

Four Tax Dollars at Work

A Little History

According to medieval law, peasants did not belong to themselves. Everything - including their land, their animals, their homes, their clothes, and even their food - belonged to the lord of the manor. In addition to paying money to farm the manor's land, peasants were also expected to hand over some of their harvest. Most struggled to produce enough food to feed their families as well as to fulfill their duties to the lord.

Peasants also had to pay the lord for the use of the manor's facilities - churning butter at the creamery, grinding grain at the mill, baking bread in the ovens, etc. The only way for a peasant to gain freedom was to save enough money to buy their own plot of land, which was quite a monumental task!

Rules for the Tax Game

Each player starts with a money bag game board containing 5 silver coins. During the game, the wheel will stop on a section that causes them to either lose or gain 1 coin. When all the coins are gone from the game board, the game is over.

Three things to note:

- 1) If the wheel lands on "May Day" nothing happens during that round.
- 2) If the wheel lands on "Prince John" they contestants lose everything, and the game is over.
- 3) If the game boards already contain 5 coins when the wheel lands on "Robin Hood Give Coin," nothing happens.

Once the players have lost all their money, the game ends!