

History: Castles

Year 1 Term 3 & 4

Key Vocabulary

Castle	A large building, typically medieval period, fortified against attack with thick walls, battlements, towers and in many cases a moat.
Medieval	Period of time – 11 th century to the 16 th century.
King	Male ruler of a country. Can be husband to a Queen.
Queen	Female ruler of a country. Can be wife to a King.
Lord and Lady	Important people of high rank who run and own the castles. Lords are men and Ladies are women.
Battlements	The top of the castle wall with raised sections and lowered sections to allow people to fire arrows at their opponents in battle.
Portcullis	A strong iron gate that can be raised to allow the drawbridge to be lowered.
Drawbridge	A bridge that can be lowered or raised to enter and exit the castle.
Moat	A deep ditch that surrounds a castle. It can be filled with or without water.
Turrets	A small tower built on the castle, at the corner or on the top of a large tower.
Keep	Fortified tower built within the castle for defence.
Bailey	The outer wall of a castle.
Taxes	Money given to the government to help rule the country.

We learn about the Battle of Hastings by exploring the Bayeux Tapestry which retells the events of the Norman Conquest and the Battle of Hastings.

Roles in a castle

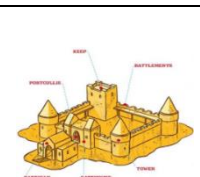
- The Lord and the Lady would run the castle and be of a high important rank, often being close to the King and Queen.
- Knights were soldiers who had shown to be very brave in battle. They had a Squire to do things for them.
- Squires were young men who shadowed a Knight with the hopes of becoming a knight themselves.
- The cook would make all the meals for those living in the castle.
- Stewards helped the Lord and Lady run the castle and tell everyone what they needed to do.
- The taster in the castle would have to taste the Lord or Lady's food to ensure it was good and did not have poison.
- The Chaplain was the priest in the castle's church. He would be in charge of ensuring the sermons were read and the choir boys knew their songs.
- The Musician would entertain the Lord and Lady and their guests during big feasts.

Types of castles



Motte and Bailey

These castles were built first because they were quick and cheap to build. King William needed castles as soon as possible to defend his new crown. They were made out of wood. It has been said that nearly 1000 motte and bailey castles were built by the Normans.



Keep and Bailey

When the rebellion against King William calmed down they were able to build Keep and Bailey castles, which took longer to build and were made out of stone. Some of them are still around today, including Windsor Castle and the Tower of London.

Parts of a Castle

