

All about castles

What is a castle?

A castle is a type of home that was built to protect the people who lived inside.

Why were castles built?

In the past, important people like kings and noblemen fought each other for land and power. They built castles to live in to protect themselves and their families from enemies. Some important people built large, expensive castles just to show how rich they were.



Where were castles built?

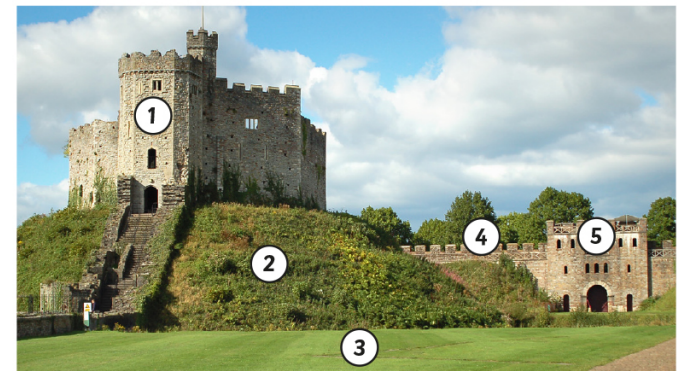
Most castles were built high up on hills or on mounds of earth called mottes. This helped the people inside to see who was approaching the castle. The steep sides of the hill also made it difficult for enemies to climb up and attack the castle.

What were castles made from?

The first castles were made from wood, but they were easy to attack and burn down. So, kings and noblemen started to build their castles from stone. Stone castles were much stronger and more difficult to attack.

What are the parts of a castle called?

- 1 The **keep** is the tower in the middle of a castle.
- 2 The **motte** is the mound of earth beneath the keep.
- 3 The **bailey** is the flat area around the motte.
- 4 The **curtain wall** is the outer wall which protects the castle.
- 5 The **gatehouse** is the entrance to a castle.



Who worked in a castle?

Many different people worked in a castle.

- The **steward** was in charge of the castle.
- A **knight** defended the castle and fought for his king or lord.
- A **lady-in-waiting** looked after the ladies who lived in the castle.
- The **cook** prepared food for the people who lived and worked in the castle.
- The **gong scourer** climbed into the castle toilets to clean them out. Yuk!

