

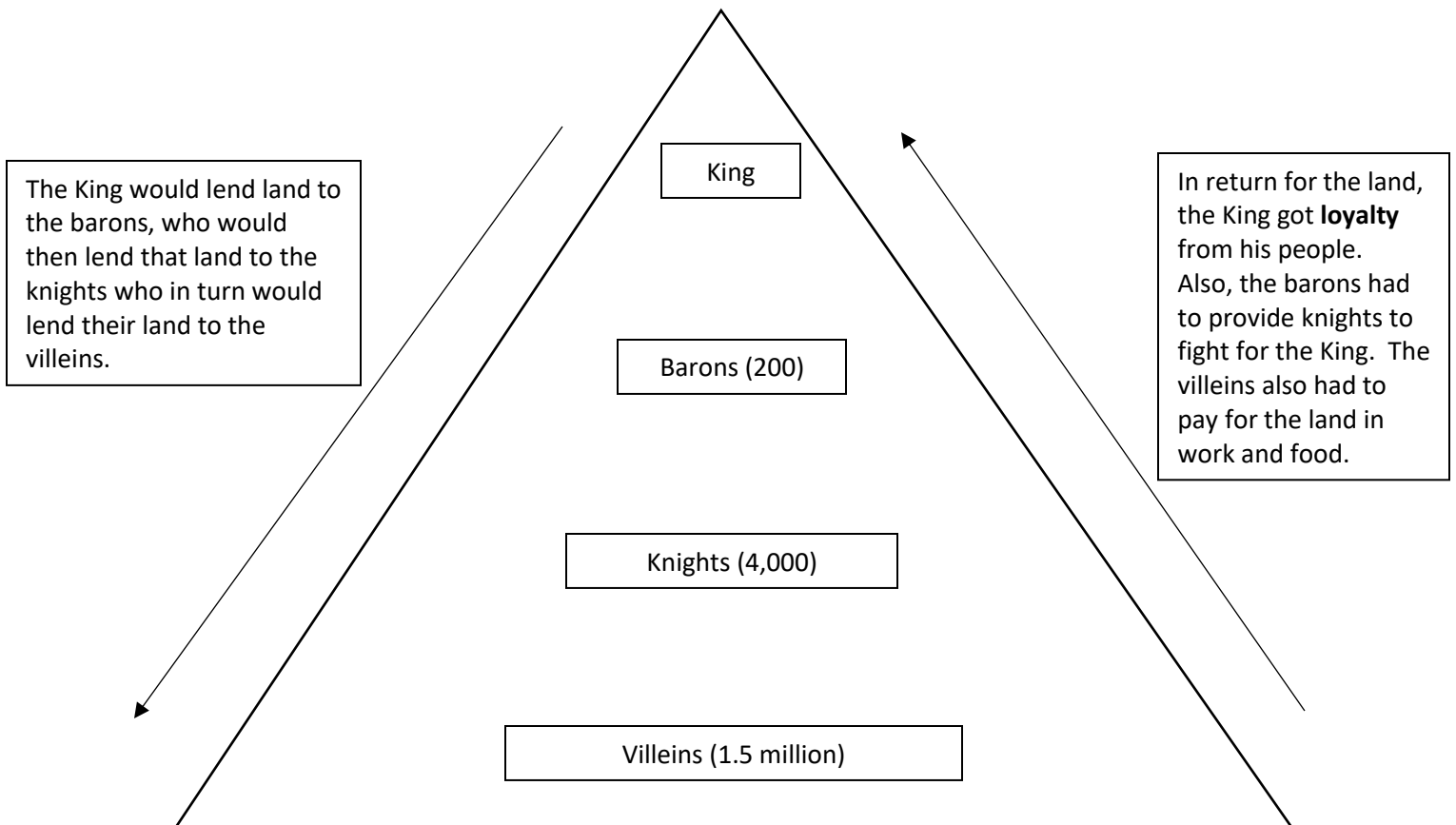
How did William the Conqueror gain control of England?

There were 3 main methods that William used to gain control of England after his victory at the Battle of Hastings:

1. The feudal system
2. The Domesday Book
3. Castles

1. The Feudal System (Week 1.)

The feudal system was William's way of managing the land in England. He shared the land out in return for people's loyalty.



The Feudal System helped William control England because...

2. The Domesday Book (Week 2.)

What was it?

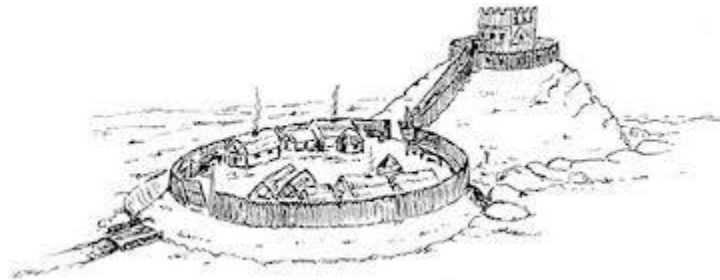
- 1085-86: William sent officials to every village in England to ask questions e.g. how many fishponds, horses etc.
- Soldiers went to each village too and threatened to kill people if they didn't tell the truth
- One man copied all the information from the villages into 2 huge books (2 million words!)

How it helped William gain control:

- He could work out how much each person could afford to pay in taxes
- He knew how many people he could get to fight for him
- He could settle arguments over who owned which bit of land

3. Castles (Weeks 3 and 4.)

William built castles to protect his barons from attacks from unhappy Englishmen. The first castles were called motte and bailey castles. Each castle took 7-14 days to build and by 1086, William's barons had built over 100 castles!



Label 4 defensive features on the castle. Can you explain how each feature you've labeled helped to defend the castle from attackers?

The barons and their soldiers used the castle as a base to control the local area, trade and collect taxes. Wooden motte and bailey castles helped William to quickly control the English BUT they burned easily and they rotted. Later castles were built from stone. These stone castles were impressive and showed everyone the baron was in charge and it was also a safe place from which to rule the local area.

Tricks used to keep the enemy out of stone castles:

- 2.5 metre thick walls on the keep
- Curtain wall (with round towers) and a moat surrounding it
- Gatehouse with a drawbridge and a portcullis

Weapons used to attack a castle:

- Battering ram
- Siege tower
- Trebuchet and mangonel

You need to learn ALL the information on this revision sheet for your assessment/test.
Use the revision techniques that your teacher has shown you in class.
You may also want to add extra notes to this sheet using the work you've done in your exercise book.