**Subject:** History



**Task :** How did Castles change and develop between 1066 – 1500?

**Task 1 – Introduction - why were castles built in the first place?**

* 1 paragraph
* When were castles first built?
* Why were they needed?
* Introduce your project, what are you going to investigate?

**Task 2 – Motte and Bailey Castles**

* Description of Motte and Bailey Castle.
* Picture or model of a Motte and Bailey Castle.
* Advantages of Motte and Bailey Castles.
* Disadvantages of Motte and Bailey Castles.
* **Challenge**: explain how effective this castle was

**Task 3 – Square Stone Keep Castles**

* Description of Square Stone Keep Castle.
* Picture or model of a Square Stone Keep Castle.
* Advantages of Square Stone Keep Castles.
* Disadvantages of Square Stone Keep Castles.
* **Challenge**: explain how effective this castle was

**Task 4 – Concentric Castles**

* Description of Concentric Castle.
* Picture of a Concentric Castle.
* Advantages of Concentric Castles.
* Disadvantages of Concentric Castles.
* **Challenge**: explain how effective this castle was

**Task 5 - Conclusion**

* One large PEE paragraph
* Why did people stop building Castles?
* Why did castles change over time?
* In what ways did castles stay the same?
* **Challenge**: overall, how significant were these changes?

Where can I find information?

There are some worksheets on the system to get you going but you should be doing your own research

<http://www.castles-of-britain.com/castlesa.htm>

<http://www.schoolshistory.org.uk/motteandbaileycastles.htm>

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/>

**Grade descriptors**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Strand- change and continuity in a time period** |
| **Towards** | Describe several ways castles changed over time. Some examples given. |
| **Met** | Explain the advantages and disadvantages of each castle and briefly explain why they changed. Literacy will be good with clear PEE where necessary. |
| **Exceeded** | As above in detail and explain how significant these changes were. Literacy will be very good with clear and detailed PEE paragraphs. Topic words will be used correctly.  |

**Castles Homestudy – Task 1**

Write an introduction to castles:

Questions to think about and help you:

When were the first castles built?

Who built the first castles?

Why did people want to build castles?

Who built the first castles?

HELP SHEET

Why were Castles built in the first place?

A thousand years ago, the world was a very dangerous place. Kings and lords needed somewhere safe to shelter while they fought off attacks, so they started building castles.

The castle provided a home for the lord and his family, his servants and his soldiers. It was also a place of safety for all the people who lived on the lord’s land. Whenever an enemy attacked, everyone ran for cover to the castle.

Early castles

The first castles were built around the year 900. At first, they were simply strong homes surrounded by banks of earth. But by around 1050 some people were building more complicated structures.

# William the Conqueror

As you already know from your first Year 7 History lessons, in 1066 the Battle of Hastings was fought. William, Duke of Normandy defeated Harold Godwinson and became the new King of England. However, just because he’d won this particular battle, it didn’t mean people in the rest of the country were happy for him to rule over them.

In fact, quite the opposite happened. Many English people hated him because he had killed the man they had accepted as their leader. This was made worse by the fact that William was French and England and France had fought many wars against each other and were great rivals and suspicious enemies.

So…

1 Unpopular French King

+ 4 million angry English People

= lots of potential trouble for William unless he comes up with a plan quickly!

# A Clever Norman idea!

Luckily for William, he was able to come up with a cunning plan pretty quickly and soon began to build Motte and Bailey Castles all over England in the places where he thought the nasty English Peasants were likely to cause him the most trouble. Even better than that, he forced the angry English people to build them for him which meant they had to work hard and behave, or they would lose their jobs and money! (And maybe even parts of their bodies if they really upset him!)

**Castles Homestudy – Task 2**

**Motte and Bailey Castles**

In this section you need to research Motte and Bailey Castles.

You need to find out:

1. Why Motte and Bailey Castles were built?
2. Include a picture of a Motte and Bailey Castle explaining the different features.
3. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of Motte and Bailey Castles. What were their strengths? What were there weaknesses?

These websites will help get you started:

<http://www.castles-of-britain.com/castlesa.htm>

<http://www.schoolshistory.org.uk/motteandbaileycastles.htm>

[http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/http://www.castlewales.com/motte.htmlcastles.htm](http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/castles.htm)

<http://www.castlesontheweb.com/>

But there are lots more!!

Just a few notes to get you started…

Motte and Bailey Castles

Motte and Bailey Castles had two main parts.

The Motte was a high mound of earth with a ditch all round it. Sometimes a very high hill was used, but usually it had to be built by piling loads and loads and LOADS of mud up until it was high enough. This could take several months and guess who had this filthy job? Yep, it was the peasants, but at least it gave them a wage and kept them busy and out of trouble.

The Bailey

The other main part of the Motte and Bailey Castle was … the Bailey! (Now there’s a surprise!). The Bailey was the large wooden area at the bottom and it had a high wooden fence all the way round it to keep animals in and enemies out. The wooden fence was called a Palisade and the top of it was specially sharpened points so if an enemy tried to climb over they might slip and the wood was so sharp it would puncture their bodies and unfortunately for them there would be a sort of ‘enemy kebab’ on the posts.

One of the best things about they Bailey that suggests William really was a cunning king, is that it was sort of like a mini village with a farm. Everything the people living in the castle needed to survive could be grown or produced in the Bailey. They even had their own water supply. This was excellent because if anybody tried to attack they’d have to wait up to 8 months before the people inside ran out of food or water.

The other good thing about Motte and Bailey Castles was they were almost impossible to successfully attack. They were surrounded by deep water filled ditches that weren’t much fun to cross when you’re wearing heavy armour and chain mail and carrying heavy weapons. Here are some other advantages of Motte and Bailey Castles. See if you can explain why they were important.

•They only took about 2 or 3 weeks to build

•They provided good protection.

•The English found it almost impossible to capture castles

•About 50 soldiers in a castle could hold off an army of thousands of English

•Castles could be used as bases. A Norman baron could control a large area of land around his castle

•They could be adapted and reinforced with stone once William gained control.

However, there were a few problems with this type of castle. Firstly, they were made of wood, which was great because it was cheap and there was plenty of it, but unfortunately it could be burnt down which isn’t quite so great. The other problem was that, as you’ve probably noticed, the English weather tends to be rather damp and rainy and wood rots and weakens under these conditions. This is one of the main reasons there aren’t any left today!!

**Task 3**

**Square Stone Keep Castles**

In this section you need to research Square Stone Keep Castles.

You need to find out:

1. Why Square Stone Keep Castles were built?
2. Include a picture of a Square Stone Keep Castle explaining the different features.
3. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of Square Stone Keep Castles. What were their strengths? What were their weaknesses?

Some points to get you started…

Stone Square Keep Castles

By the 1100s the Normans had developed a different type of castle that was much stronger and safer that Motte and Bailey castles. The kings who came after William were less concerned with the speed of building a castle. For them it was strength that was much more important.

The new castles were made of stone and had walls that were often up to 5 metres thick. This meant that they were too heavy to build on Mottes so, much to the peasants’ relief they stopped building Mottes. However, instead the peasants had to drag huge lumps of stone around. Sometimes the stone weighed up to half a ton!

The Keep was the safest part of the castle and it had several floors which had many uses as you can see below.

The weakest parts of this type of castle were the doorways and windows. The safest thing to have done would be to not bother with doors and windows but as people can’t actually see in the dark, in some ways this would have been equally dangerous! Instead they made very small slit windows on the ground floor. Arrows could be fired out of these windows, but as they were narrow, nobody else could climb in through one. Windows were only allowed high up. Projecting towers were also added so defenders could fire at any attackers who were at the bottom of the walls.

Usually attackers tried to starve the defenders out of the castle or poison the water supply. Sometimes they would undermine the wall, (dig a tunnel underneath it) and put explosives in to explode and destroy the wall. Alternatively, miners would set fire to the wooden frames that supported the castle walls, causing it to collapse. Square corners were especially weak against this type of attack.

**Task 4**

**Concentric Castles**

In this section you need to research Concentric Castles.

You need to find out:

1. Why Concentric Castles were built?
2. Include a picture of a Concentric Castle explaining the different features.
3. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of Concentric Castles. What were their strengths? What were their weaknesses?

Some points to get you started…

Concentric Castles: Buildings to Kill People!

As castles developed, not only did the material they used to build them change from wood to stone, but the shape also changed from square to circular. The improvements were important because by the 1300s, armies had developed a terrifying range of weapons which the castle builders had to adapt to. Many of these improvements were brought back to England by Crusaders who had been to the Middle East.

The idea of concentric castles was to avoid the weaknesses of the square corners by not having any. These castles were also built with different layers and had inner ramparts higher than the outer ones so that archers could fire their arrows from both sets of walls. If attackers broke through one set of wall, they faced another complete circle of walls. (See diagram below).

Defenders had many advantages in concentric castles. Wherever the castle was attacked from, they had lots of firing positions covering the ground. If a section of the outer wall was captured, it could be shut off by closing the entries into the towers. This would trap the enemy so they could be fired on. These castles were much harder to use normal siege tactics against. Also less soldiers were needed to defend concentric castles.

**Task 5**

**The Conclusion**

In this section you need to look at the key changes that took place in the development of castles from a Motte and Bailey castle to a Concentric castle.

You need to make sure that you don’t write down everything you have found out – select the major changes that took place and examine them.

 You also need to explain WHY the changes took place.

 e.g. “Castles had to be made from a new material as people soon realised that wood was

 going to stop any attackers. There was little any castle owner could do to stop fire

 destroying their defences.”

 You could also include how as weapons changed over time, so did the castles. Pupils

 achieving the highest grade will make sure that they have linked these two issues in

 their conclusion.

THEN YOU CAN REST AS YOU WILL HAVE A FANTASTIC PROJECT THAT YOU CAN BE PROUD OF. You can email your work to your teacher and they will give you some feedback.

