

Under Siege Knowledge Organiser

Key Information

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 Parts of a castle include a keep, motte, bailey, curtain wall and a gatehouse. Famous castles in the U.K include Nottingham Castle, Alnwick Castle, Tower of London and Carisbrooke Castle.
- 4 Siege weapons included giant catapults called trebuchets, cannon, battering rams, and siege towers.
- 5 Castles had to be captured by siege. This means by attacking, surrounding and isolating them. Sieges could last weeks or even months.
- 6
 - William the Conqueror (1066 - 1086)
 - Henry VIII (1509 - 1547)
 - Elizabeth I (1558 - 1603)
 - Queen Victoria (1837 - 1901)
 - Elizabeth II (1952 - 2022)
 - King Charles (2022 - present day)

Key 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.



Prior Knowledge

Yr1	Land Ahoy	Queen Elizabeth I was reigning monarch during piracy age
Yr1	Bright Lights Big City	King Charles II was reigning monarch during Great Fire of London
Yr1	Enchanted Woodland	King Richard the Lionheart was reigning Monarch at the time Robin Hood lived

