

# Knights and Princesses!

## Year 2 – History Knowledge Organiser



### Parts of a Castle

**Battlements** – found on top of the walls, guards used the gaps (crenels) to fire arrows at the enemy and the stone wall (merlons) for protection.

**Moat** – this water-filled ditch surrounded the castle and provided protection by slowing down invaders and stopping them reaching the castle walls.

**Arrow loops** – these narrow openings or crosses were found in castle walls or towers to allow defenders to fire arrows at enemies without getting hit themselves.

**Drawbridge** – this wooden bridge spanned the moat and gave entrance to the castle. It could be pulled up quickly to stop enemies getting into the castle easily.

**Portcullis** – this spiked, metal gate protected the entrance gate from fire and battering rams. It was raised and lowered by chains.

**Bailey** – this busy inside yard of the castle was filled with a variety of buildings such as the stables, blacksmith, fletcher and carpenter.

**Dungeon** – found under a gatehouse tower, dungeons locked up prisoners in their small cells.

**Barbican** – also called the 'Gatehouse', this housed the portcullis and was the well-protected entrance to the castle where the soldiers lived.

**Keep** – this large building inside the Bailey was the safest building and where the Lord and his family lived and hosted great banquets.

### Castle Facts

A castle was the home and fortress of an important person such as a king, lord or knight.

Many servants looked after the lord and his family inside the castle. They cooked, cleaned, served at the table as well as worked as maids.

Castles had no toilets so people used 'garderobes' which were wooden seats over a long chute that carried the waste away and dropped it in the moat!

The Great Hall (found in the Bailey) was where the lord held great feasts called banquets. The guests were entertained by musicians playing instruments or performances from a jester, juggler or acrobat.

Delicious food such as roast meats were served at a banquet but guests had to eat it all with their fingers!

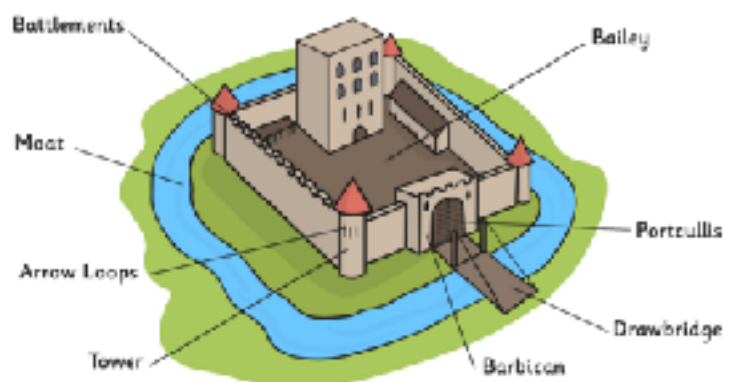
It took years of training to become a knight! First, he learnt to ride horses, shoot a bow and arrow as well as behave in front of nobles. Then, he learnt how to look after armour and weapon as well as fight with a sword. All this training took 14 years!

Knights competed in jousting competitions to prove who was the best! Jousting was a fight between two knights on horseback.

Jousting knights charged at each other at top speed and tried to knock their opponent off his horse with a blow from a long wooden lance.

Enemies used different types of weapons and equipment to attack a castle. Ladders were used to climb over walls, battering rams could destroy the portcullis whilst trebuchets (catapults) could throw stones and destroy the castle walls.

When enemies attacked, the guards would defend the castle by firing arrows from the battlements or pouring boiling oil on them through 'Murder Holes'.



## Opportunities for

### Books

- (i) 'Castles and Knights' by DK
- (ii) 'See Inside Castles' by Katie Daynes and
- (iii) 'What Were Castles For?' by Phil Roxbee

### Websites

- (i) [Interactive jousting game](http://www.tutorbrilliance.org/joust/index.asp) <http://www.tutorbrilliance.org/joust/index.asp>
- (ii) [Information and video clips website](https://www.usborne.com/quicklinks/eng/catalogue/catalogue.aspx?cat=1&loc=uk&area=YR&subcat=FRLF&id=4613) <https://www.usborne.com/quicklinks/eng/catalogue/catalogue.aspx?cat=1&loc=uk&area=YR&subcat=FRLF&id=4613>

