

Under Siege Knowledge Organiser



Subject Specific Vocabulary	
bailey	The courtyard or flat ground, inside the outer wall of a castle.
battlements	A wall around the top of a castle with square spaces that people can shoot through.
curtain wall	The outer wall that protects a castle.
drawbridge	A bridge that can be raised or lowered to protect a castle from attack.
fortress	A large strong building designed to protect the people inside.
gatehouse	The entrance to a castle.
keep	The strong, central tower of a castle.
moat	A deep, wide ditch surrounding a castle, fort or town, typically filled with water as a defence against attack.
motte	A small hill in the middle of a castle on which a fort or keep is built.
monarch	A king or queen who rules a kingdom
portcullis	A strong gate that hangs above the entrance of a castle.
siege	When enemy forces surround a building, cutting off their supplies and forcing them to surrender.
sovereign	A supreme ruler.
trebuchet	A machine used to hurl large stones or other missiles.

Sticky Knowledge

A timeline shows important events in chronological order.

A castle is a large strong building that was built in the past by an important person to protect the people inside from an attack.

Topic links

Geography - Castles around the world, identified on maps

History - Significant sovereigns and castles

Art and Design - Royal Portraits



Key Information

A castle is a type of structure, often built hundreds of years ago by an important person, such as a lord or king. Most castles were built on hills and had high walls and towers.

The first castles were made from wood, but these were easily burnt down. Later, castles were built using stone, so they were stronger and harder to attack.

Parts of a castle include a keep, motte, bailey, curtain wall and a gatehouse. Famous castles in the U.K include Alnwick Castle, Tower of London and Carisbrooke Castle.

Six Significant Sovereigns:

- Alfred the Great (871 - 899 AD)
- William the Conqueror (1066 - 1086)
- Henry VIII (1509 - 1547)
- Elizabeth I (1558 - 1603)
- Queen Victoria (1837 - 1901)
- Elizabeth II (1952 - Present Day)