

## Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
<b>arrow loop</b>	A narrow slit in a castle wall from which arrows could be fired.
<b>battlements</b>	Found at the top of a castle's walls, with openings to shoot through and raised sections for protection.
<b>castle</b>	A very large, strong building, designed to protect people on the inside from attack.
<b>drawbridge</b>	A bridge, which can be raised and lowered, often found over a castle's moat.
<b>knight</b>	An important man who had a duty to fight for his king. A knight would wear armour and ride a horse.
<b>moat</b>	A deep, wide ditch surrounding a castle, often filled with water.
<b>portcullis</b>	A strong, heavy, spiked barrier that can be lowered to block an entrance.
<b>siege</b>	When an enemy surrounds a castle for a long period of time and does not let anyone go in or out.
<b>tournament</b>	A sporting event where two knights competed against each other, trying to knock the other off their horse.

## History

### Why were castles built?

#### Castles were built to:

- control the surrounding area;
- defend against enemy attack;
- launch weapons to attack enemies.

Whole communities of people lived together in castles and they were a place that people went to keep safe from their enemies.

Lots of people would be able to live safely inside the castle during a **siege**. They would stay there until it was safe for them to go outside again.

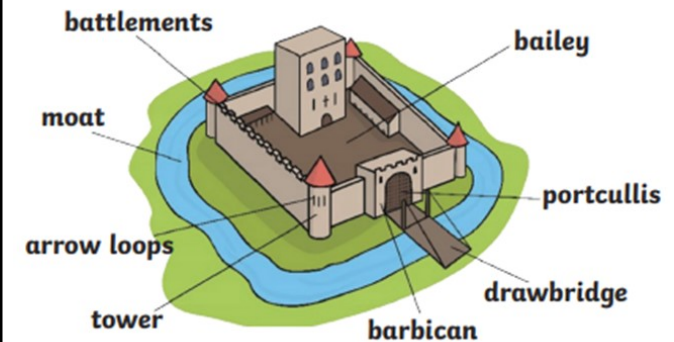
### When were castles built?

Most castles in England were built between 1066 and the 1400s. They were built by the Normans.

This was a time when people would often fight over who controlled large areas of the country.

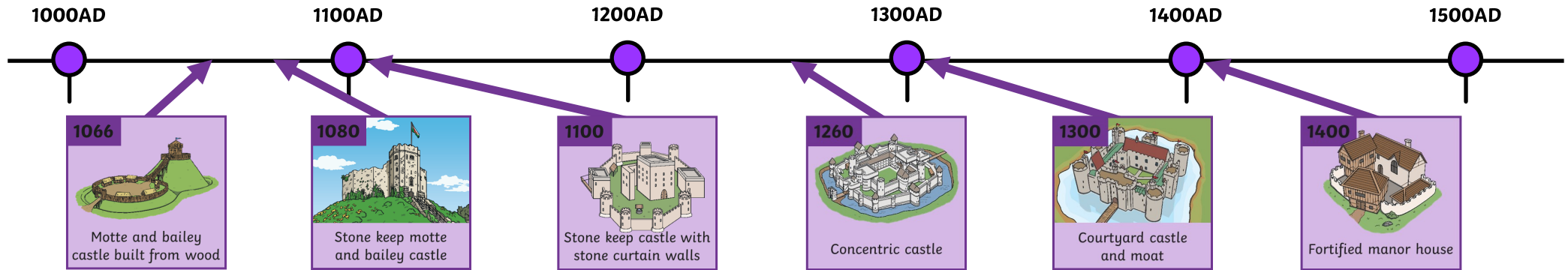


### Layout



Castles were built in different shapes and sizes but often had the same features to help protect the people who lived inside.

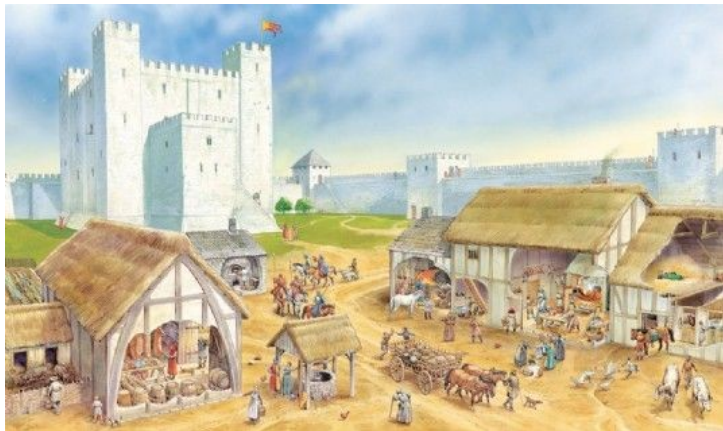
## How Castles Changed— Time Line



### Who lived in castles?

Lots of people lived in and around a castle.

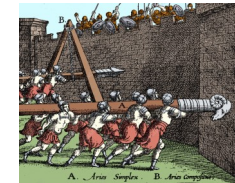
They were places for a whole community. It was not just kings, queens and soldiers who lived in castles. The people who lived in the castle grounds had different jobs, such as blacksmiths, farmers and traders.



### Under Attack!

Castles were very strong buildings.

Powerful weapons were needed when trying to invade a castle.



battering ram



siege tower



trebuchet

### Extending your learning

Things you could do at home to extend your learning:

1. Visit the Tower of London or Windsor Castle
2. Take a virtual tour of the ruins of [Raglan Castle](#) in Wales.
3. Use junk modelling to make your own model of a castle.