

Lower Key Stage 2

Cool Castles



Sources: https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/members-area/kids/eh_kids_poster.pdf

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/castles>

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/members-area/kids/guide-to-castles/>

Castle Challenge!



Castles have been around for hundreds and hundreds of years. Some castles are ruins with only small parts of them left standing. Some castles have people living in them today or are open to the public so we can learn more about their history.

Have a go at the castle challenges below. If you like to add extra challenge, set yourself a time-limit for each one.



2 Minute Challenge

Make a list of ALL the films, books and games you know that have a castle in them



5 Minute Challenge

Make a list of the names of any castles you know



10 Minute Challenge

Look at the Castle Poster 1 in your pack. What do you notice?

- How many things on the picture can you label?
- What period of time in history does this picture represent? How do you know?
- Where has the castle been built?
- What do you notice about the landscape?
- Why do you think the castle was built there? What are the different stalls selling in the market place? What trades (jobs) do you think the stall holders (people selling things) do?

Castle Talk



Look at the glossary below

(source: <https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/castles>)

How many of these words can you use to add labels to the Castle Poster? Do what you can and tick any you find on the poster.

Green – easier; **Yellow** – get you thinking; **Pink** – set yourself a challenge

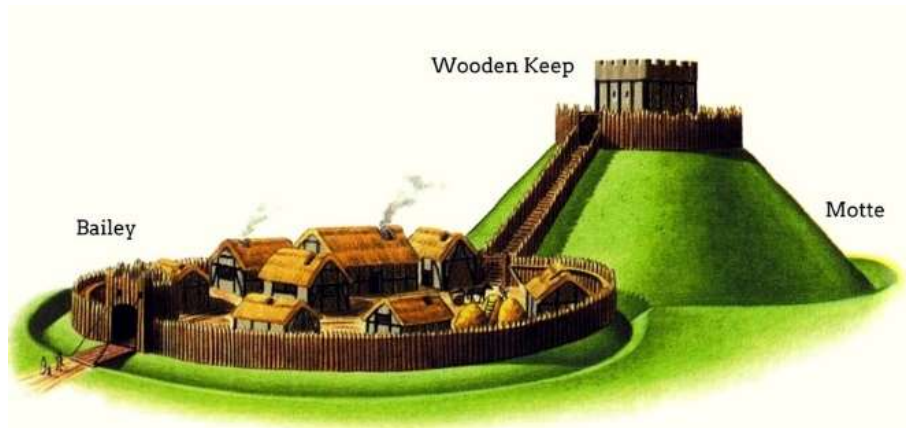
Castles Glossary

- **Barbican** – a structure attached to the front of the castle walls that provided extra defence; it was sometimes part of the gatehouse
- **Bailey** – a large courtyard inside the castle walls (also called a ward)
- **Bastion** – a small tower at the end of a curtain wall; in a concentric castle, it's built along the middle of the outside wall
- **Battering ram** – a large, strong beam on wheels that was hit repeatedly against castle doors in order to break them down
- **Battlement** – a narrow wall built along the outside edge of the wall
- **Cannon** – a weapon that used gunpowder to fire a ball of rock or metal at castle walls to destroy them
- **Catapult** – a machine that could throw things at castle walls to destroy them
- **Concentric castle** – a castle that was built with two or more curtain walls around it, giving many levels of defence to the castle
- **Curtain wall** – a chain of walls, connected by towers, that were built around the keep and the castle courtyard
- **Drawbridge** – the bridge over the castle moat that could be raised or lowered, helping to keep enemies out
- **Dungeon** – where prisoners were kept, usually located in the cellar of one of the towers
- **Embrasure** – the name for the empty space in between merlons along a castle wall, in between battlements; someone could fire a weapon from an embrasure, then hide behind the merlon
- **Garderobe** – the name for a toilet in the castle
- **Gatehouse** – structures built to defend entrances to the castle, such as towers and bridges
- **Great Hall** – a large room in the keep or another part of the castle where the lord had meetings and held banquets and celebrations
- **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
- **Merlon** – higher parts of the castle wall, in between battlements, that could be used to hide behind for protection when defending the castle; the spaces between merlons are called embrasures
- **Moat** – a deep ditch filled with water that went all the way around the castle walls
- **Mortar** – a mixture usually made from water, sand and lime that was used to build castle walls; it hardened in between the rocks to form a smooth barrier without any holes
- **Motte** – a large hill that the keep would be built on
- **Murder holes** – holes in the ceilings of the castle entrance that rocks or hot oil could be poured through if invaders had entered
- **Portcullis** – a gate that could slide up and down in front of the castle doors
- **Ramparts** – steep defensive barriers or walls around castles
- **Siege tower** – wooden towers on wheels that were built at the castle by the attackers so they'd be the same height as the castle walls; they gave the attackers an easy way to cross over the walls, and sometimes had battering rams in them so the doors could be knocked down at the same time
- **Tower** – towers were built into castle walls, or around the outside of the keep; they were first built square, but then people found that round towers were actually harder to destroy because they didn't have corners
- **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
- **Wall walk** – a passageway along the top of the castle walls

A guide to medieval castles.

Castles are the most famous invention of the middle ages. Their design took a lot of thought to make them deadly to attackers. A medieval castle had two purposes, for fortification (protection) and as the home of a lord. The first castles were just walls of earth. Later, earth mounds and timber towers were built forming a type of castle called a motte and bailey. However the timber (wooden) constructions caught fire easily so stone keeps were built to protect the wooden structures.




castlesworld.com

During the time when motte and bailey castles were being built, powerful noblemen were constructing (building) the great Norman towers. There was no reason to build them so high but the towers soon became a symbol of power and nobility.



Beanboxanimation - Pinterest

The curtain wall was the castle's most important defence. At first it was just a crenellated wall () but over time the defences developed.

Wall towers were added and fighting platforms were built, first from timber and then from stone. At the same time, gateways changed from simple openings within

towers to twin-towered gateways. These were keeps in their own right. Outer walls were built around the curtain walls. These were known as concentric castles.



Beaumaris castle, Wales

Text transcribed from English Heritage YouTube animated videos -



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXXDThkJ3Ew>

The first castles in England were built by the Normans. Different types of castles developed over the centuries that got stronger and easier to defend; at the same time, different weapons were designed to try to break into the castles and overtake them more quickly. There are many castles all over Britain that you can walk around to see exactly what it would have been like to live there, whether you were trying to defend the castle or trying to attack it.

Top 10 facts

1. **Everything about a castle was built to keep the people inside safe.** It is made up of many different parts, not just one building.
2. The main building inside the castle is the keep, which was protected by walls and towers.
3. The first castles were built by the Normans and were called **motte and bailey castles**.
4. Some of the first castles were made from wood before they were built from stone. Stone is a longer-lasting material, and more difficult for attackers to break down.
5. The Normans built castles to help them defend the land they'd just conquered. They were built on hills so enemies could be seen coming from far away.
6. William the Conqueror had some of England's most famous castles built: these include Windsor Castle and the White Tower at the Tower of London.
7. Castles weren't very warm inside – they could be really damp and draughty.
8. **Castles were only as good as their defences – these included ramparts, bastions and arrow loops.**
9. It wasn't easy to attack a castle, but people tried anyway, using trebuchets, siege towers and battering rams.



10. Edward I had concentric castles built in England – he added more than one curtain wall around the castle so the enemy would have a harder time breaking through. These castle designs were expensive to build though

(Source: <https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/castles>)

Castle Conclusions 1

- Look at the headings below
- Write the first one in your book
- Find as much information as you can to put under that heading
- Then write the second one and do the same
- Then the third etc



Here is an example:

How castles changed

- Early castles were just protective mounds of earth
- Motte and Bailey castles which were earth mounds and timber buildings and fences
- Norman noblemen started adding towers
- Stone replaced timber (wood)

Why castles were built

Different parts of castles and their purposes

Famous names linked to castles

Different types of castles

Castle Conclusions 2

Although living in a castle provided some protection, there were lots of things that were not so good. Make a list of pros and cons using the information in the text and your own knowledge/research. The first one has been done for you.

Living in a Castle	
Pros (for)	Cons (against)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protection from enemies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•

Under Siege (when a castle is surrounded by enemies)

Look at the table below showing different ways enemies would **attack** castles and how the people in the castle would **defend** it.

Attack	Defence
<p>1. Siege tower</p> <p>These huge towers on wheels were slowly pushed up to walls so the attackers could climb up the ladders inside, jump out and fight their way into the castle.</p>	<p>9 Wall within a wall</p> <p>The biggest castles had two or more walls that the attackers had to overcome. Once they were through one they had to do it all over again!</p>
<p>2 Battering ram</p> <p>The easiest part of the castle to attack was the wooden doors of the gatehouse. A big ram was used to smash the gates open.</p>	<p>10 Moat</p> <p>A big ditch in front of the walls was an annoying obstacle, but when it was filled with deep water it was extremely difficult to cross without boats</p>
<p>3 Crossbows and arrows</p> <p>Men on the walls would be shooting down, so you needed your own men to shoot back! Guns started to be used from the 14th century onwards</p>	<p>11 Drawbridge</p> <p>A drawbridge over the moat allowed people to get in and out of the castle during peace time, but could be lifted up to stop the enemy getting in.</p>
<p>4 Ladders</p> <p>The simplest way to get into the castle was over the walls on a big ladder. You had to be very brave to climb up while you were being shot at.</p>	<p>12 Arrow slits</p> <p>These were thin slits in stone walls that allowed archers and crossbowmen to shoot at attackers while being protected and unseen</p>
<p>5 Trebuchets</p> <p>These huge catapults flung massive rocks to try and break down the walls and towers from a long way away. They even had cool names like Warwolf!</p>	<p>13 Crenellations</p> <p>This is the name given to the zig-zag tops of castle walls. They gave defenders some protection as they were firing arrows and throwing stones.</p>
<p>6 Digging for victory</p> <p>If you couldn't get over the walls you could always dig under them, or weaken the walls above ground, working under wooden shelters.</p>	<p>14 Murder holes</p> <p>If the attackers got to the gates, they might try to burn their way through. Murder holes were used to pour water on to any fire and put them out</p>
<p>7 Starving them out</p> <p>Attacking a castle was very dangerous and many of your men could die. It was far easier to just trap the defenders inside and let them run out of food</p>	<p>15 Gatehouse</p> <p>This was where people came in or out so it had high towers, arrow slits, murder holes and even a portcullis in front of the doors for more protection</p>
<p>8 Making a deal</p> <p>If you didn't want to risk your life attacking a castle you could talk to the people inside to try to persuade them to surrender or let you sneak inside.</p>	<p>16 Break for freedom</p> <p>If your attackers are starving you out and waiting for you to surrender, maybe it's time to surprise them with an attack</p>

The information above and the pictures below are from the

English Heritage The Kids Rule! Guide to Castles - <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/members-area/kids/guide-to-castles/>

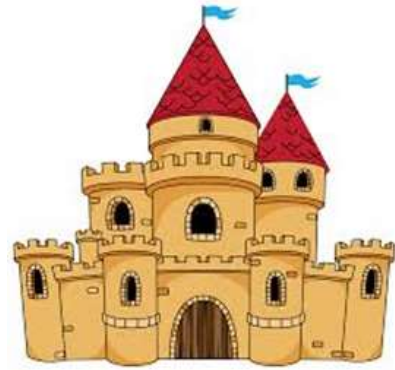
Use the information to label the pictures below. The first one has been done for you.





Reading Challenge 1

- What do you think was the most effective way of attacking a castle and why?
- What do you think was the most effective way of defending a castle and why?



Reading Challenge 2

Draw a diagram of a motte and bailey castle and label all the different parts. Complete the table below (draw the headings in your books). An example has been done for you. Use the glossary, the diagrams and the text to help you. You could even add information you have researched for yourself.

Name of Part	Information about the part
keep	The keep was where the lord lived with his family. It was the main stone tower of the castle and was often surrounded with a fence or wall for extra protection. As it was built so high, the lord could see for miles around and was able to tell if enemies were coming.

Castle Composition

Standard English

Sometimes when children are speaking and writing, they confuse when to use **was** and **were**.

Look at how they should be used below:

Singular (one)	Plural (more than one)
I was (first person)	We were (first person)
You were (second person)	You were (second person)
He/she/it was (third person)	They were (third person)




What do you notice?



See how many castles you can collect by writing the sentences about castles using the correct choice.

Was or Were?

Some examples been done for each one

		
Third Person	First Person	Second Person
He <u>was</u> happy to work in the castle.	I <u>was</u> looking forward to the castle feast.	The lord of the castle said, "You <u>were</u> lucky to get a job here
They _____ frightened about the attack.	We _____ prepared for the attack.	When living in a castle you _____ expected to defend it.
The soldiers _____ ready with their defences.	We _____ making arrows to keep in the armoury.	You _____ always on the lookout for enemy attack.
She _____ getting her stall ready for the market.	I _____ a gong farmer.	If you lived in the keep, you _____ safer.
It _____ was a perfect day for drying the washing.	We _____ hung out the flags.	
The lord and lady of the castle _____ holding a feast.		

Challenge: Can you make up some of your own sentences to collect more castles?

Castle Composition 2

Pick one, or more of the writing activities from the table below. Make sure you use **was** and **were** correctly.

	Castle Story	Castle Guide
<p>Letter Home Life in the Castle</p> <p>Imagine you are someone who lives and works within the castle walls. You are writing a letter to your parents who live far away from the castle. In your letter, describe what it is like to live in the castle; what job you do; other people you have met; how you are finding life in the castle.</p>	<p>Lots of stories and films are set in castles. Now you can write your own. Remember that you will need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set the scene • Introduce key characters • Decide on a problem that will happen in the story • Build up to the problem • Think about how the problem is resolved <p>End the story appropriately – what has changed since the beginning</p>	<p>Imagine you work in a castle that has become a museum. You have to produce a written guide to the different parts of the castle. This will be given out to children visiting the castle with their school. Write the guide. You could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What they will be able to see • A map to help them find their way around • Diagrams of some of the different parts of the castles with explanations • Some fascinating facts