



A castle is a building that was built to protect the people that lived inside. The first castles were built out of wood. Stone was used later on because it was stronger and lasted longer.

Did You Know...?

A king or an important person often built castles.



Motte and Bailey

The first castles were often just a mound called a motte with a ditch that went around it. There was a rectangular or square tower on top of the motte that was called a keep. The keep was the strongest part of a castle and it was where people lived. People also added a group of buildings below the motte on flat land. This was called a bailey.

Other Castle Parts

A main castle gate or door was heavy and hard to break through. A portcullis was a spiked barrier made from metal or wood. It could be pulled up or down using chains. Drawbridges could be pulled up to stop enemies from getting across.

Moats were ditches often filled with water that went around the castle. They made it harder for enemies to dig into a castle. Many castles also had curtain walls. They were walls that were built all the way around a castle.



Questions

- What were curtain walls? Tick one.
 - ☐ walls with curtains on them
 - ☐ walls that were built all the way around a castle
 - ☐ walls for a play or show
- How was a portcullis pulled up or down? Tick one.
 - ☐ using ropes
 - ☐ using wires
 - ☐ using chains
- What did a moat do? Tick one.
 - ☐ It gave people a place to swim.
 - ☐ It was a place to catch fish.
 - ☐ It made it harder for enemies to dig into a castle.
- Look at the first paragraph.
Find and copy one word that means the same as 'keep safe'.

- Fill in the missing word.
Drawbridges could be pulled up to stop _____ from getting across.