

Key Stage 1 - Elveden Academy Knowledge Organiser – History- Castles

The Normans



Picture shows children playing in the great hall of a Norman Castle.

- The Normans were people who lived in Normandy in Northern France.
- They invaded England in 1066, after King Edward the Confessor died without leaving an heir to the throne.
- The first Norman king was William the Conqueror, who won the Battle of Hastings, defeating the Anglo Saxons.
- The Bayeux Tapestry tells us the story of the Battle of Hastings and also provides us with information on what life was like for the Normans, e.g. the clothes they wore and the food they ate.
- The Normans introduced the first proper castle, some of which are still standing today.

Key Vocabulary

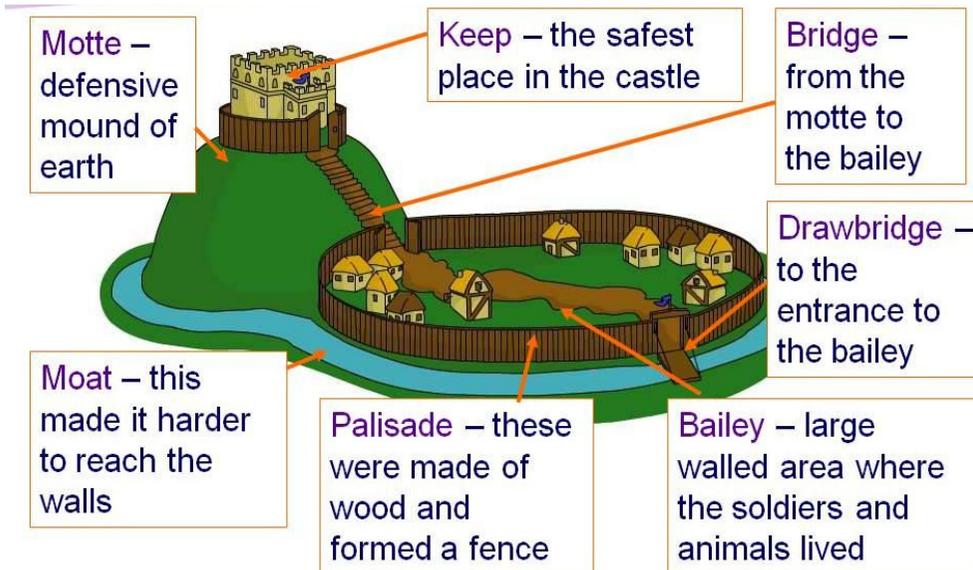
| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| bailey | The outer wall of a castle. |
| Bayeux Tapestry | A famous medieval artefact that tells the story of the Battle of Hastings. |
| castle | A large building, typically of the medieval period, fortified against attack with thick walls, battlements, towers, and in many cases a moat. |
| drawbridge | A bridge which can be pulled up to stop attackers entering the castle. |
| keep | Fortified tower built within castles for defence. |
| moat | A deep ditch that surrounds a castle. It can be filled with or without water. |
| Norman Conquest | The invasion of England by the Normans, led by William the Conqueror. |
| palisade | A fence of wooden stakes or iron railings fixed in the ground around the castle. |
| portcullis | A spiked, wooden or metal barrier above the castle gateway. |
| William the Conqueror | Became King in 1066 after winning the Battle of Hastings. |

Motte and Bailey Castle

A motte and bailey castle is an early type of castle. They were the first type of castle to be built in England, after the **Norman Conquest** in 1066.

The castle is made up of two parts. The **motte** is a raised mound or earthwork which would have a stone or wooden **keep** on top. A **keep** is a kind of fortified tower. The **bailey** is an enclosed **courtyard** that was protected by a ditch and a **palisade** – which is a wall made from wooden stakes.

Mountfitchet Castle is an example of a motte and bailey castle.



Castles Defences

| Castle Defence | What is it for? |
|--|---|
| <p>Moat</p>  | <p>A deep, wide ditch surrounding a castle, usually filled with water. Attackers were easy to shoot whilst swimming or rowing across the moats.</p> |
| <p>Drawbridge</p>  | <p>A bridge which can be pulled up to stop the enemy from crossing the moat into the castle.</p> |
| <p>Portcullis</p>  | <p>A spiked, wooden or metal barrier to protect the castle doors from fire or battering. It was lowered by chains from a chamber above the gateway.</p> |
| <p>Tower</p>  | <p>Rounded towers projecting out from the castle wall or at a corner which gave a better view to the defenders.</p> |
| <p>Arrow Slits</p>  | <p>These provided a safer means of firing arrows on the attackers of the castle.</p> |
| <p>Battlements</p>  | <p>A low wall at the top of a castle with openings to shoot arrows through.</p> |

History- Battle of Hastings

Edward the Confessor was king of England between 1042-1066. Edward married but had no children. For a king to die without an heir was a disaster. A strong ruler, preferably with experience, good at fighting and leading armies and related to the king was required. Here are the candidates:

| Harold Godwinson | William of Normandy | |
|---|--|--|
| Anglo-Saxon Earl of Wessex, one of the most powerful men in England Harold's sister was married to King Edward. Harold was a brave and respected soldier with a tough streak. The Witan, wanted Harold to be the next king. Edward promised the throne to William on his deathbed. | Norman Duke of Normandy, France. William came from a fighting family. He was a brave soldier. Edward's cousin. Edward had lived in Normandy from 1016-1042. Edward had supposedly promised that William should become King of England. Harold had promised to support William. | <p>5 Jan Edward the Confessor died. The Witan elected Harold Godwinson to be the next king of England.</p> <p>6 Jan Harold was crowned as king of England, probably at Westminster Abbey.</p> <p>20 Sep Harald Hardrada and Tostig invaded, with more than 10,000 men in 200 long ships. Anglo-Saxon Earls Edwin and Morcar were defeated at Battle of Fulford.</p> <p>25 Sep Harold Godwinson travelled north to fight Harald Hardrada. In four days he marched 180 miles to surprise Hardrada and Tostig, east of York. Godwinson defeated Hardrada but his army was tired and badly reduced in size.</p> <p>27 Sep William Duke of Normandy set sail with almost 700 ships. His soldiers landed at Pevensey and made a small castle. The Normans pillaged and burned the surrounding area, in order to force Harold to come south. Having heard of William's landing while at York, he raced his army down the old Roman road of Ermine Street</p> <p>12 Oct Harold arrives at London, to recruit more troops</p> <p>14 Oct Battle of Hastings—death of King Harold</p> |

| Preparations | Leadership | Luck |
|--|---|---|
| <p>William had well trained and professional soldiers. Large parts of Harold's army was untrained and made up of farmers. Many of Harold's men had left the army to collect the harvest in.</p> <p>Harold was not prepared for the battle. William's army was fresh and well rested. He had lots of supplies. Harold's army was tired and reduced in size following the Battle of Stamford Bridge.</p> | <p>William was very brave and led his men very well. William showed his face during the battle to keep his soldiers from running away.</p> <p>William used cavalry & archers to help to win the battle.</p> <p>The tactic of pretending to run away worked perfectly.</p> | <p>The weather changed when William was trying to cross the English Channel. Harold had to fight the Vikings first, giving William the advantage.</p> <p>At a key moment in the battle Harold was killed.</p> |