

History



Find out about Stogursey Castle's past...



Hello! Welcome to Stogursey Castle! My name is Rob and I was a stable boy here in the 1200s. I loved working at the castle with the horses, it was much better than being a thatcher or a blacksmith!

I help look after all the knights' horses, helping 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 practise 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:

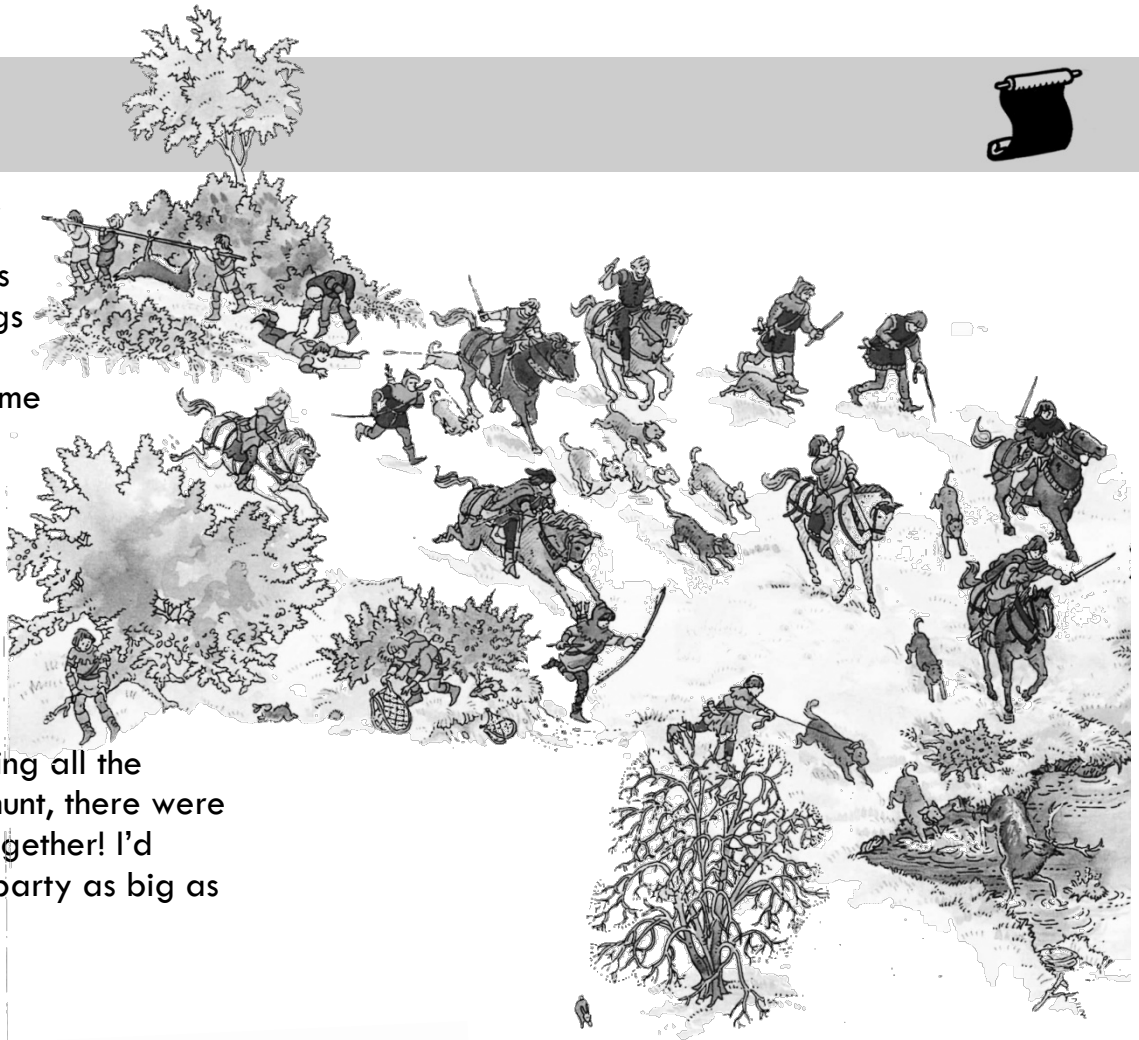
A **squire** looks after their master who is a knight (say 'nite'). They help their knight get dressed, carry their weapons, look after their horses and also learn how to fight on horseback.

Our master Lord Fitzgerald works for King John and travels all over the country with him. Everyone says that King John is a greedy king, not even his Barons like him. The weavers in the village tell tales of King John. They say he keeps taking more and more tax from the Barons and that they are getting angry at him. They say that there is going to be a rebellion against the king. I hope that Lord Fitzgerald doesn't get hurt; he's a good master to all of us.





Lord Fitzgerald often led big hunting parties to catch deer, wild pigs and rabbits in the Quantock Hills. One time King John even came! Everyone was very excited to see the king. The maids were scrubbing the castle for weeks!



It was hard work getting all the horses ready for the hunt, there were about 50 horses all together! I'd never seen a hunting party as big as this.



After the hunt there was a big feast in the great hall of the **keep** of the castle. We weren't allowed to go to the feast as we weren't of noble blood, but the music was loud enough for us to have our own party outside the keep. The cooks even gave us some of the leftovers. Mmmm

There was a jester at the feast. He was doing tricks and telling jokes and stories. We spied on him through the arrow slits to see him juggling!

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!



King Stephen

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



King Richard I The Lion Heart

A brave king, he was always fighting a war.



King Henry III

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



King Edward II

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



King Richard II

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



King Henry V

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

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.



1135

King Henry II

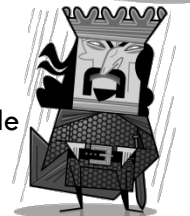
Some of his knights heard that he was angry at Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury. That was the end of poor Thomas, the knights killed him.



1189

King John

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



1216

King Edward I

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



1307

King Edward III

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



1377

King Henry IV

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



1413



King Edward IV

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

1422

King Henry VI

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



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 John

– who was on the throne when Rob was a stable boy at Stogursey

Hi John!

So when did you become king?

I became King on 6 April 1199 when I was 32.

What's your nickname?

Some people call me 'John Lackland' because my father, Henry II left all his land to my older brother Richard and left none to me. How unfair!

What are you most famous for?

In 1215, the Barons of England made me sign a document called the Magna Carta (that means 'great agreement'). It said that I had to follow the laws of the land and took away a lot of my power. I wasn't happy about this so I got the Pope to say that the Magna Carta was illegal and I started a war on the barons. I thought that would teach them – but they won and made me sign it anyway. Harumph.





What does Stogursey Castle look like?

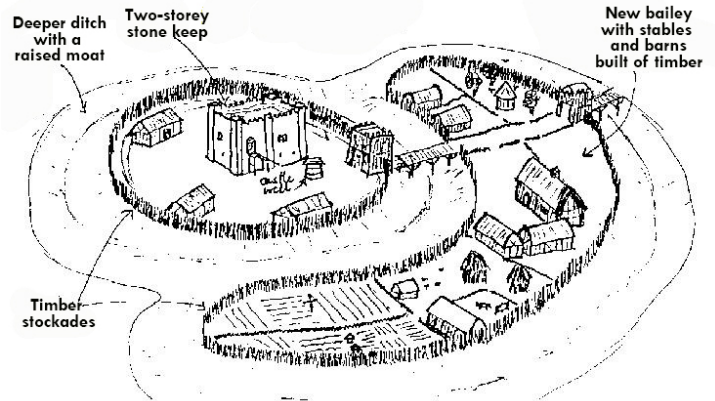
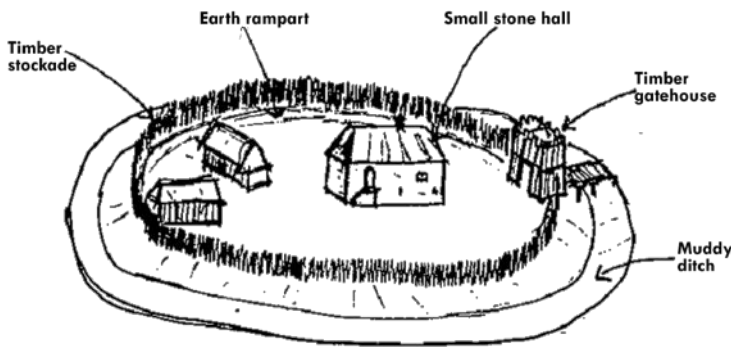
Stogursey Castle was originally built around 1066 by William de Falaise. Around 1100 Stoke estate and Stoke castle were given to William de Courci. He named the village and the castle after himself calling it Stoke-Courci, over years it became Stogursey! Stogursey Castle has changed a lot over time. The Landmark you are staying in was actually the gatehouse to the castle and wasn't built until the 1600s – that's almost modern! Here's how the castle changed over its first 100 years.

1066 -1100:

The first castle was quite small and looked something like this. The timber stockade is a tall, strong fence around the castle for defence.

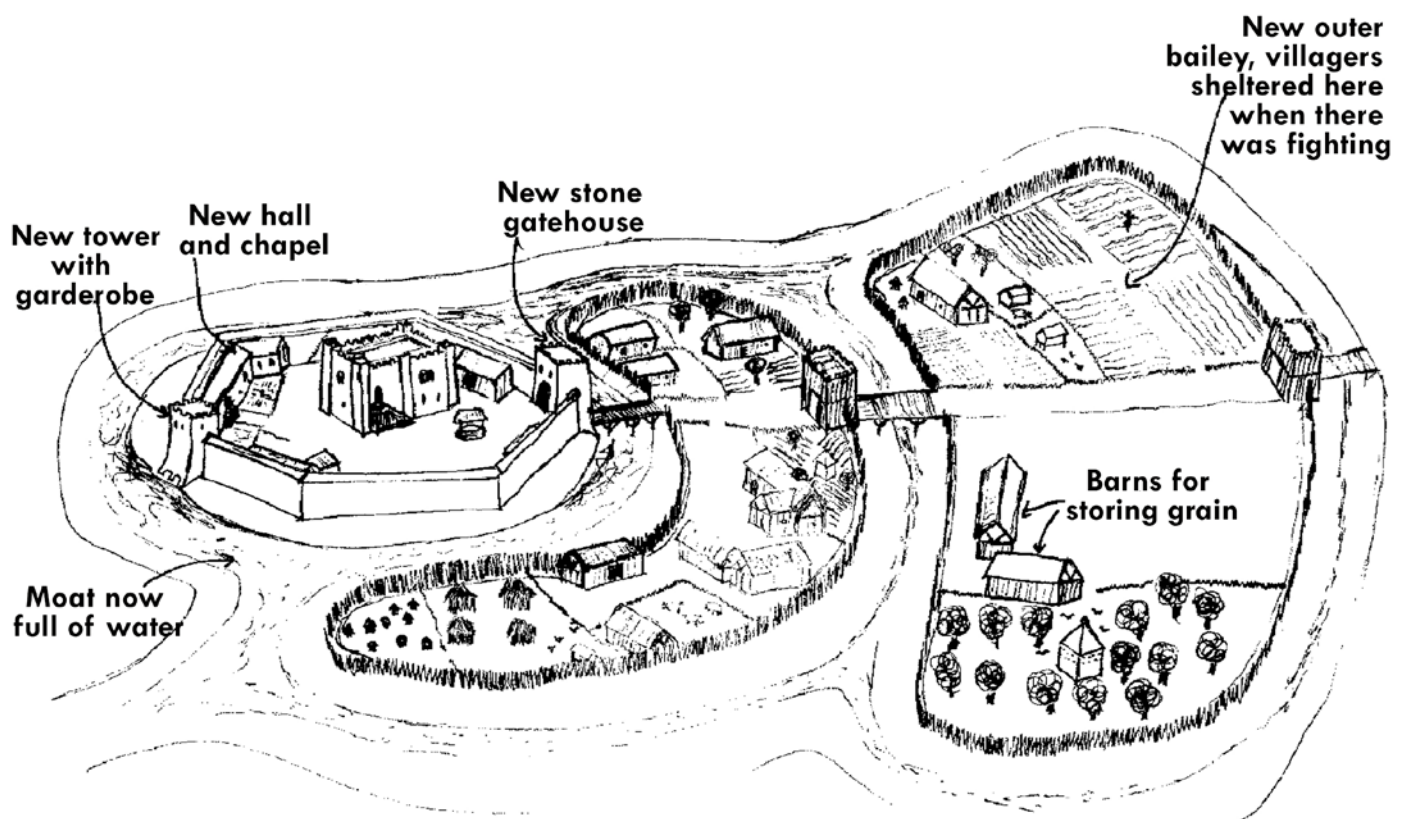
1100-1150:

By 1120 there was a two-storey stone keep on a raised mound. The ditch was deeper and there was a new outer bailey for farming.



1150-70:

Stone walls (curtain walls) were built around the mound as was a tower for the toilet!

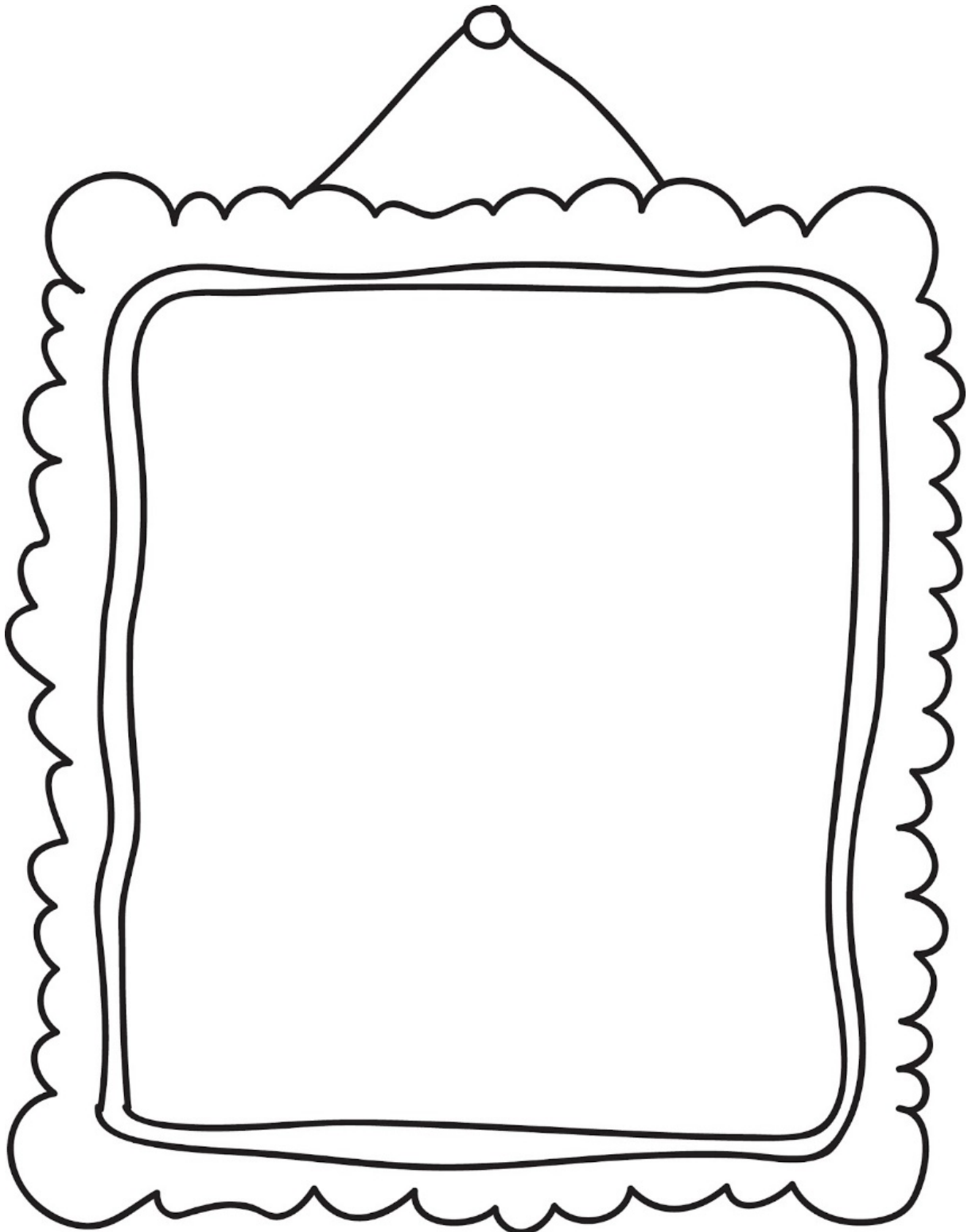




Buildings are quite easy to draw. They are usually made up of lots of geometric shapes, like squares, triangles and circles.

Have a go at drawing your favourite side of Stogursey 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 Stogursey Castle's roof made of?

How to make a thatched roof:

It's hard work making a thatched roof (and scary if you're afraid of heights!)

1. Thatchers carry bundles of straw or reeds on their shoulders up ladders onto the roof.



2. They lay the straw out along the roof starting at the bottom, they use special thatcher's pins to hold the straw in place. They build the roof layer by layer until they have covered the roof. The thatcher smooths each layer of straw using a **leggit**.



3. After completing the layers for the roof the thatcher will put a layer at the top of the roof to make the ridge.

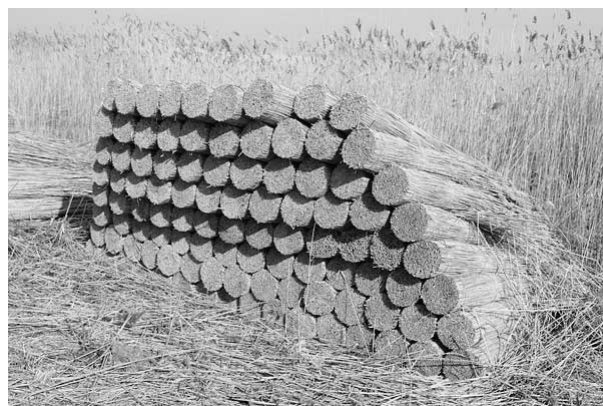


FACT:

A **Leggit** is a hand tool that pats the ends of the straw and reeds to make the roof smooth.



Thatch is a very old way of making a roof. It was very common up until the 1800s. After railways and canals were invented, it was quicker and cheaper to make roofs from slate which could be transported around the country more easily by trains and canal boats.

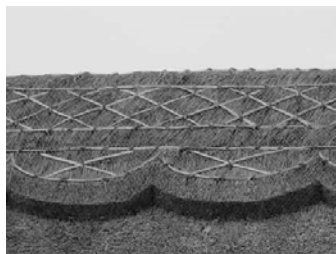


Thatch is made of water reeds or straw (yes the same straw from the wheat used to make bread!) To make thatch all you need is lots of dry long stems of it. Because it is made of a natural plant thatch doesn't last forever, it starts to decay just like any other plant. Who wants a soggy roof? A thatched roof will last 50-100 years before it has to be re-thatched.

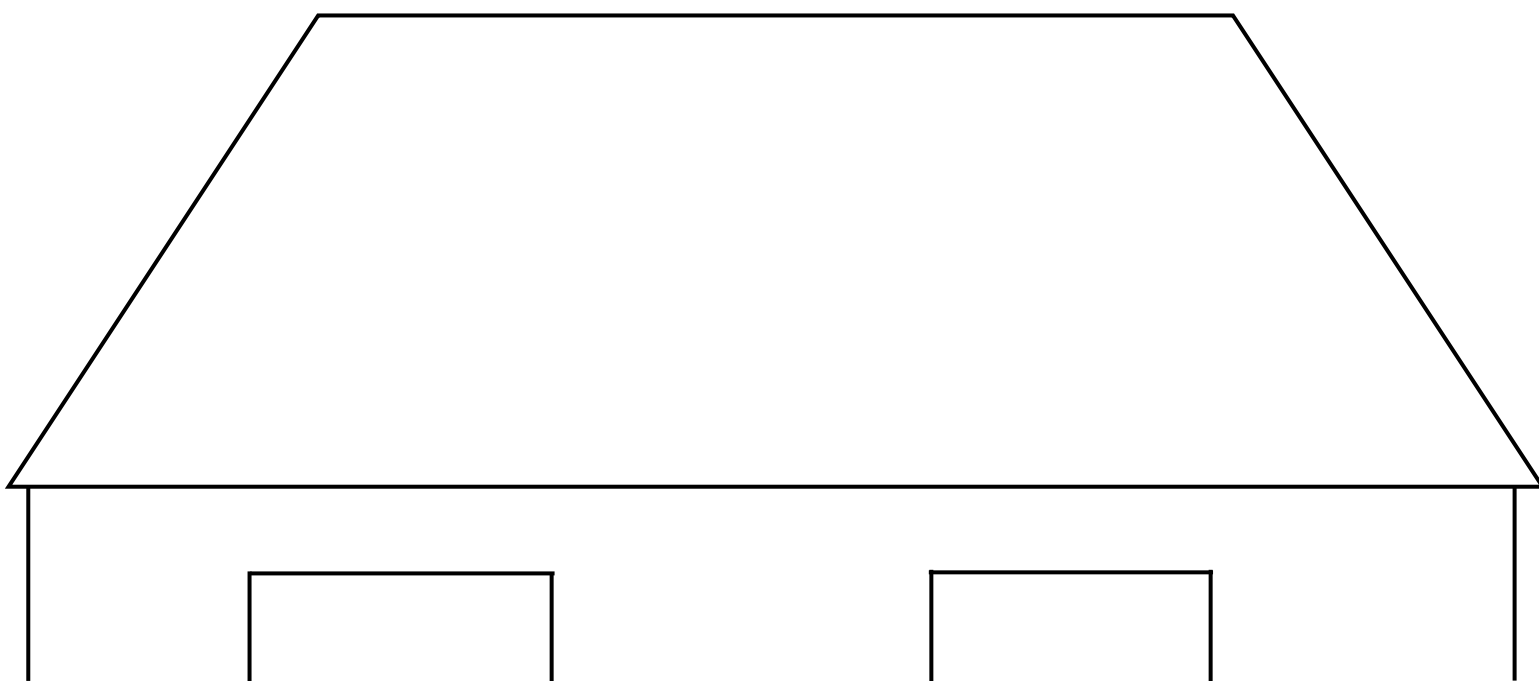




The top of a thatched roof is called a ridge. Some thatched buildings have fancy ridges that have an extra layer of straw cut into a pattern. They fix sticks into the thatch to make the pattern on top. Here are some examples:



Design your own pattern for the ridge on the roof below, you can make it as fancy as you like! Sometimes people even put straw animals on the top of the roof, like a peacock or an owl.

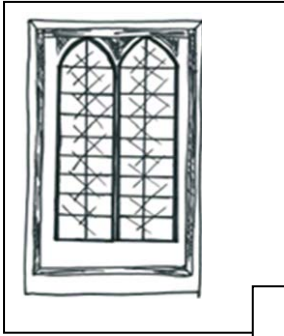


I know what you're thinking – how does a plant keep the rain from getting in? A thatched roof has a steep slope and many layers making it thick. This means that the water runs along the straw dropping from one end of straw to the other. Because the roof is steep the water doesn't have a chance to work its way through the layers before it runs off. Next time you go outside, have a really good look at Manor Farm's roof!

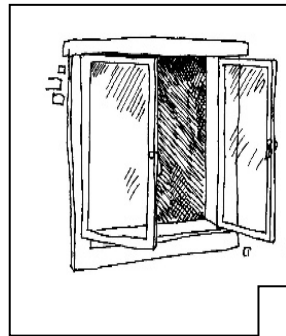




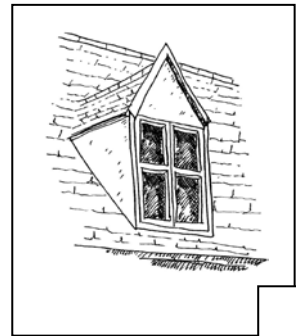
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows does Stogursey Castle have?



Pointed or Gothic

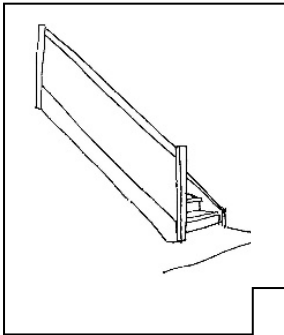


Casement (it opens)

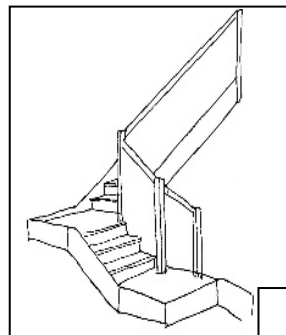


Dormer or attic (in the roof)

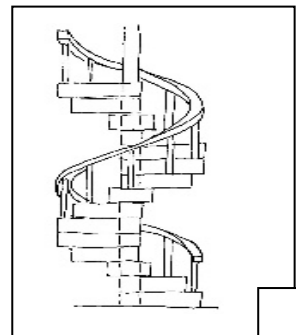
There are many different styles of staircases. Which style is closest to the staircase at Stogursey Castle?



Straight



Quarter turn

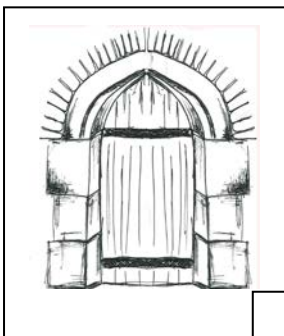


Spiral

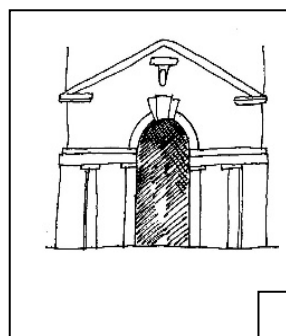
Fact:

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.

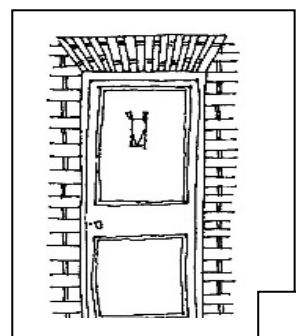
Entrances can be grand or simple. Which front door is most like the one at Stogursey Castle?



Tudor arch



Porch



Doorframe

Quest



Discover more about Stogursey Castle

Shortly after the Normans invaded England in 1066 a castle was built in Stogursey. In that time, many things have changed both inside and outside the building. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

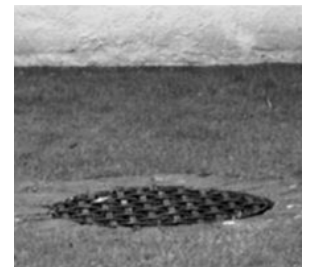
Can you find the tap?

Facing the tap, to your left, spot the remains of a square tower. Here was the garderobe (that's a medieval toilet!) There was no running water from taps then so the garderobe would have been very smelly!



Can you find the metal grate in the grass?

This covers the well. In medieval times all the water for cooking, washing and drinking had to be lifted up from here.



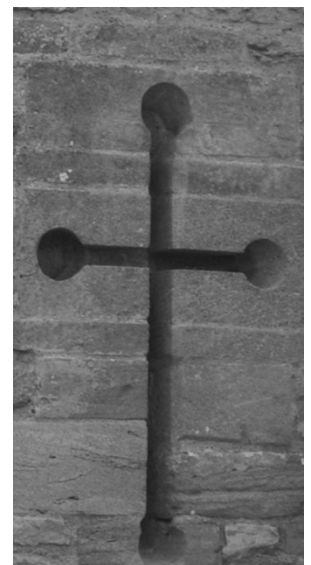
Can you find the arrow slits?

How many can you find?

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.

Do you see that they are in the shape of the cross? In the box below draw your own arrow slit – it can be any shape you like (just remember it need to be thin!)

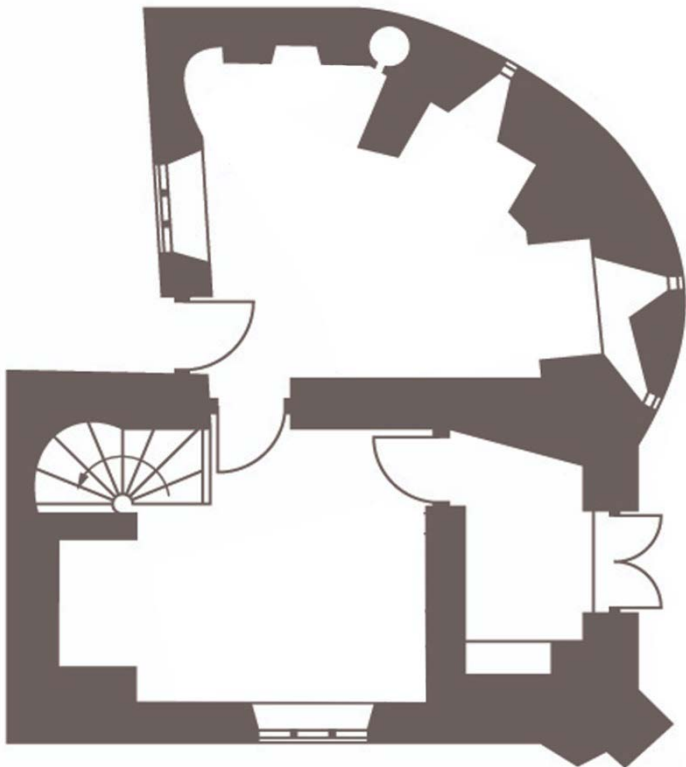




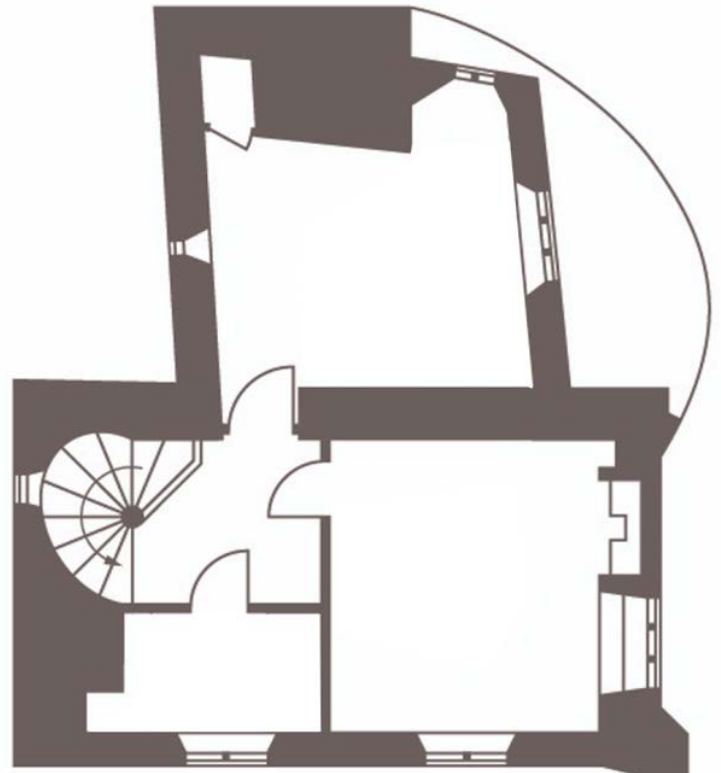
Living in Stogursey Castle

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Stogursey Castle has two 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.

Ground Floor



First Floor



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.



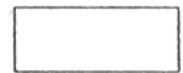
Bathroom



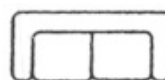
Cooker



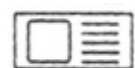
Bed



Rectangular (or a round) table



Sofa



Kitchen sink



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

Your favourite chair

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

Draw the pattern of a rug on the floor

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:

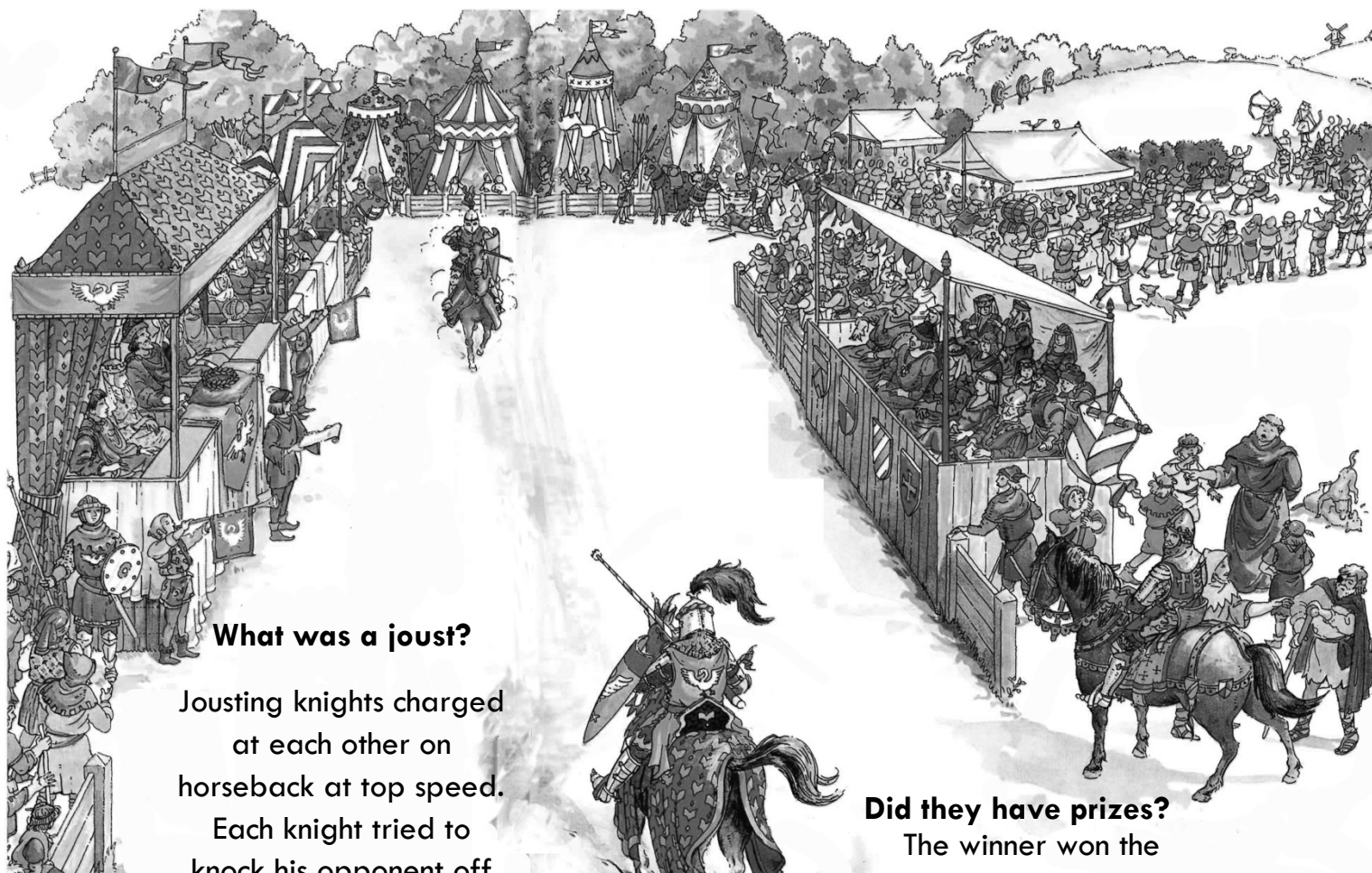
Castles did not have toilets, instead people sat on wooden seat in a **garderobe**. The seat was built over a very long chute (a bit like a tunnel going down). Poo and pee from the toilet fell straight down the chute into the moat. Eww!

Did you know **garderobe** came to mean a wardrobe or somewhere to hang your clothes because they thought the stink would keep moths and fleas away.



Terrific Tournaments

In medieval times knights entered tournaments (say 'tor-na-ments') to practise for battle. It was a big event that could last up to a week. Knights travelled from all over to enter so they could show off their skills and prove that they were the best knight. There were jousting and melee (sword fighting) competitions in front of big crowds. The knights weren't supposed to kill each other but sometime mistakes happened! Whoops.



What was a joust?

Jousting knights charged at each other on horseback at top speed. Each knight tried to knock his opponent off his horse with a blow from a long wooden lance. Luckily knights were protected by armour and their lances weren't sharp.

Did they have prizes?

The winner won the loser's armour and horse. The winner could keep them or sell them back to the loser. How annoying having to buy back your own stuff!

Fact:

Did you know that some knights cheated in jousts by wearing special armour that was fixed onto the horse's saddle!

It wasn't just knights and ladies who went to tournaments. It was a fun day out for everyone (unless you were the losing knight!) There was plenty to do apart from watching the joust and melee. You could watch entertainers, or have a drink of ale or sometimes there might even be a wrestling match to watch!



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 |
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| T | E | K | N | I | G | H | T | R | S | K | E |
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| 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

Poleaxe

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 noblewomen do for fun in medieval times?

Hunt

Go to the cinema

Embroider

Play darts

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

Wet leather

Sheep's wool

Grass

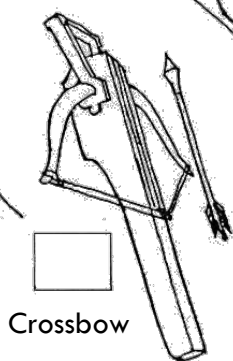
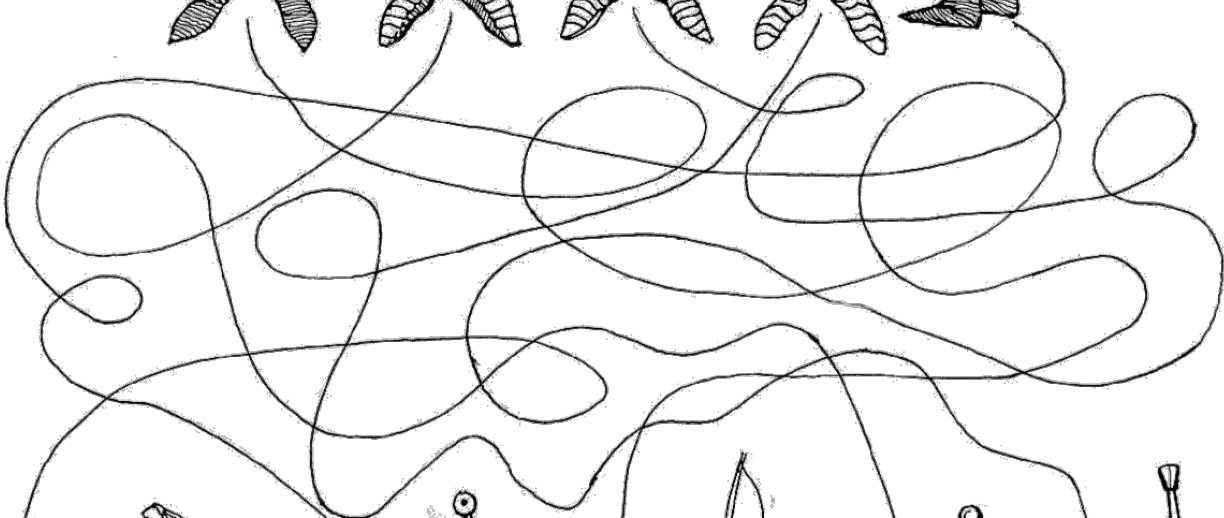
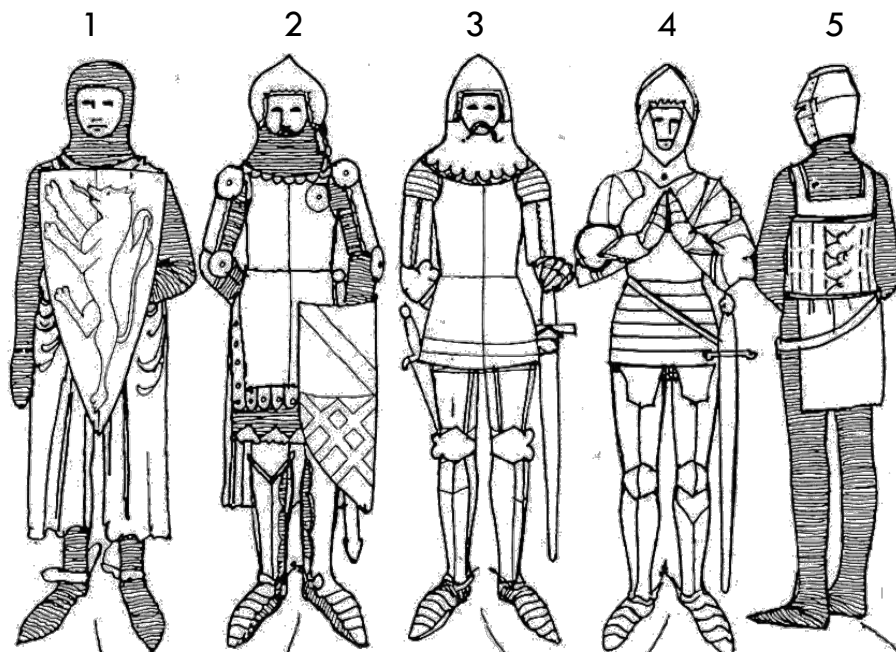
Metal

To find the answers skip one page...

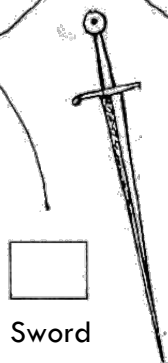


Which weapon is whose?

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



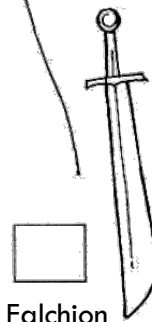
Crossbow



Sword



Longbow



Falchion



Rapier

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

| |
|---|
| / |
| 5 |

Now colour the soldiers in.

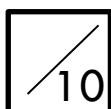


Answer sheet:

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 (that's sewing as decoration)
10. Wet leather

How many did you get right?



Fact:

Have you heard the stories of crocodiles and alligators living in castle moats waiting to gobble up enemies? Don't worry it's a lie made up to scare attackers! The only animals that lived in moats were fish and eels which people would catch and eat.

Imagine you lived here 500 years ago. Write an acrostic poem describing life at Stogursey Castle. Each line has to begin with the letter shown, so that the lines spell 'Stogursey'!

S

T

O

G

U

R

S

E

Y

Create

Design your own coat of arms

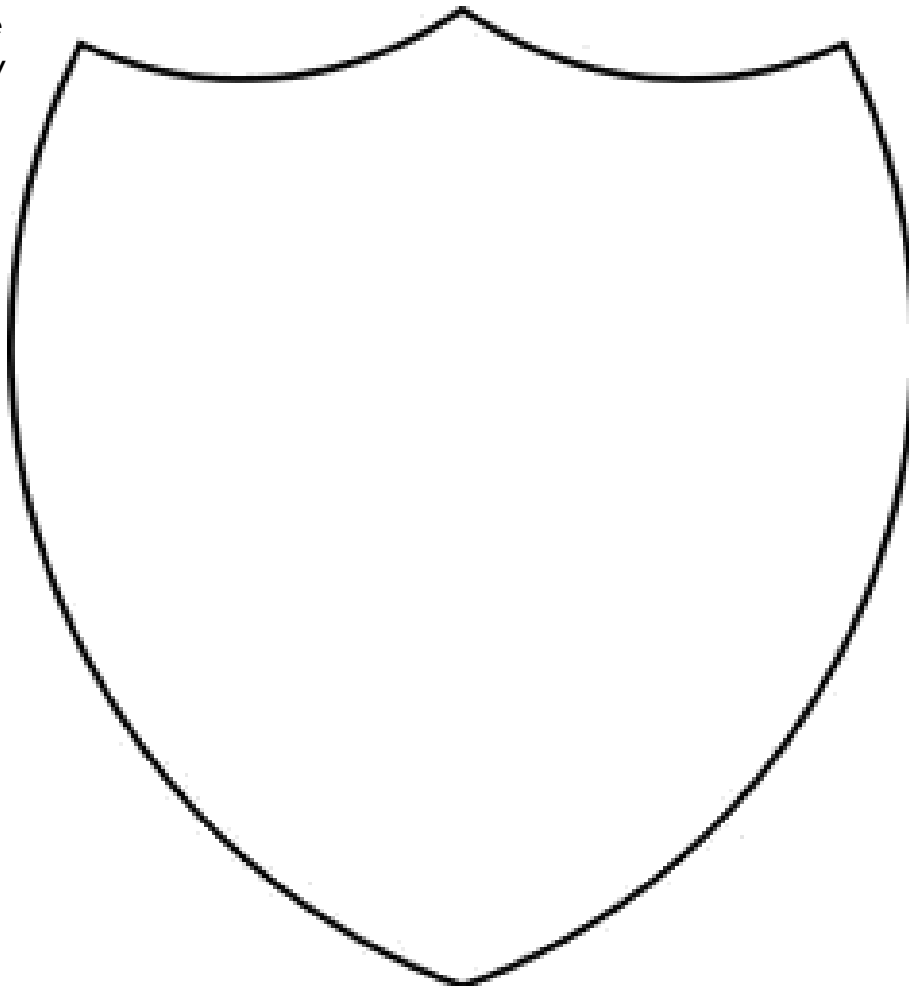
Each knight had a coat of arms which they wore on their armour, on their shield or on a banner. The coat of arms belonged to their family and was used to identify the knight in a battle or when fighting in a tournament. With a helmet on, you couldn't see a person's face and a battle was very confusing. 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!

What colours will you use?

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



| | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bars = Religion and honour | Pale = Military Strength | Fess = Honour | Bend = Defence | Bendlets = Protection |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|



| | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Label = First son | Crescent = Second son | Mullet = Third son | Martlett = Fourth son | Annulat = Fifth son |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|



| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Fleur de lis = Sixth son | Rose = Seventh son | Cross moline = Eighth son | Octofoil = Ninth son |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|



Farmhouse apple scone

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

50g cold butter, plus 1 tablespoon

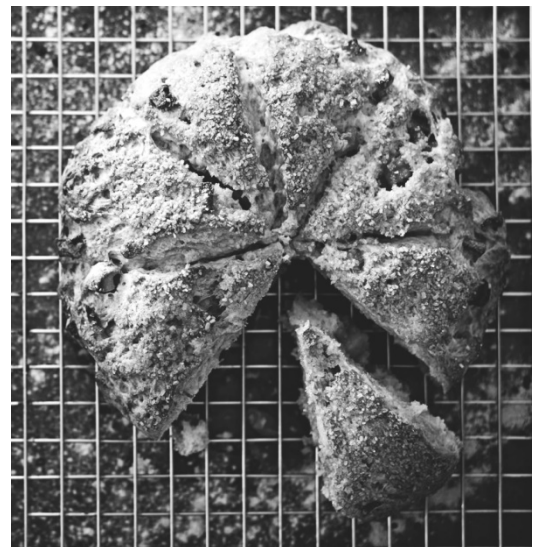
1 large eating apple

1/2 tsp ground cinnamon

250g self-raising flour, plus some for dusting

Preheat the oven to gas: 7, fan: 200°C

- Core the apple and cut into chunks. Cut the butter into chunks
- Melt 1 tbsp butter in a small frying pan
- Add the apple and cook for 5 minutes, stirring until the apple starts to soften
- Sprinkle in the cinnamon and cook for 2 minutes until lightly golden then set aside
- Mix the flour, sugar and pinch of salt together in a bowl
- Add the remaining butter and mix until the mixture looks like breadcrumbs
- Pour in the milk and mix it all together
- Dust the surface with flour and put the mixture onto it. Knead (say 'need') the apple mixture into the main mixture
- Using a floured rolling pin lightly roll out the dough to a circle about 15cm wide
- Put on a baking sheet. Use a knife to lightly mark the top into 8 wedges
- Brush with milk and sprinkle over the sugar
- Bake for 25-30 minutes until risen and lightly golden then put on the side to cool





Colour in these medieval outfits

