

CASTLES

WHAT? WHEN? WHY & HOW?



This Guide & Activity Book Belongs

to.....

CASTLES

What is a castle?

A castle is a large strong building, built in the past by a ruler or important person to protect the people inside from attack. They were both a home and a fortress and were often built on hilltops or surrounded by water to make them easier to defend.

The earliest type of castle was a and castle.



The mound of earth on which the tower stood was the Motte. The earliest towers were made of wood, but were soon replaced with stone to be sturdier.

The Bailey was a large area of enclosed land placed next to the motte. Inside the bailey were the main activities of the castle, such as workshops, stables, animals, small crops. The tower on the motte was used as both a residence and observation post.

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Why build a castle?

Castles were brought from France, to England by William the Conqueror in 1066. It was a way for William to take control of his new kingdom. The knights and barons who followed William were known as the Normans and they were very powerful. They built castles almost everywhere in Britain.



Castles were not just used by the king, many were granted by a king to their loyal subjects who had fought with or supported the king.

After the Battle of Hastings, William granted the land and manor of Esledes (now known as Leeds) to his cousin Hamo de Crevecoeur. It was Hamo's grandson, Robert, who built the first stone castle here in 1119.



Who did William conquer at the Battle of Hastings?

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When were castles built?

The Normans built 1000 castles throughout England, Scotland and Wales and as time went by the castles became bigger, stronger and more able to withstand attack.

King Edward 1 (1272-1307) built stone fortresses, designed to dominate and impress. The castles he built in Wales are impressive buildings.



It was not just power that Edward I wanted however. He loved his wife, a princess from Spain whose name was:

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and when she bought a castle to live in, and wanted it made more beautiful, Edward transformed it into a fabulous white palace for her. Creating a large moat around it, the castle appeared to float on the water, but was also strong and defensible.



Which castle was it?Castle.

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From about 1350 up to the 20th cent most new castles retained some variation of the traditional forms of moat, walls, towers, turrets, battlements and arrow slits, but now, these were mostly decorative

In the 16th century, the role of the castle, under Henry VIII became to defend the coastline and their essential function was to provide a gun platform –they were so well built and located that they were used as recently as in WW2.

Deal Castle - Then



The purpose of the coastal forts was to defend England against the threat of invasion from countries such as France and Spain. The strong stone walls of coastal forts were built lower than traditional castles, with towers facing the sea. The squat rounded turrets were designed to deflect incoming cannon balls and acted as platforms to fire from.

Deal Castle – Now



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How were castles built?

Building a medieval castle was a daunting task. From the cost of materials and manpower to the considerable time and money necessary. It took years to build a castle. The first job was to quarry the stone, then transport it to the building site. Only then could the masons begin cutting the stone.



As well as the stone, what other materials would they have needed?

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Who built the castles?

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It took as many as 2000 men to build a castle, a lot of them skilled workmen such as the masons, quarrymen, smiths, miners, ditchers, carters and carpenters.

The blacksmith worked with iron, but what items would he have made for the castle?

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The carpenter worked with wood, but what items would he have made for the castle?

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CASTLES

Use the picture below to label the following parts of a castle:

Moat

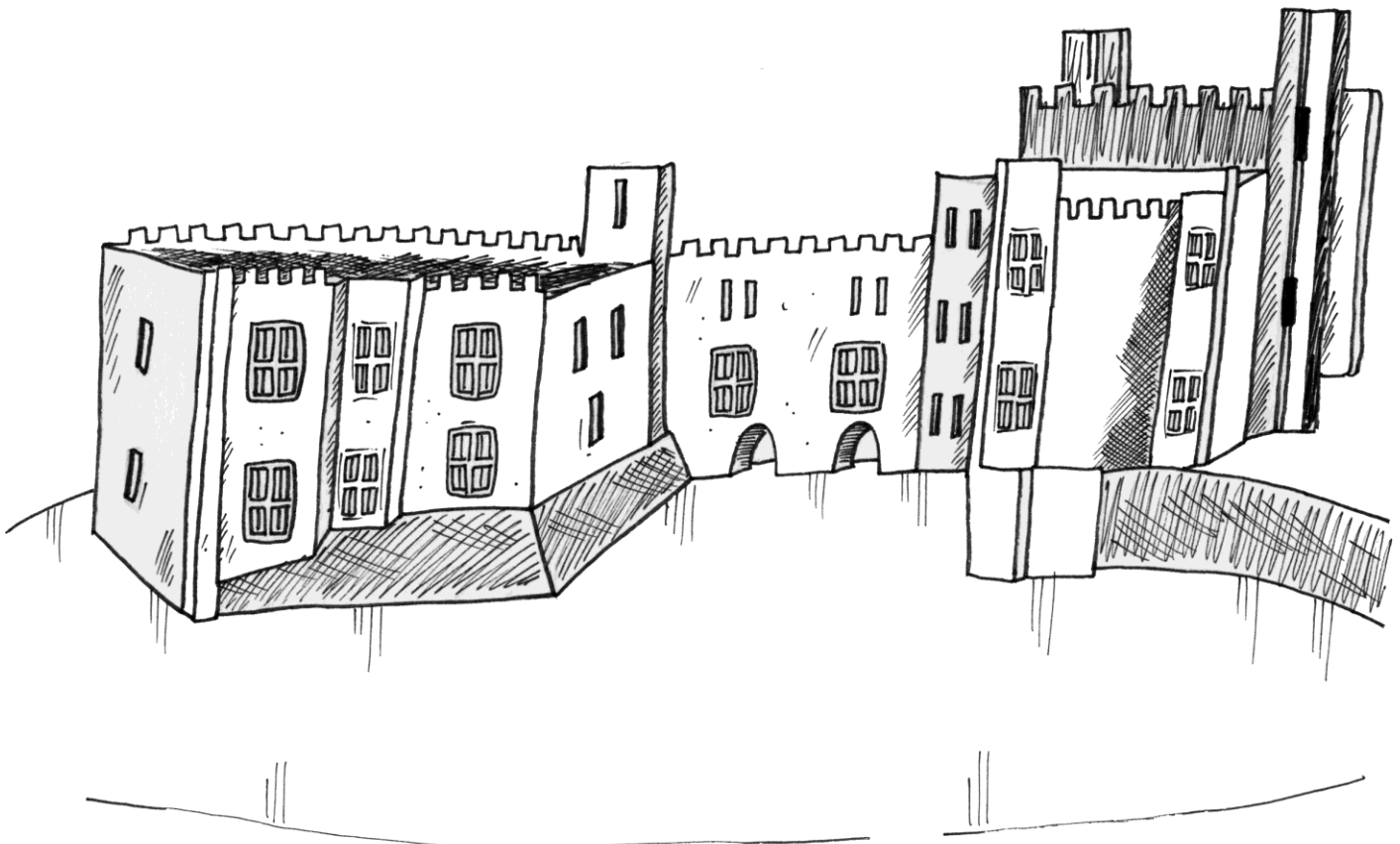
Battlements

Clock Tower

Keep

Arrow Slits

Bridge Corridor (originally a drawbridge)



CASTLES

X	C	L	L	A	H	T	A	E	R	G	E	G	B	Q
J	T	R	B	H	N	K	C	O	L	C	G	A	A	M
G	N	T	E	A	T	M	W	M	X	X	D	R	T	H
L	L	A	W	N	I	A	T	R	U	C	I	D	T	N
S	G	U	C	V	E	L	O	V	P	H	R	E	L	O
B	T	O	K	I	B	L	E	M	E	A	B	R	E	E
W	V	I	L	U	B	M	L	Y	E	P	W	O	M	G
B	Y	L	L	K	Z	R	V	A	K	E	A	B	E	N
A	E	F	S	S	O	L	A	K	T	L	R	E	N	U
W	C	R	N	H	W	H	P	B	M	I	D	M	T	D
M	A	C	H	I	C	O	L	A	T	I	O	N	S	T
R	B	T	O	U	T	E	R	W	A	L	L	N	O	D
Q	F	L	A	G	T	U	R	R	E	T	O	W	S	F
U	T	H	C	C	A	Y	W	B	A	P	E	A	J	K
K	O	J	D	J	N	E	O	Q	F	R	S	J	I	H

Can you find all the castle words in the puzzle?

ARROWSLITS

BATTLEMENTS

CRENELLATIONS

DUNGEON

GREATHALL

MOAT

TURRET

BAILEY

CHAPEL

CURTAINWALL

FLAG

KEEP

OUTERWALL

WELL

BARBICAN

CLOCK

DRAWBRIDGE

GARDEROBE

MACHICOLATIONS

TOWER

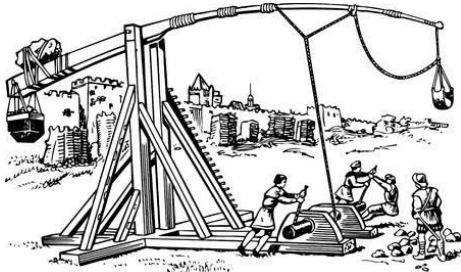
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Castles were built to defend themselves, with the keep, drawbridge, moat, and high walls. So, how did an enemy attack a castle?

The easiest way was to lay siege. As long as you had plenty of time, all you had to do was get your army to surround the castle and wait! Eventually the inhabitants would run out of food and water and surrender.

But if you didn't have time to wait, there were a variety of weapons you could use.

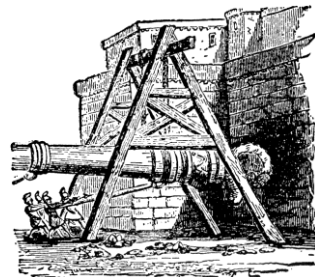
1. Trebuchet



2. Mangonel



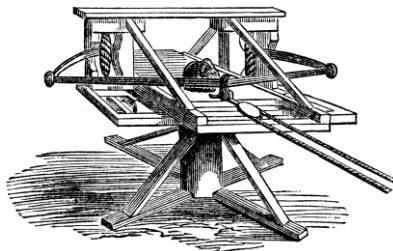
3. Battering Ram



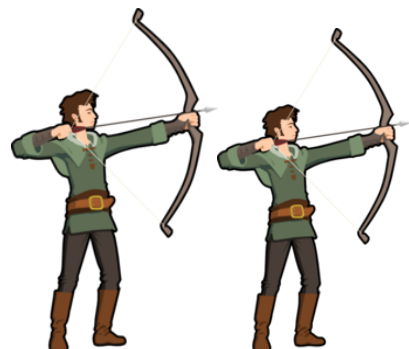
4. Siege Tower



5. Ballista



6. Archers

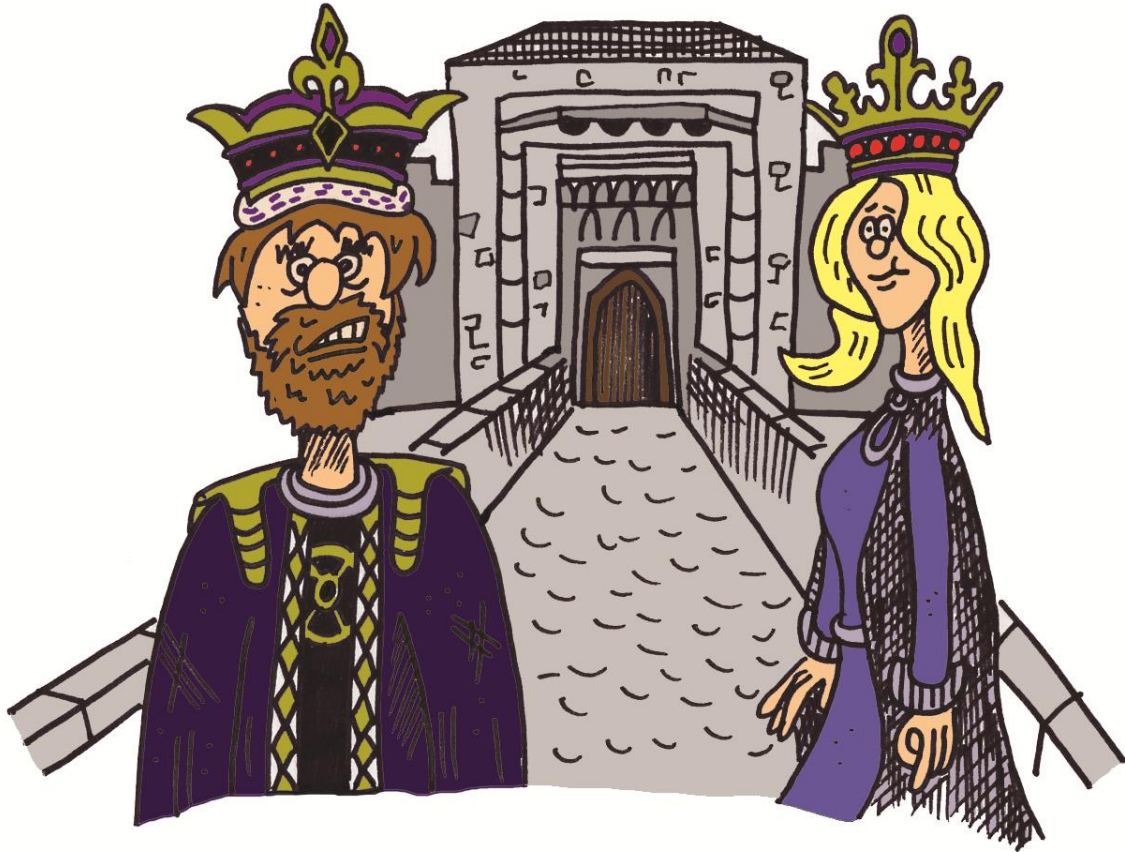


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Fun Facts

- In medieval castles, spiral staircases ran clockwise, so attackers coming up the stairs had their sword hands (right hand) against the wall's interior curve which made it hard for them to swing their swords. Defenders had their swords on the outside wall, which meant more room to swing.
- In the Czech Republic is a castle called Český Krumlov Castle, that has a moat filled with bears! It is called 'Bear Moat' and it was first filled with bears in 1707.
- Nijō Castle in Japan has floors which chirp like a bird when walked on. This was so no one could sneak round without being heard! This type of floor is called a Nightingale floor.
- The primary purpose of a Castle's moat was to prevent attackers from tunnelling under the walls.
- Caerphilly Castle in Wales has a tower that leans at a steeper gradient than Pisa.
- Japan is moving an entire 400-year-old castle 230 feet away to do necessary repairs. They started the work in 2015 and they'll move it back in 2021
- Dungeons, coming from the French word 'donjon' meaning fortified tower, were originally built as a central keep and a last refuge for castle inhabitants under attack. Dark and gloomy, the keeps were considered an ideal prison and so became dungeons.
- The Garderobe (Toilet) is a French word meaning wardrobe. Royals kept their clothes in their because the rotten smell kept the moths away!
- Windsor Castle is the oldest still – lived in castle in Europe.
- Being inside a medieval castle was boring! Whilst Chess was sometimes played, the main form of entertainment was eating! Feasts and banquets were greatly enjoyed, with jesters and minstrels for added enjoyment.
- Leeds Castle was a royal castle from 1278 until 1552

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If you have enjoyed this fun book about castles – why not challenge yourself with the
Medieval Mission – An Attack on Leeds Castle