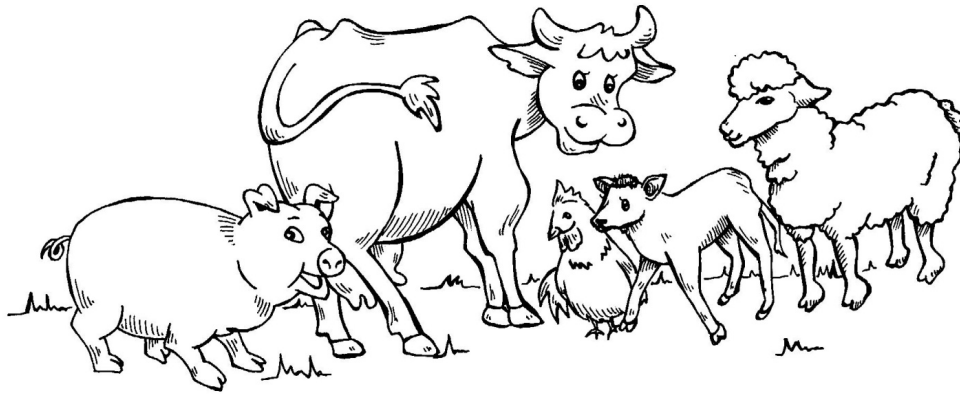# The King's Dinner

Note: The activity shows how the French Norman rulers added sophistication to the native English vocabulary.

Write the names of the animals in the boxes. Write their meat names too -- in French and English. The first one is done for you. Choose from these English words:

calf	chicken	cow	pig	sheep
beef	mutton	pork	poultry	veal

Answers:

English Animal	*pig*	cow	chicken	calf	sheep
French meat	*porc*	boeuf	poulet	veau	mouton**
English meat	*pork*	beef	poultry*	veal	mutton

*The more commonly used word for the food today is *chicken*. But a butcher shop might use the word *poultry*.
** Today the terms *lamb* and *agneau* are more commonly used to talk about meat from this animal.

What do you notice about the meat words in French and English?

Answer: The meat words in the two languages are similar. They are cognates or 'good friends'.

The King's Dinner -- Roleplay

Characters: King William, an English servant, a bilingual cook
Read and act out the story.

Now change roles. Change the dinner* too.

King: Donne-moi du ___(*viande en français*)___!
Servant: Help! What is ___(*viande en français*)___ in English?
Cook: He wants you to kill the ___(*animal in English*)___ and cook it.
Servant: Let's do it now. The king is hungry!
Cook: OK. But we need a nicer word than ___(*animal in English*)___ Let's call it
      ___(*meat in English*)___.
[Later]
Servant: Here is your ___(*meat in English*)___ dinner, Majesty.
King: Merci.

*Note that if the king orders 'poulet', the servant ends up saying 'poultry dinner' in the last frame. This is correct in terms of the activity, but you may wish to point out that today, we would normally say 'chicken dinner' instead.