

Worksheet 7 **A Feudal Contract: Analyzing a Primary Source**

The following selection is adapted from a feudal contract made in the year 1110. Read the selection and then answer the questions that follow.

Lord Atton

I, Bernard Atton, Lord and viscount of Carcassone, acknowledge to my lord Leo, abbot of St. Mary of Grasse, that I hold as a fief in Carcassone the following castles and manors. . . . For all of these fiefs, I swear that I will always be a faithful vassal to thee and I will defend thee, my lord, against all invaders. Moreover I acknowledge that, as a recognition of the above fiefs, I and my successors ought to come to the monastery of St. Mary of Grasse as often as a new abbot shall have been made. And when the abbot shall mount his horse, I and my heirs ought to hold the stirrup. The first time the new abbot enters Carcassone I will supply him with the best fish and meat and with eggs and cheese and pay for the expense of shoeing his horse. And if I or my sons or their successors do not observe to thee or thy successors each and all the things declared above, we wish that all the aforesaid fiefs should be handed over to thee and thy successors.

Lord Leo

I, therefore, the aforesaid lord Leo, concede to thee all the castles and manors as a fief. And I promise to thee and thy heirs that I will be a good and faithful lord concerning all those things described above.

1. What does Bernard Atton gain as a result of this contract? _____

2. (a) To whom does Lord Atton owe obligations? _____
(b) What obligations does he have to fulfill? _____

3. Under what conditions can Lord Atton lose his fief? _____

4. (a) What does Lord Leo give away in this contract? _____

(b) What promise does he make to Lord Atton? _____

5. How do you know that this contract is intended to remain in effect after Lord Atton and Lord Leo die? _____

