



Find out about Morpeth Castle's past...



Hello! Welcome to Morpeth Castle! My name is Rob and I was a stable boy here in the 1300s. I loved working at the castle with the horses, it was much better than being a thatcher or a blacksmith!

I got to look after all the knight's horses and sometimes I would speak to their **squires**. Once one of them let me hold their master's sword. It was really heavy; my arm felt like it was going to fall off!

When I grow up I want to be a squire. My brother Billy and I practice sword fighting with sticks pretending that we are King Arthur's knights who are going on special quests. I always get to be Sir Lancelot (he's the bravest knight there is!)

Fact:

A **squire** looks after their master who is a knight (say 'nite'). They help them get dressed, carry their weapons, look after their horses and also learn how to fight on horseback.

The weavers in the village tell tales of William Lord Greystoke who used to be the lord of Morpeth Castle until he died in 1359. He was a brave knight and fought in the Hundred Years' War (yes it went on almost that long – imagine that). If only I was the son of a noble, then I could become a knight and lead an army in the **Crusades**!

Fact:

The **Crusades** were a holy war fought by Christians against the Muslim Turks. They were called holy wars because the fight took place in the Holy Land, between people with different religious beliefs.





When Lord Williams died his son Ralph became lord of Morpeth. The gatehouse you are staying in had just been built and it became a court room. All the wicked thieves and murderers went on trial here and were given their punishment.



My favourite punishment was when people got put in the **pillory**. I found the most rotten tomatoes and apples to throw at them. Splat! It was so funny. What would you throw at them?

Fact:

The **pillory** was a wooden frame with holes for the head and hands where the person being punished would be locked in. Ouch!



Lord Ralph often led big hunting parties to catch deer, wild pigs and rabbits. Then there was a big feast in the great hall of the **keep** of the castle. We only got the leftovers but even they were delicious. Mmmm.

Sometimes there would be a jester at the feast. He would do tricks and tell jokes and stories.

What is your favourite joke?

Fact:

The **keep** was the main tower or building in the castle. It was where the most important people in the castle lived. It was the strongest and safest part of the castle.

Unruly Rulers

Who were the medieval (say 'med-ee-evil') kings?

Medieval means in the Middle Ages. This is roughly from when William the Conqueror and the Normans invaded England in 1066 until Henry VIII (that's the 8th) became king in 1509.



King William II Rufus
He was killed hunting.
People say that Henry I ordered it!

1066

William the Conqueror

He wasn't even English he came from France.



1087

King Henry I

He stole the throne from his older brother who was away on Crusade.



1100

King Stephen

Another king who stole the throne, it was meant to be his cousin Matilda's!



1135

King Henry II

Some of his knights heard that he was angry at Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury. That was the end of poor Thomas, the knights killed him.



1154

King Richard I The Lion Heart

A brave king, he was always fighting a war.



1189

King John

Bad King John, he was a cruel and horrible man. He died eating too many peaches!



1199

King Henry III

He was a good king who gave money to the poor and liked to pray.



1216

King Edward I

He invaded and conquered both Wales and Scotland ruling both of them!



1272

King Edward II

Another bad King, he only listened to his best friend Piers Gaveston and died a nasty death in a dungeon.



1307

King Edward III

He was a good king, even if he did start the 100 years' war.



1327

King Richard II

He tried to rule without parliament, so the barons helped the next Henry become king.



1377

King Henry IV

He stole the throne from Richard when he was fighting in Ireland. Hard luck Richie!



1399

King Henry V

He wanted to be King of England and France. You guessed it, he started a war!



1413



1422 **King Henry VI**

He became king at 8 months old! He was weak and hated war. He never fought in any battles.



King Edward IV

He secretly married Elizabeth Woodville. Some say she was a witch!



1461

King Edward V

He was 10 when he became king for 86 days. Then uncle Richard put him and his brother in a tower.



1483

King Richard III

He was a bad king. People say he had his nephews murdered in the Tower of London so he could be king instead.



1483

King Henry VII

He defeated bad King Richard and became the first Tudor king. Hooray!



1485



Meet King Edward III – who ruled when this Landmark was built.

Hi Eddie!

So when did you become king?

I became King on 25 January 1327 when I was 14.

What are you most famous for?

I started the 100 years' war (yes it really was that long). I'm the reason England became a great military power.

Was there anything you were scared of?

The plague – rats brought the Black Death to England during my reign.

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

I tried to steal the French throne from Philip V of France. I am a much better king and warrior than Philip; he doesn't deserve to rule France!





What does Morpeth Castle look like?

Can you walk all the way around it?

Can you use any of these words to describe the building? Draw a circle around the ones that do.

Does Morpeth Castle look like other buildings in the area?

Safe

Pretty

Stone

Symmetrical

Square

Friendly

Tall

Industrial

Brick

Home

Elegant

Low

Fact:

I bet you've never heard of **crenellations** before! They are the pattern along the top of a castle wall and buildings. They look like this:



Morpeth was originally a wooden castle but in 1216 King John burnt it down. The castle was rebuilt in stone as it was stronger and not as easy to burn. In the 1350s, Lord William Greystoke built the gatehouse where you are staying. The gatehouse was used for local government. It would have had a courtroom where people were put on trial. There aren't many **crenellations** (say 'cren-elay-shun') or arrow slits on the gatehouse. This means that it was built to look nice instead of being defensive.

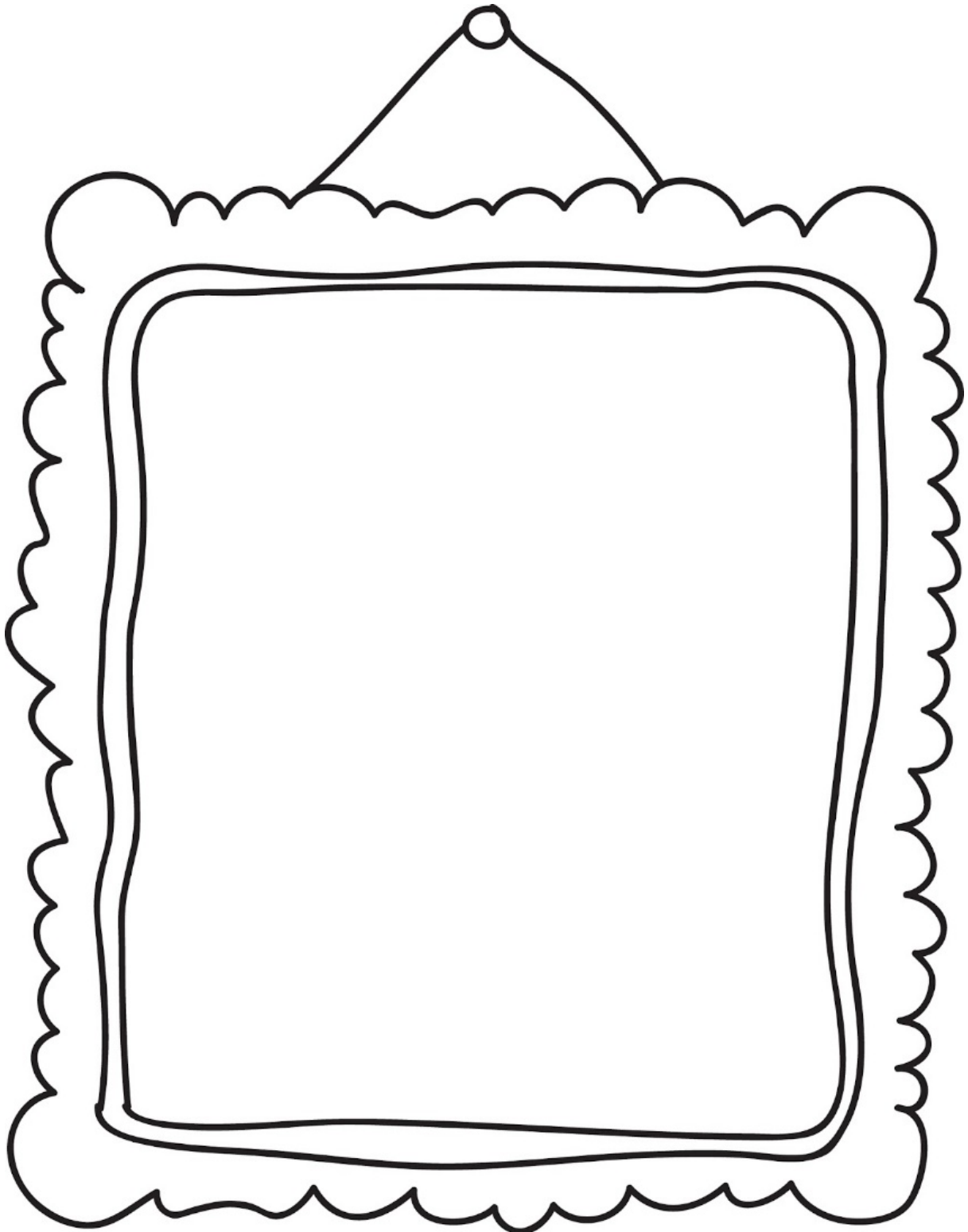
In medieval times Morpeth Castle had a keep (that's where the lord lived), a large wall around the outside and other buildings for people to live and work in. Draw a map of what you think the castle would have looked like from above. Label the buildings on the map.



Buildings are quite easy to draw. They are usually made up of lots of geometric shapes, like squares, triangles and circles.

Have a go at drawing the front of Morpeth Castle.

Please tell an adult where you are going so they don't worry about where you are!
And don't worry if you make a mess of your drawing, just use the other side.





What is Morpeth Castle built from?

Stone is the solid foundation of the earth. It exists as huge mountains, rocks, stones or small pebbles washed smooth by water. There are lots of different types of stone, with different colours and textures. Some are better to build with than others.

Fact:

Some buildings were built from stone that was dug out of the ground when farmers ploughed the fields, other buildings were made from stone that was quarried and cut into neat shapes and sizes. There are still many stone quarries around the country today, where people get stone out of the ground.

Stone houses were once cheaper to build than brick ones. Once we could transport bricks up and down the country on the canals and railways, brick buildings became cheaper and more popular.

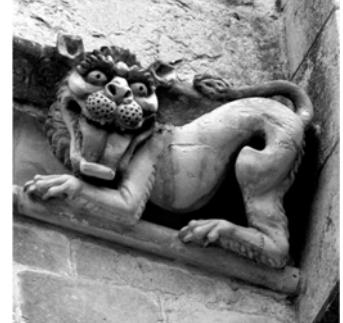


In medieval times, stone was taken out of the ground by hand. Today, a quarry is a place where stone is blasted out of the ground with explosives! The one in the picture shows what quarries look like now.

People who work with stone are called stonemasons. They build walls, carve the stone into shapes or add patterns to its surface. They use a mallet and special tools called chisels to shape the stone. Draw the shape of one of the big windows at the front of the castle below.



Sometimes stone masons carved faces and animals called gargoyles. You often find these in churches, up near the roof. Here are some examples. Have a go at designing your own gargoyle. Make it as ugly as you like!



What other building materials can you find outside and inside Morpeth Castle?

Circle what you can see and note down where you found them.

Stone

Glass

Wood

Plastic

Metal

Clay

Flint

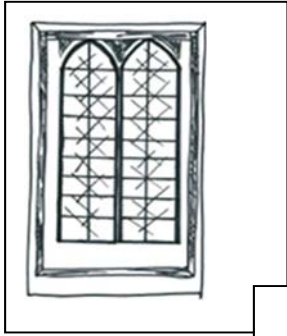
Concrete

Brick

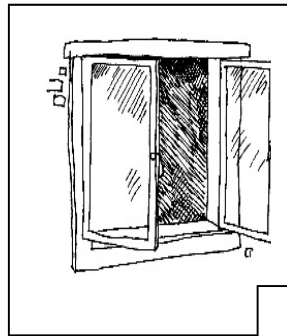
Ceramic



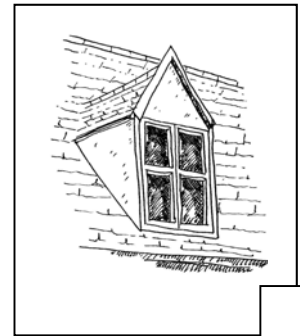
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows does Morpeth Castle have?



Pointed or Gothic

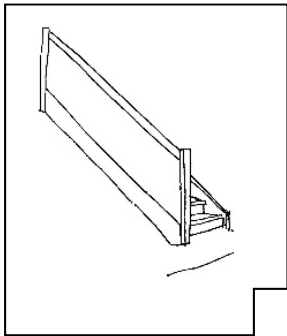


Casement (it opens)

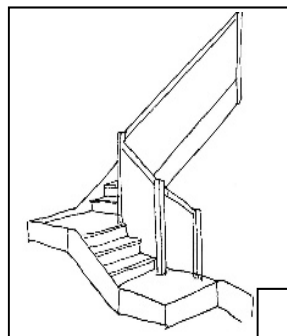


Dormer or attic (in the roof)

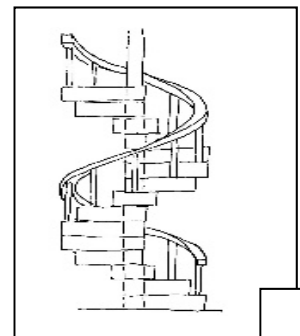
There are many different styles of staircases. Which style is closest to the staircase at Morpeth Castle?



Straight



Quarter turn

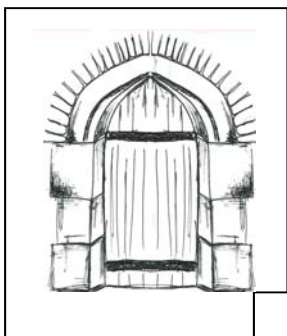


Spiral

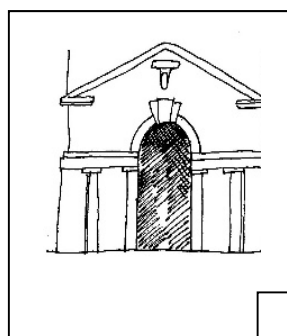
Fact:

Have you noticed that spiral staircases go clockwise when you're going up and anti-clockwise when you're going down? This is because most people are right handed so if there was an attacker with a sword coming up the stairs they had to show more of their body to fight. The swords man above had the wall on his left leaving more room to fight with his right arm.

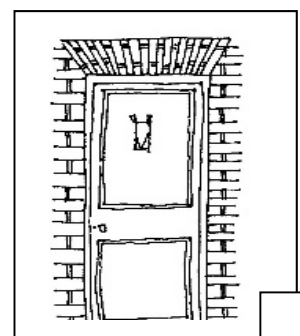
Entrances can be grand or simple. Which front door is most like the one at Morpeth Castle?



Tudor arch



Porch



Doorframe

Quest



Discover more about Morpeth Castle

Since the Normans invaded England in 1066 there has been a castle in Morpeth. In that time, many things have changed both inside and outside the building. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

What do you think the rooms on both sides of the gate were?

They were guard rooms so that the guards could watch the entrance of the castle in safety.



Can you find the arrow slits?

Fact:

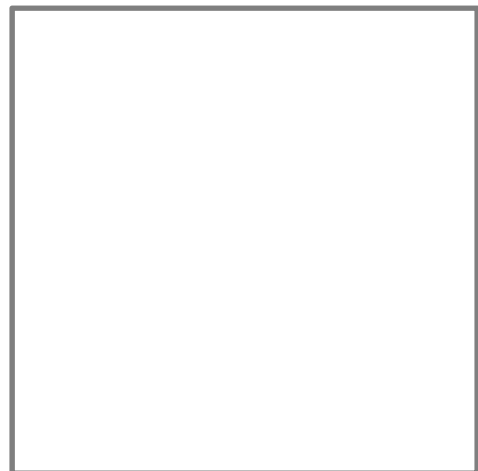
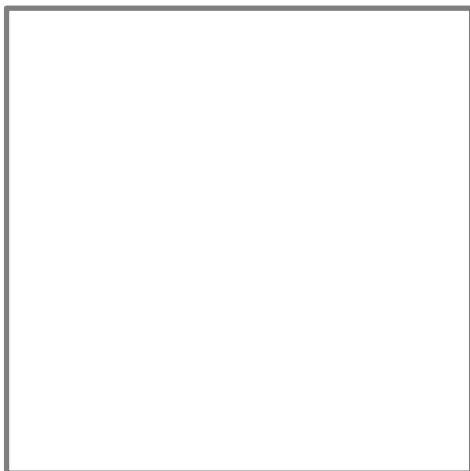
An **arrow slit** is a narrow vertical window that archers used to defend the castle by shooting arrows from the shelter of the tower. They are sometimes called loopholes because of bow loops.



Can you find these corbels?

A corbel is used to support the part of the battlement that comes out to make the top of battlements. They could be different shapes. Design your own corbels in the boxes below, and draw an arrow slit with an arrow to fire.

Battlement
Corbels



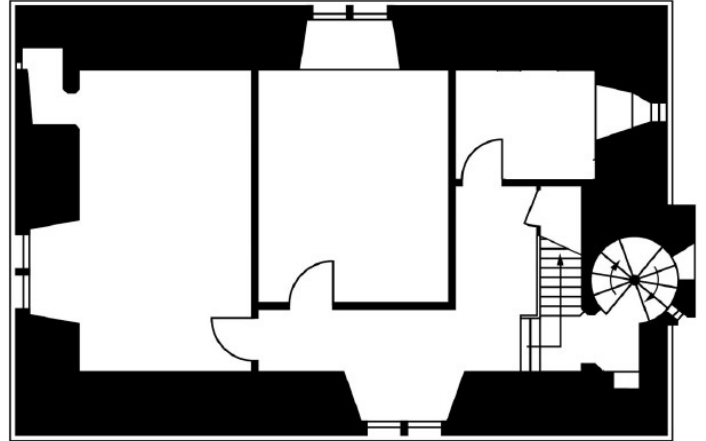
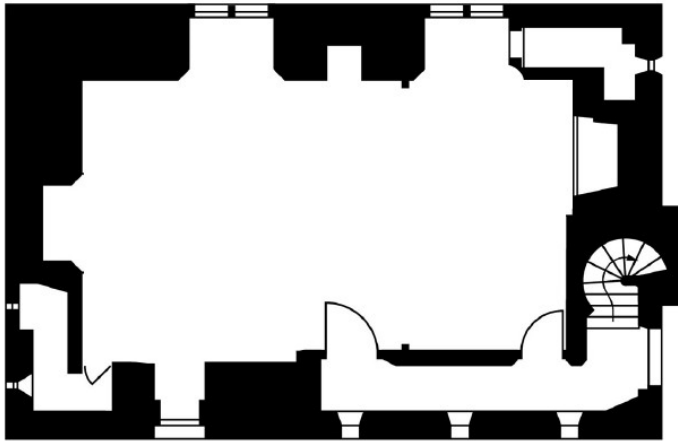


Living in Morpeth Castle

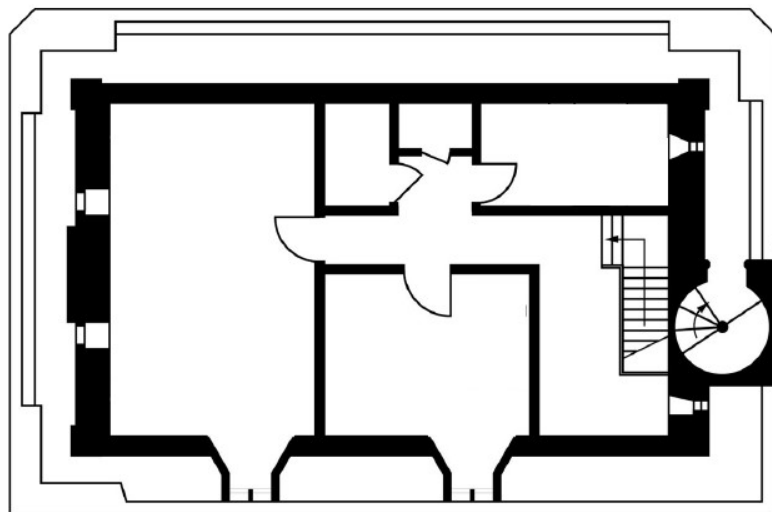
The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Morpeth Castle has three floors. The plans below show you the shape of each room. Take a walk around each floor. Write on the plan what each room is used for.

First Floor

Second Floor



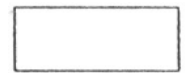
Attic



We use these symbols to show where beds, tables and bathrooms are. Draw the symbols on to the floorplans to show where the furniture is.



Bed



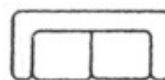
Rectangular (or a round) table



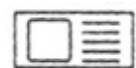
Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



Can you find an example of each of these things inside Morpeth Castle. Describe, or draw the object when you find it.

Your favourite chair

A large empty rectangular box for drawing a chair.

The fireplace (is it an open fire or does it have a stove?)

A large empty rectangular box for drawing a fireplace.

Draw the pattern of a rug on the floor

A large empty rectangular box for drawing a rug pattern.

In the space below, draw the view from your bedroom window. What can you see in the distance? Are there any animals in the fields or any trees that look very old and interesting? (Or if you prefer, draw a garderobe – that's a medieval toilet!)

Fact:

Castles did not have toilets, instead people sat on wooden seats called **garderobes**. They were built over a very long chute (a bit like a tunnel going down). Waste from the toilet would fall down the chute into the moat. Eww!





Castle Word Search

Now have a go at the word search. Think about different parts of the building and what might have been here in the medieval times. The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

B	H	S	T	E	R	R	U	T	F	W	M
A	C	S	E	S	R	O	H	N	E	S	T
T	O	N	E	P	S	E	R	V	A	N	T
T	E	K	N	I	G	H	T	R	S	K	E
L	S	T	E	S	T	O	N	E	T	A	S
E	U	N	T	C	H	S	T	E	P	O	E
M	O	A	K	I	K	I	T	C	H	E	N
E	H	S	T	I	L	S	W	O	R	R	A
N	E	A	H	I	L	L	S	H	U	T	E
T	T	E	R	R	O	P	A	N	T	R	Y
S	A	P	E	B	O	R	E	D	R	A	G
O	G	C	O	U	R	T	Y	A	R	D	M
R	U	O	M	R	A	S	S	W	O	R	D

SERVANT
PEASANT
KITCHEN
STONE
SWORD

HILL
ARMOUR
PANTRY
STEP
ARROWSLIT

BATTLEMENTS
GATEHOUSE
COURTYARD
GARDEROBE
OAK

TURRETS
FEAST
KNIGHT
SHUTE
HORSES

How many of these words did you find? Put your score in the box.

/
20



Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. How many arrows could an archer shoot in a minute using a long bow?

21

12

120

2

2. What was a motte and bailey?

Another name for the moat around a castle

An early wooden castle on a hill

A way of building using wood, dung, straw and clay

A pair of medieval detectives who solved crimes

3. What weapon did a knight use in a jousting contest?

Lance

Sword

Pollaxe

Mace

4. What do you call a boy training to be a knight?

Apprentice

Foot soldier

Page

Squire

5. How heavy was a full suit of plate armour?

As heavy as a man

As heavy as a two year old child

As heavy as a 7 year old child

As heavy as a 14 year old

6. Which one of these materials was not used to make clothes in the medieval period?

Wool

Nylon

Linen

Silk

7. What is a moat?

Type of boat

An instrument

Deep ditch full of water around a castle

A special song

8. How many years of training did it take to become a knight?

5

10

25

14

9. What did noblewoman do for fun?

Hunt

Go to the cinema

Embroider cushions

Play darts

10. What did builders cover wooden castles with to stop them from burning down?

Wet leather

Sheep's wool

Grass

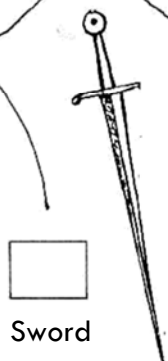
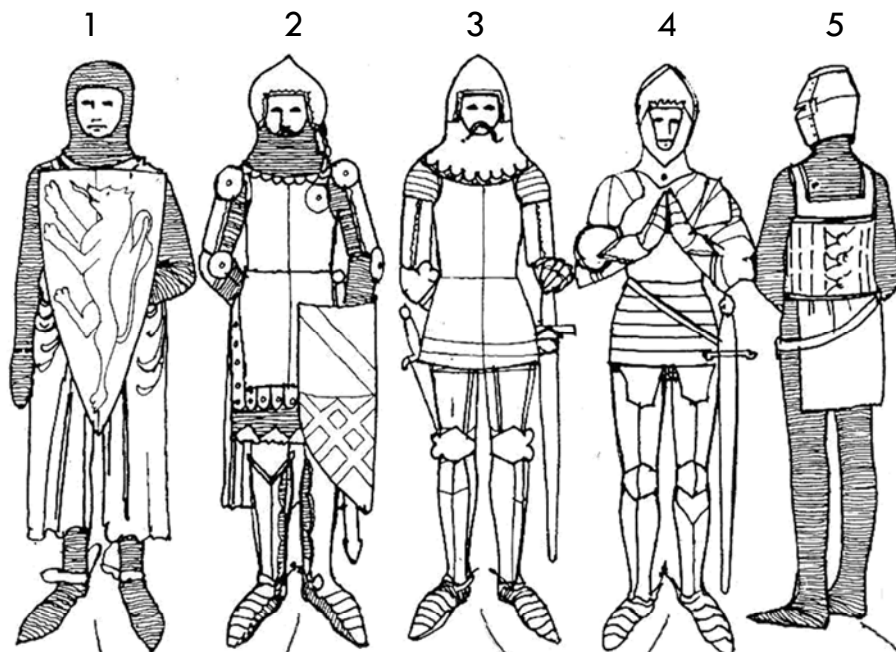
Metal

To find the answers skip one page...



Which weapon is whose?

Each object is a soldier's weapon. Match the soldier to his weapon.



Did you match them all correctly? Put your score in the box.

Now colour the soldiers in.



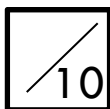


Answer sheet:

Question & Answer:

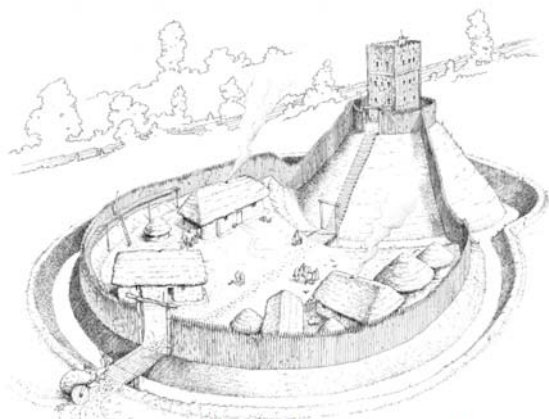
1. 12
2. An early wooden castle on a hill
3. Lance
4. Squire
5. As heavy as a 7 year old child
6. Nylon
7. Deep ditch full of water around a castle
8. 14
9. Embroider cushions
10. Wet leather

How many did you get right?



Fact:

A **motte and bailey castle** is the first type of castle to be built. They were built by the Normans. The Normans were French people who invaded England in 1066. **Motte** means mound and **bailey** means enclosed land. A **motte and bailey castle** has a wooden or stone keep on top of the motte and the land around it is the **bailey**. Look at the picture below to see what it would look like.



Make up your own motte and bailey castle below. Give the castle a flag. Is your castle in war time or peace time? What's going on there?

Create

Design your own coat of arms

Each knight had a coat of arms which they wore on their armour, on their shield or on a banner. The coat of arms belonged to their family and was used to identify the knight in a battle or when fighting in a tournament. With a helmet on, you couldn't see a person's face and a battle was very confusing. The designs were made by people called heralds. Each pattern and symbol had its own meaning and name.

Each knight had a slightly different design based on whether they were the first (or second etc.) son in the family and who they married.

In the space below design your own shield. Use the herald's list to help you. Use your imagination and draw something that you feel describes you!



Bars = Religion and honour	Pale = Military Strength	Fess = Honour	Bend = Defence	Bendlets = Protection
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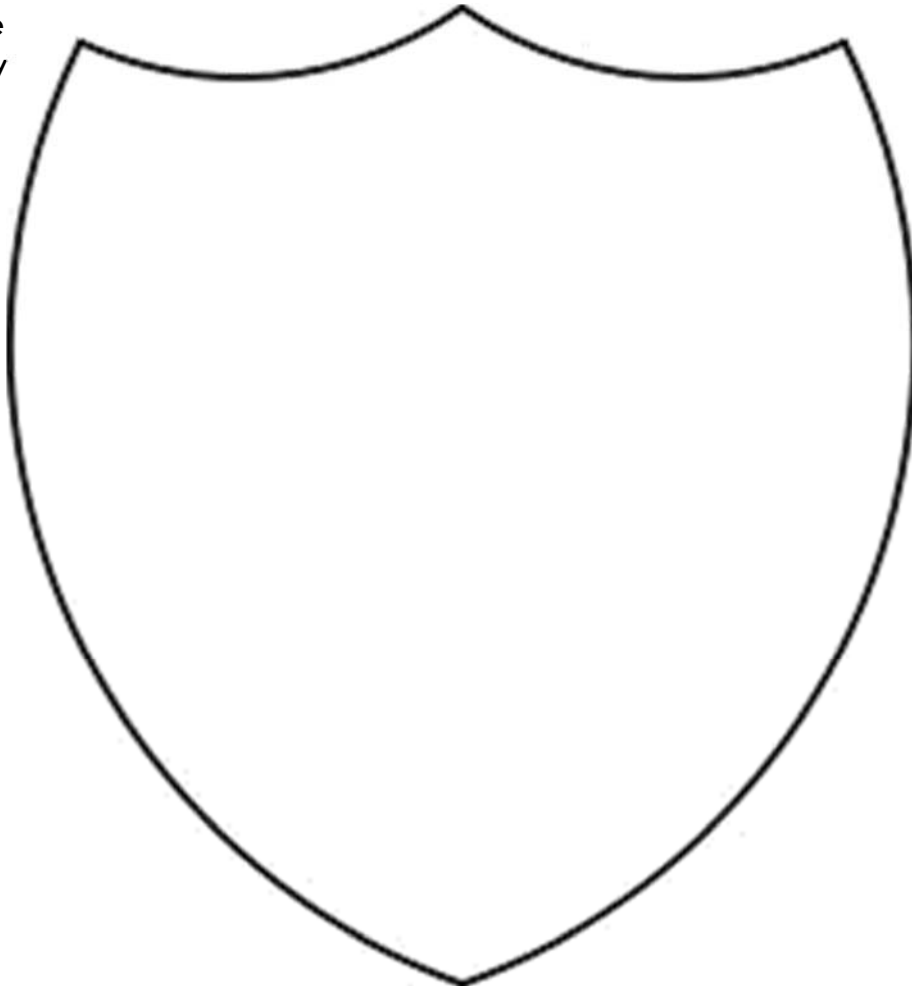
Label = First son	Crescent = Second son	Mullet = Third son	Martlett = Fourth son	Annulat = Fifth son
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Fleur de lis = Sixth son	Rose = Seventh son	Cross moline = Eighth son	Octofoil = Ninth son
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What colours will you use?

- Purple = Purpure
- Orange = Tawny
- Black = Sable
- Green = Vert
- Blue = Azure
- Red = Gules
- Gold = Or





Bake a honey cake

In medieval times cakes were very simple. People either bought the ingredients in a market or grew their own. Honey was used to make things sweeter as sugar came from the Middle East (and later Europe) and was very expensive.

Here's a simple recipe for you to try. You might need the help of an adult.

250g clear honey, plus extra 2 tbsp to glaze	100g dark muscovado sugar
225g unsalted butter	3 large eggs, beaten
	300g self-raising flour

Remember to pre-heat the oven: fan 140 °C or electric 160 °C: Gas 3

- Butter a 20cm round cake tin and line it with baking paper
- Cut the butter into pieces and drop them into a medium pan with the honey and the sugar, let it melt slowly
- When the mixture looks like liquid, turn up the heat under the pan and boil for about 1 minute
- Leave to cool for 15-20 minutes (important - this stops the eggs cooking when they are mixed in!)
- Beat the eggs into the melted honey mixture using a wooden spoon
- Sift the flour into a large bowl and pour in the egg and honey mixture. Beat until you have a smooth, quite runny batter
- Pour the mixture into the cake tin and bake for 50-60 minutes. You can tell it's ready as it will be golden brown and spring back when pressed. Push a skewer into the centre of the cake and it should come out clean.
- Turn the cake out on a wire rack
- Warm 2tbsp honey in a small pan and brush over the top of the cake to give it a sticky glaze, then leave it to cool.
- If you want, serve with vanilla ice cream! This is making me feel hungry...



Colour the castle

Have a go at colouring in the castle below. Draw in your own background, the castle could be in the mountains, by the sea or even on a beach! There may even be some knights fighting around it.

