advantages** and **disadvantages** of the feudal system for each of these people?



Knights



The king



Peasants



Lords

Do you think this was a **fair** system?

Back