

Castles, Knights & Dragons

Knowledge Organiser

Year 1 and 2

Key Vocabulary

Castle	A type of home that was built to protect the people inside.
Medieval	A period of time from the 11 th century to the 16 th century.
King/Queen	Male/Female ruler of a country.
Lord and Lady	Important people of high rank who run and own castles.
Battlements	The top of the castle wall with raised and lowered sections.
Portcullis	A strong iron gate that can be raised and lowered to block enemies.
Drawbridge	A bridge that can be lowered or raised to enter or exit a castle.
Moat	A deep ditch that surrounds a castle. It can be filled with or without water.
Turrets	A small tower built on the castle at the corner or on top of a larger tower.
Keep	A strong tower built within castles for defence.
Bailey	The outer wall of a castle.
Arrow Slits	A narrow vertical slit in the wall for shooting through.
Defend	Protect from harm or danger.
Attack	An aggressive and violent act against a person or place.
Siege	Cutting off essential supplies with the aim of making people inside the castle surrender.
Motte	A mound forming the site or a castle.

History Key Questions

What is a castle and why were they built?

Who lived in a castle and how were their lives different?

How was life then compared to now?

Who was William the Conqueror and how does he fit into our history?

Motte and Bailey

These castles were built first because they were quick and cheap to build. King William needed castles as soon as possible to defend his new crown. They were made out of wood. It has been said that nearly 1000 motte and bailey castles were built by the Normans.



Keep and Bailey

When the rebellion against King William calmed down they were able to build Keep and Bailey castles, that took longer to build and were made out of stone.

Some of them are still around today, including Windsor Castle and the Tower of London.

