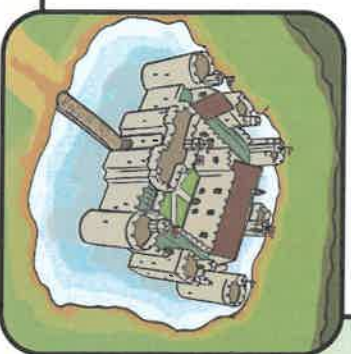


# Features of a Castle

- 10 The main castle gate was hard to break through. It
- 17 was usually made from thick, iron-studded wood.
- 26 The **portcullis** was a spiked metal or wood barrier,
- 30 which protected the doors.
- 38 **Moats** filled with water surrounded the castle to
- 45 make it harder for enemies to enter.
- 53 **Drawbridges** could be pulled up to stop enemies
- 63 getting across the moat, or let down to allow people
- 68 out of the castle easily.
- 76 **Battlements** were the tooth-shaped top of the castle
- 85 walls, where the defenders could hide behind and fire
- 89 shots through the gaps.
- 92 Narrow windows called
- 97 **arrowslits** allowed arrows to be
- 104 shot out of the castle at enemies
- 108 without letting anything in.



## Questions



1. Which feature of the castle protected the doors?

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2. What do you think the word **defenders** might mean?

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3. How do you think a moat made it harder for enemies to enter the castle?

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4. Which feature of a castle do you think was the most important and why?

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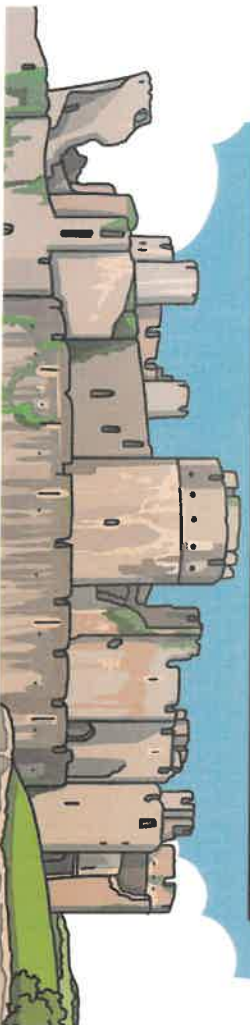
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Jupiter

## Building Castles

- 9 What are you able to build with your blocks?  
15 Castles and palaces, churches and docks.  
23 Rain may keep raining, and others may moan,  
31 But I can be happy building at home.  
40 Let the sofa be mountains, the carpet a sea,  
48 That's where I'll make the castle for me:  
56 With a moat and portcullis, a drawbridge beside,  
64 And hundreds of turrets where people can hide.  
72 With high walls that enemies never can climb,  
80 And dungeons for if you've committed a crime,  
91 For as long as I live, and wherever I may be,  
99 I'll always remember my castle by the sea.



## Questions



1. What is the child happy to do when it is raining?

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2. Find and copy the word that means 'a place where ships come to drop off and pick up their cargo'.

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3. Why do you think the child will always remember the castle they built?

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4. What do you think the child is going to build next with the blocks?

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# Castles

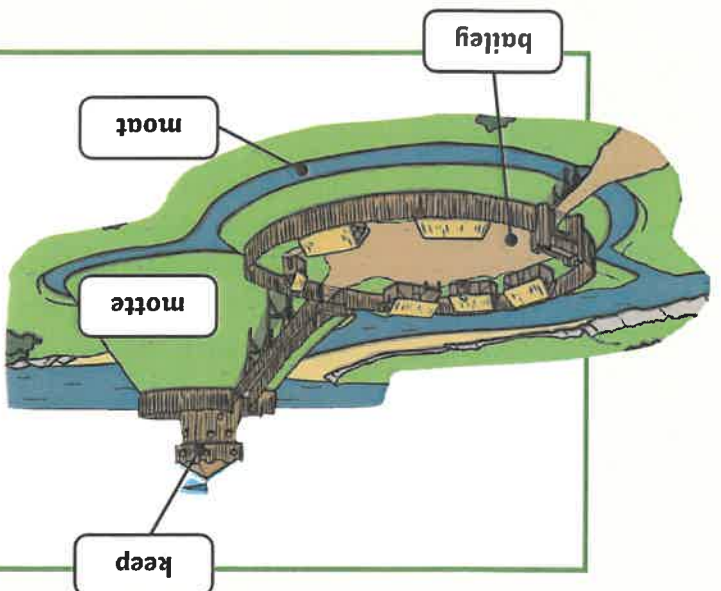


Mais

- A castle is a building that was built to protect the people that lived inside.
- A king or local ruler often built castles.
- The first castles were made out of wood. Stone was used later.



## Motte and Bailey



The first castles were often just a mound called a motte. There was a tower on top of the motte called a keep. The keep was where people lived. It was the strongest part of a castle. The group of buildings below the motte was called a bailey.

## Other Castle Parts

- Many castles had ditches around them.
- Moats were ditches filled with water that went around a castle.
- A drawbridge was a special bridge that could be pulled up or lowered down.
- People used the drawbridge to walk over the ditch or moat.



# Questions

Castles

Mars

1. What was the strongest part of a castle? Tick one.

- ☐ keep
- ☐ moat
- ☐ bailey

2. What was a bailey? Tick one.

- ☐ a ditch filled with water
- ☐ a group of buildings on flat land below the motte
- ☐ a door or gate

3. What was used later to build castles? Tick one.

- ☐ stone
- ☐ brick
- ☐ wood

4. Where did people live in a castle? Tick one.

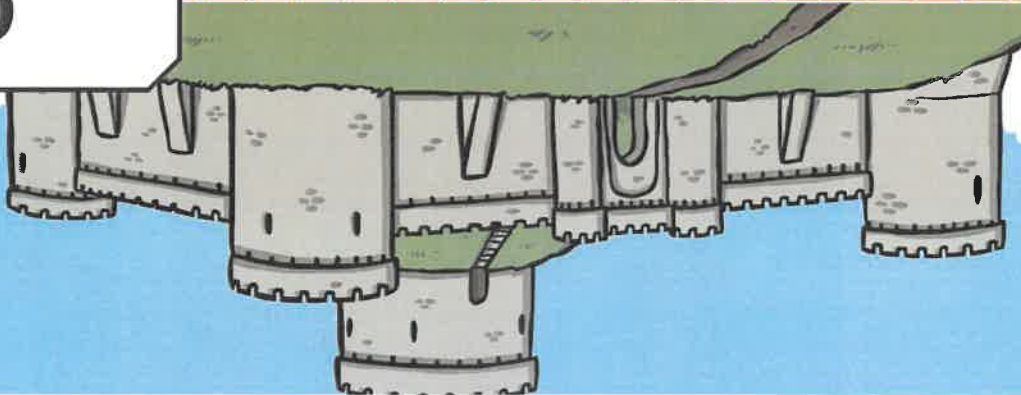
- ☐ moat
- ☐ keep
- ☐ ditch

5. Who built castles? Tick one.

- ☐ a king or local ruler
- ☐ a soldier
- ☐ a priest



# Castles



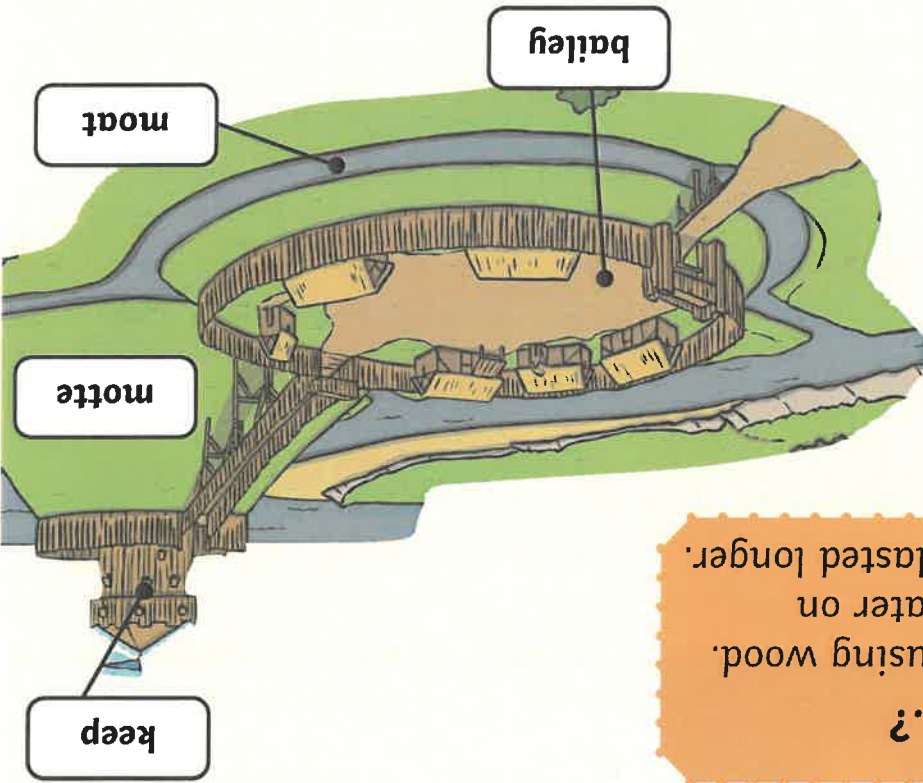
A castle is a building that was designed to protect the people that lived inside from enemy attacks. Castles were normally built by a king or important person, such as a **lord** or knight. A castle was generally a home, a way of showing off power and money and a place of safety.

## Did You Know...?

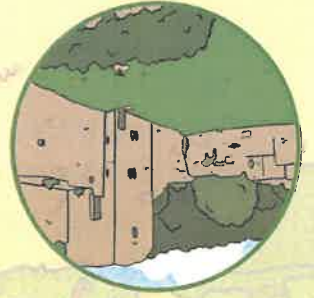
The first castles were built using wood. Stone was often used later on because it was stronger and lasted longer.



## Motte and Bailey



The first castles were usually just a mound called a motte. They had a surrounding ditch and a rectangular or square tower on top called a keep. The keep was the strongest part of a castle. Keeps were built on mottes and high ground so that the people there could see their enemies coming. Keeps became round over time to give the people inside a better view of the surrounding area. People eventually added a group of buildings below the motte on flat land with a surrounding wall and ditch. This was called a bailey and castles could have more than one. People added different parts to castles as they became more popular, such as a great castle entrance, a moat and curtain walls.



## Glossary

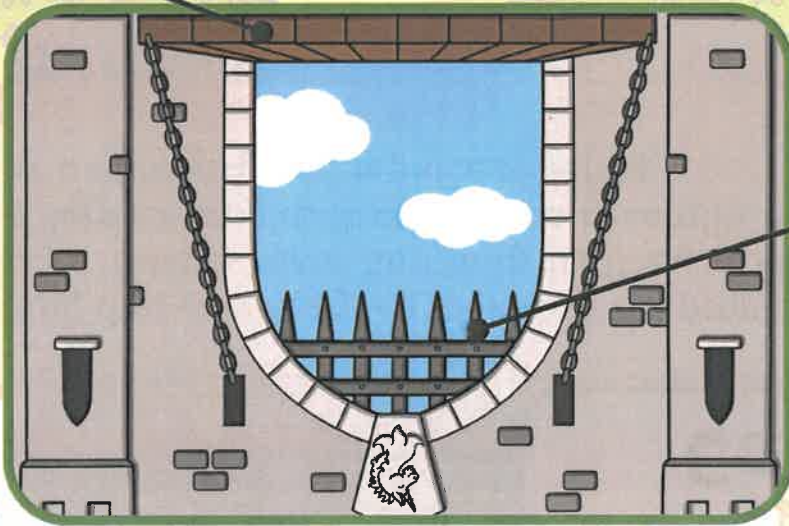
**lord:** A person who rules over others.

The entrance of a castle had three main parts. These were a castle gate, a portcullis and a drawbridge. A main castle gate or door was large, heavy and usually hard to break through. A portcullis was a spiked barrier which protected the doors. It was made from metal or wood and could be raised or lowered using chains. Drawbridges could be pulled up to stop enemies from getting across. Moats were ditches filled with water that surrounded a castle. They made it harder for enemies to tunnel underground. Tall, thick curtain walls that surrounded the keep and bailey shielded a castle from attack.

## Other Castle Parts

drawbridge

portcullis



Castles

Earth





## Questions

1. What was used to build the first castles? Tick one.

- ☐ plastic
- ☐ wood
- ☐ stone

2. Draw **three** lines and match each castle part to its description.

portcullis

large, heavy and usually  
hard to break through

castle gate or door

a spiked barrier made  
of metal or wood

keep

a rectangular, square  
or round tower

3. What was the mound part of a castle called?

4. Look at the last paragraph.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'protected'.

5. Fill in the missing word.

People added different \_\_\_\_\_ to castles as they became more popular, such as a great castle entrance, a moat and curtain walls.

6. What was your favourite fact about castles? Explain your answer.

