**Write about a lord in a medieval castle.**

**WORK**

* The lord of a castle was the most important person in a medieval village. He ensured that rents were paid and that his knights remained loyal and ready to defend his lands.
* He held courts in his castle and decided on the punishments of criminals. His serfs belonged to him and had to work for him. They were tied to the land and had to pay him taxes.
* The lord of a castle had an estate steward to carry out a lot of his work for him and he also had a bailiff who was responsible for collecting rents and fines.

**THE CASTLE (You can also include details about defending a castle/the features of a castle)**

* The lord lived in the keep with his family. The castle was usually damp, cold and dark. It had 3 storeys.

(a)The **basement** was the place where food and weapons were stored. The dungeons were also situated here..

(b) On the **ground floor** there was the Great Hall where all meals were eaten, banquets were held, and where the lord carried out his business. Courts were often held here also.

(c) The **upper floor** was the family’s private quarters and included a chapel, the bedrooms and the solar where the lady relaxed or took care of her duties.

**FOOD**

* The lord ate very well. He enjoyed 3 meals a day in the great hall - (a) bread and a drink for breakfast, (b) a huge meal for dinner- (this was at 12 noon and included 3-4 courses, lots of meat, vegetables, fruit and honey), and (c) a further meal later in the day which was not as big as dinner.
* The lord liked to hold big banquets in the great hall. Guests sat at long tables and feasted on great amounts of food. They ate their food on either wooden plates or trenchers - these were thick slices of bread. Big fires were lit at both ends of the hall. Minstrels played music and jesters entertained.

**EDUCATION**

* Most lords could barely read or write. Boys were educated at home by a priest. It was felt that it was more important for a lord to learn to have good manners and to be able to fight.

**PASTIMES**

* In his spare time a lord liked to hunt and fish. Sometimes he would go hawking – this was where a hawk was trained to sit on the lord’s shoulder and hunt other birds. The lord also liked to take part in tournaments. Here they competed in mock battles and in jousting competitions. They also enjoyed being entertained by minstrels, court jesters and magicians.