

Castles



Fun Facts!

- A castle is where a lord or noble, such as a prince, lives.
- Castles have some similarities with palaces and fortresses.
- They used to use earth and timber to build castles, but now stone is used.

Features of a Castle

- The main **castle gate** or **door** was hard to break through because it was usually made from thick, iron-studded wood.
- **Moats** surround the castle to make it harder for enemies to tunnel underground and enemies could be spotted easily trying to swim or row across.
- **Drawbridges** could be pulled up to stop enemies getting across.
- **Gate towers** were useful for shooting down from.
- The **high ground** that castles were built on meant the defenders could have a clear view of the surrounding area.
- The **high walls** of the castle made it difficult for enemies to climb.
- The **curtain walls** around the castle were tall and thick, to shield the castle.
- The **flanking towers** built in the curtain walls, were where defenders could view and attack enemies from.

Famous Castles

- Dover Castle
- Kenilworth Castle
- Tintagel Castle
- Bolsover Castle
- Portchester Castle
- Warkworth Castle
- Dunstanburgh Castle
- Carisbrooke Castle
- Middleham Castle
- Beeston Castle



Dover Castle is often considered the most iconic of all English fortresses.

Castles



Fun Facts!

A castle is a private fortified residence of a lord or noble, such as a prince. Castles have similarities with other constructions like palaces, fortresses and fortified settlements, but they are not the same. Castles have been built for around 900 years. Earth and timber were originally used to build castles, but now stone is used.

Features of a Castle

- The main **castle gate** or **door** was hard to break through because it was usually made from thick, iron-studded wood.
- The **portcullis** was the spiked metal or wood barrier, which protected the doors.
- **Moats** surround the castle to make it harder for enemies to tunnel underground into the castle, and enemies could be spotted easily trying to swim or row across.
- **Drawbridges** could be pulled up and stop enemies getting across.
- **Gate towers** were useful for shooting down from.
- The **high ground** that castles were built on meant that the defenders could have a clear view of the surrounding area.
- **Ramparts** were the steep banks of earth or rubble surrounding the castle which made it harder for enemies to climb up.
- The **high walls** of the castle made it difficult for enemies to climb.
- Tall, thick **curtain walls** around the castle shielded the castle from attack.
- The **flanking towers** built in the curtain wall, were where defenders could view and attack enemies from.
- **Battlements** were the tooth shaped top of the castle walls where the defenders could hide behind and fire missiles through the gaps.

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Castles



Castles were built to:

- control the surrounding area;
- defend against attack from enemies;
- launch firepower to attack enemies.

Fun Facts!

A private fortified residence of a lord or noble, such as a prince, is usually called a castle. Castles have similarities with other constructions like palaces, fortresses and fortified settlements, but they are not the same. Castles have been built for around 900 years and originated in the 9th and 10th centuries. Earth and timber were originally used to build castles, but later these materials were replaced by stone. In the 12th and early 13th centuries, to make the castles better, they began including towers.

Features of a Castle

- The main **castle gate** or **door** was hard to break through because it was usually made from thick, iron-studded wood.
- The **portcullis** was the spiked barrier which protected the doors from fire and battering. It was made from metal or wood and could be lowered by chains.
- **Moats** surrounded the castle to make it harder for enemies to tunnel underground into the castle and enemies could be spotted easily trying to swim or row across.
- As part of the gateway defences, **drawbridges** could stop enemies getting across as they could be pulled up.
- Defenders of the castle could shoot down from the tall **gate towers**.
- Castles were built on **high ground** so that defenders could have a clear view of the surrounding area.
- The steep banks of earth or rubble surrounding the castle, called **ramparts**, made it harder for enemies to climb over to enter the castle.
- The **high walls** of the castle made it difficult for enemies to climb.
- Tall, thick **curtain walls** around the castle shielded the castle from attack.
- **Flanking towers** built in the curtain wall provided good viewing and attacking platforms to defend the castle.
- **Battlements** were the tooth shaped top of the castle walls where the defenders could fire missiles through the gaps (crenels) and hide behind the raised sections (merlons).
- **Machicolations** were the stone boxes that stuck out from the walls. The holes were good for dropping stones or boiling oil on to attackers. Wooden boxes were called **hoards**.

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