Castles



Fun Facts!

- A castle is where a lord or noble, such as a King or Queen, 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.

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Questions About Castles



1. Who lives in a castle?

2. What were castles made from originally and after that?

3. What was the main castle gate or door made from?

4. Where are moats?

5. What could drawbridges do?

6. Where was it useful to shoot down from?

7. What did the high walls make it difficult to do?

8. Which castle is considered the most iconic of all English fortresses?

Castles **Answers**

1. Who lives in a castle?
   A castle is where a lord or noble, such as a prince, lives.

2. What were castles made from originally and after that?
   They used to use earth and timber to build castles, but now stone is used.

3. What was the main castle gate or door made from?
   They were made from thick, iron-studded wood.

4. Where are moats?
   Moats surround the castle.

5. What could drawbridges do?
   Drawbridges could be pulled up to stop enemies getting across.

6. Where was it useful to shoot down from?
   Gate towers were useful for shooting down from.

7. What did the high walls make it difficult to do?
   The high walls of the castle made it difficult for enemies to climb.

8. Which castle is considered the most iconic of all English fortresses?
   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 King or Queen. Castles have similarities with other constructions like palaces, fortresses and fortified settlements, but they are not the same. Castles were first built over 1000 years ago. 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.

Famous Castles

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

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Questions About Castles



1. What other constructions do castles have similarities with?

2. How long ago were castles first built?

3. What were castles made from originally and after that?

4. What was usually made from thick, iron-studded wood and why was it useful?

5. Why was it good for castles to be built on high ground?

6. Why were moats useful?

7. What were the high walls and curtain walls good for?

8. What use were the battlements?

9. Name three famous castles.

Castles **Answers**

1. What other constructions do castles have similarities with?
   Castles have similarities with other constructions like palaces, fortresses and fortified settlements.

2. How long ago were castles first built?
   Castles were first built around 1000 years ago.

3. What were castles made from originally and after that?
   Earth and timber were originally used to build castles, but now stone is used.

4. What was usually made from thick, iron-studded wood and why was it useful?
   The main castle gate or door was usually made from thick, iron-studded wood and was useful because it was hard to break through.

5. Why was it good for castles to be built on high ground?
   Castles built on high ground meant the defenders could have a clear view of the surrounding area.

6. Why were moats useful?
   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.

7. What were the high walls and curtain walls good for?
   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.

8. What use were the battlements?
   Battlements were the tooth shaped top of the castle walls where the defenders could hide behind and fire missiles through the gaps.

9. Name three famous castles.
   Dover Castle, Kenilworth Castle, Tintagel Castle, Bolsover Castle, Portchester Castle, Warkworth Castle, Dunstanburgh Castle, Carisbrooke Castle, Middleham Castle and Beeston Castle are famous castles.

   (Accept any three)

Castles



Castles were built to:

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

Fun Facts!

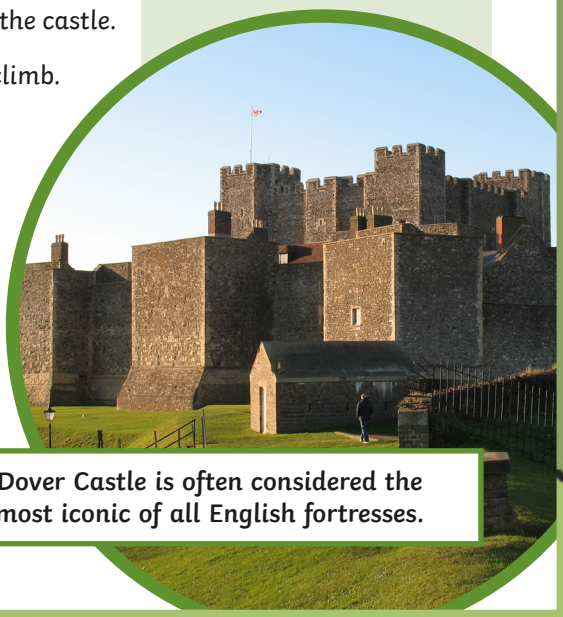
A private fortified residence of a lord or noble, such as a King or Queen, is usually called a castle. Castles have similarities with other constructions like palaces, fortresses and fortified settlements, but they are not the same. Castles were built over 1000 years ago and originated in the 9th and 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. The most recent castle built in England is Castle Drogo which was completed in 1930.

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**.

Famous Castles

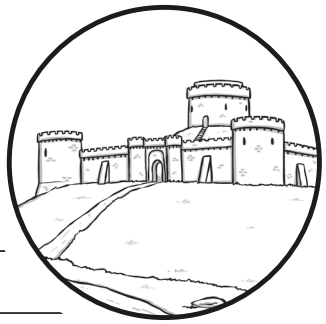
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Dover Castle is often considered the most iconic of all English fortresses.

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Questions About Castles



1. What is a castle and what type of people lived there?

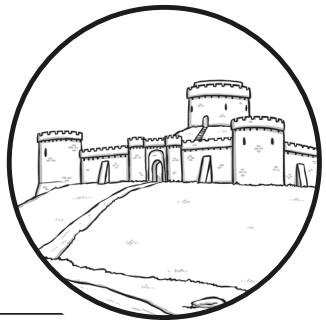
2. What were merlons and crenels?

3. How long ago were castles first built and what is the name of the most recent castle in England?

4. What was the portcullis and how did it protect the castle?

5. What were the ramparts and how were they useful?

6. What were the battlements and how were they good for attacking and defending?



7. What were the boxes that stick out from the walls called and used for, and were there different types?

8. Name five famous castles.

9. Describe Dover Castle using three adjectives.

10. What were castles built to do?

Castles **Answers**

9. Describe Dover Castle using three adjectives.

   (Answers will vary. Accept any three reasonable adjectives)

   E.g. Dover castle is huge, old and weathered.

10. What were castles built to do?

    Castles were built to control the surrounding area, defend against attack from enemies and launch firepower to attach enemies.

Castles **Answers**

1. What is a castle and what type of people lived there?
   A private fortified residence of a lord or noble, such as a prince, is usually called a castle.

2. What were merlons and crenels?
   Crenels and merlons were at the top sections of the battlements. The merlons were raised parts soldiers would hide behind and the crenels were the caps soldiers would fire missiles through.

3. How long ago were castles first built and what is the name of the most recent castle built in England?
   Castles were first built over 1000 years ago and the most recent castle built in England is Castle Drogo which was built in 1930.

4. What was the portcullis and how did it protect the castle?
   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.

5. What were the ramparts and how were they useful?
   The steep banks of earth or rubble surrounding the castle, called ramparts, made it harder for enemies to climb over to enter the castle.

6. What were the battlements and how were they good for attacking and defending?
   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).

7. What were the boxes that stick out from the walls called and used for, and were there different types?
   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.

8. Name five famous castles.
   Dover Castle, Kenilworth Castle, Tintagel Castle, Bolsover Castle, Portchester Castle, Warkworth Castle, Dunstanburgh Castle, Carisbrooke Castle, Middleham Castle and Beeston Castle are famous castles.

   (Accept any five)