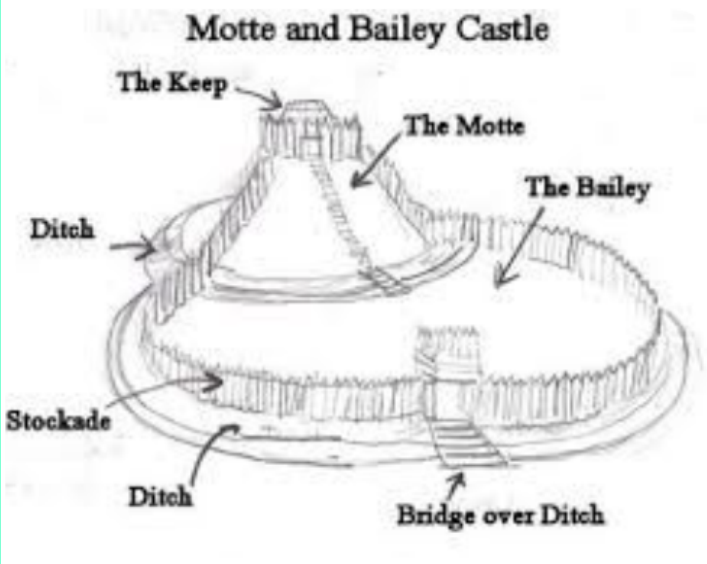
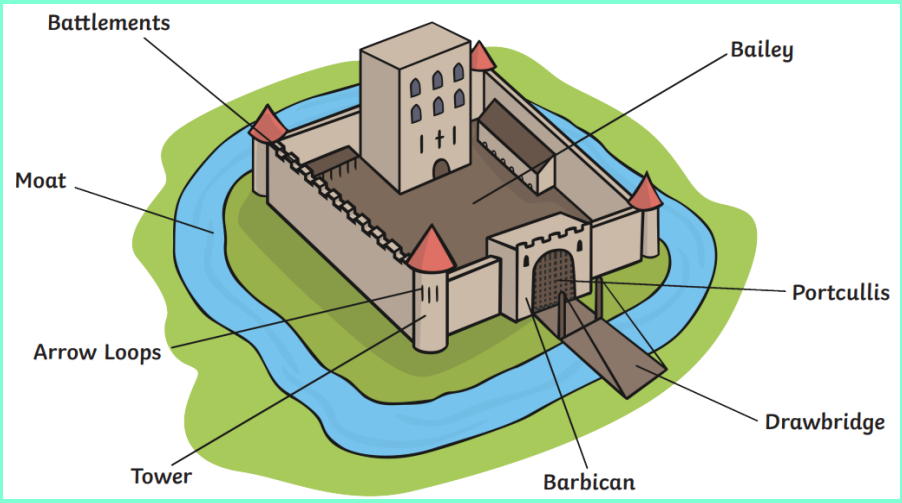
Friday 19th March

LO: To find information in the story to answer questions

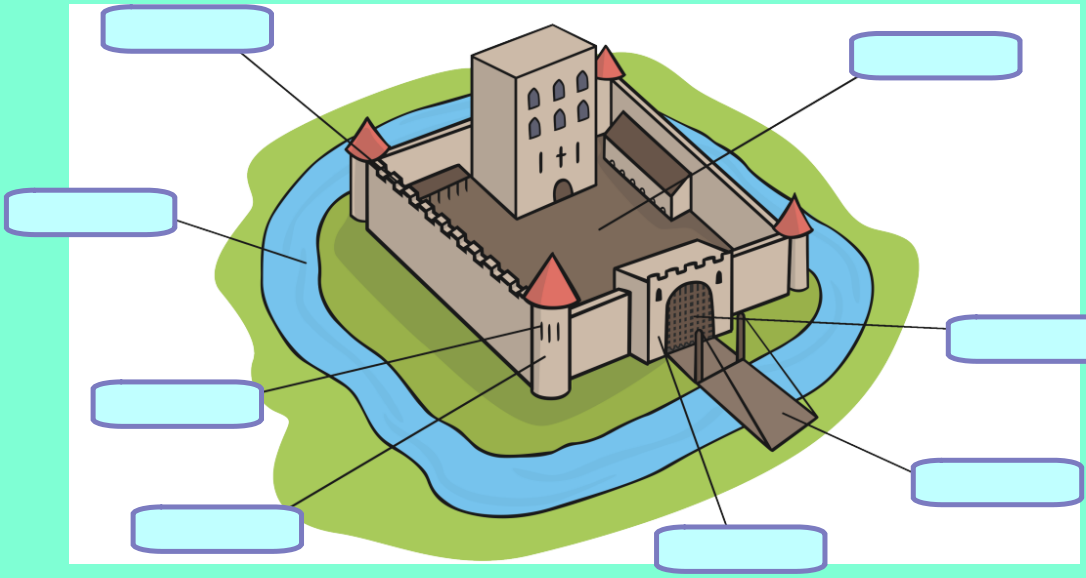


Parts of a castle





Parts of a castle





Cardiff Castle, Wales



Alnwick Castle, Northumberland



- A stone keep (White Tower at the Tower of London)

Glossary

Bailey – a large courtyard inside the castle walls (also called a ward).

Battering ram – a large, strong beam on wheels that was hit repeatedly against castle doors in order to break them down.

Catapult – a machine that could throw things at castle walls to destroy them.

Keep – the main tower and stronghold inside the castle walls, where the lord lived.

Loophole – a narrow slit in the castle walls that were used as windows, ventilation, or to shoot arrows through when defending the castle.

Portcullis – a gate that could slide up and down in front of the castle doors.

Tower – towers were built into castle walls, or around the outside of the keep.

Trebuchet – a big slingshot that could throw rocks, or even fireballs over the castle walls; it could shoot things farther than a catapult could.

Turret – a small tower on top of one of the main towers of the castle, which provided a good lookout point for people to see any approaching enemies.

Finding answers on the first read:-

LO: To find information in the story to answer questions.

1. Who built the first castles and when?
2. What were the castles called which were built by the Normans?
3. Why was the keep built so high?
4. What was at the base of the motte?
5. What surrounded the motte and bailey to protect it from their enemies?
6. Why did the wooden castles get replaced by stone keeps and walls?
7. Why were arrow loops important on a castle?
8. Name three tactics and weapons used by the enemy when attacking the castle.

Castles

The first castles in England were built by William the Conqueror and the Normans when they invaded in England in 1066. They needed a quick, easy and sure way to defend all the land they'd just won, and castles helped them to this.

The castles the Normans built were called motte and bailey. Windsor Castle was originally built like this.

Mottes were large hills that were made by piling dirt into a high mound. A home was built on top for the lord (who was in charge of the castle) to live in with his family. This was called the **keep**, and a fence was built around it for extra protection. Because the keep was built so high, he could see far into the distance and was able to tell if enemies were coming. At the base of the motte was the bailey, which was like a little village – people who worked for the lord lived there, including tradespeople like blacksmiths. A high fence was also built around the bailey.

The motte and bailey were protected by deep ditch full of water all the way around it called a moat. You could only get into the bailey by crossing over the moat, so they built a bridge that could be lowered and raised depending on whether friends or enemies were trying to get in. This was called a drawbridge.

Motte and bailey castles were first built with wood, and then replaced with stone keeps and walls because stone is a stronger material. It doesn't burn like wood does, and it is more difficult to knock down a stone wall than a wooden wall.

Many people lived at the castle, not just kings and nobles. Castles also had constables who looked after all the things that needed to be done to keep the castle running smoothly, like cooking all the meals, caring for the horses and cleaning

One of the worst jobs at the castle was to be a gong farmer. Toilets, called garderobes, were built along the inside of the castle walls – everything just dropped down into the castle moat or into ditches called cesspits. Gong farmers had to

Dungeons were in the basements of castles, where prisoners were kept.

When you look at a castle, you'll see tiny windows that look like slits. These "arrow loops" were made so archers could fire arrows through them to defend the castle. They are narrow so that it was hard for the attacking archers to fire arrows back through them.

Life at the castle wasn't all about fighting battles. The lords and ladies held banquets in the Great Hall (a large room in the keep) of the castle, and invited jesters and singers to perform for everyone.

These are some of the features that helped defend castles against enemy attacks:

Very high walls with walkways along the top for soldiers to sit along, using battlements to fire weapons from and hide behind to protect themselves

Towers along the walls (first all built square, then round as these were harder to destroy) that soldiers could use to store spare weapons in and protect themselves if the enemy started coming in along the wall in siege towers. The towers stuck out from the castle walls so that archers could see anyone who got too close to the walls and shoot them.

Holes in ceilings or in between layers of walls that soldiers could pour hot oil or tar through if the enemy tried to come in.

Archer loops, which were narrow slits in the tower and along the wall that were just big enough for archers to shoot arrows from.

A deep moat of water around the castle, which meant the enemy had to swim in order to reach the castle walls; it also meant they couldn't just tunnel under the wall.

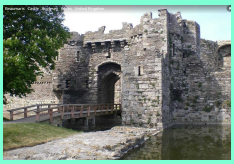
A strong gatehouse at the castle entrance, with more towers for soldiers to use and a drawbridge that could be lifted so the enemy couldn't come in.

A **portcullis** that could be lowered in front of the castle doors to make it harder for the enemy to ram through.



A concentric castle

(Beaumaris Castle in Wales)



Moat and drawbridge



A portcullis



A catapult



Turret (small tower) and arrow slits



A siege tower rolled up

next to the castle walls



Skipton Castle



Battering ram



To try to take over a castle, the enemy would use some of these tactics and weapons:

Trebuchet and **catapults** that could be used to fire rocks, hot tar and fireballs at or over the castle walls.

A **battering ram** on wheels that could be shoved back and forth against the castle door to try to break it down.

Climbing over the castle walls by propping long ladders up against the sides.

Tunnelling under the castle wall, catching the soldiers by surprise.

Rolling a siege tower up to the castle wall, offering an easy way to jump out onto the wall without having to climb up the side or tunnel underneath.







> A siege tower rolled up next to the castle walls

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