



A castle is a large building fortified against attack with thick walls, battlements, towers and in many cases a moat.

Castles were built to defend and protect. The main building inside a castle was a keep, which was protected by walls and towers.

The first castles were built by the Normans and were called Motte and Bailey castles. Castles were only as good as their defences – these included ramparts, bastions and arrow loops.

### Motte and Bailey

These castles were built first because they were quick and cheap to build. They were made out of wood.








### Keep and Bailey

These castles took longer to build as they were made out of stone. Some of them are still around today, including Windsor Castle and the Tower of London.



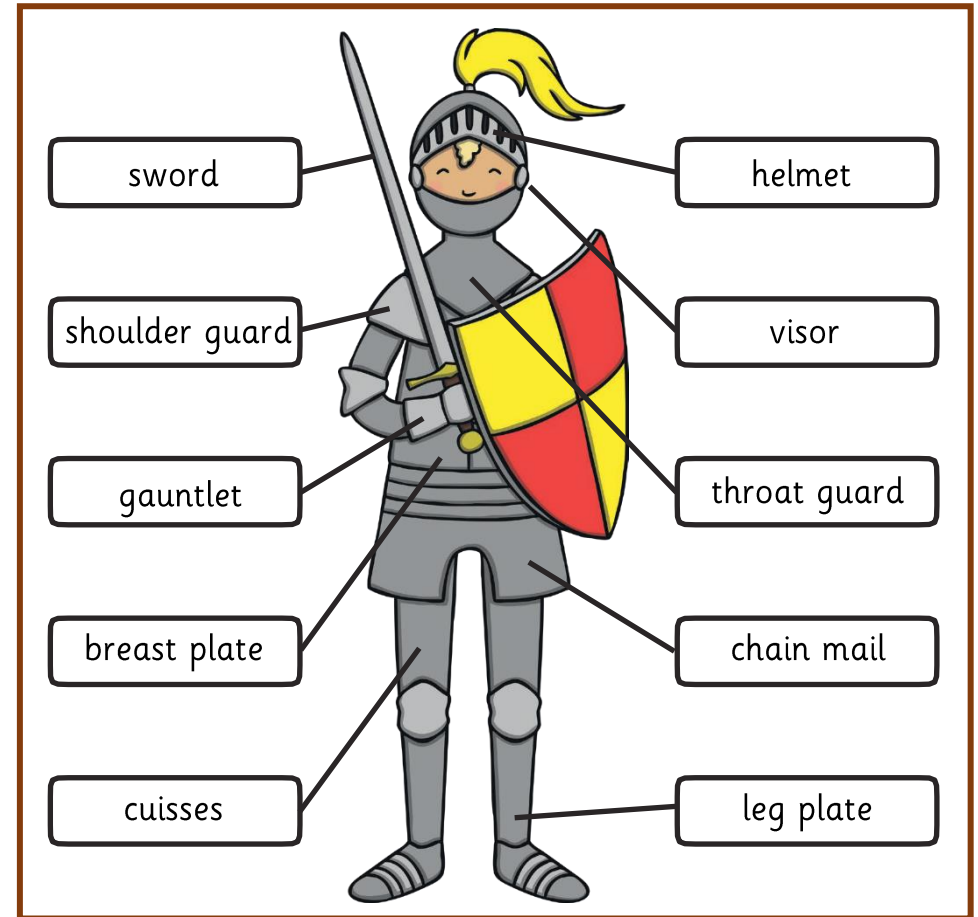
## Key Vocabulary

	moat	A deep ditch surrounding a castle, filled with water and intended as a defence against attack.
	turret	A small tower on top of a larger tower at the corner of a building of a castle.
	portcullis	A heavy sliding gate found in castles, consisting of a latticed grille made of wood or metal.
	drawbridge	A type of movable bridge at the entrance to a castle or tower that is surrounded by a moat.
	battlements	A parapet at the top of a wall, of a castle that has regularly spaced squared openings for shooting through.
	gatehouse	An entry control point that is usually at the front of the castle and houses the constable.
	ramparts	A defensive wall of a castle having a broad top and a walkway.
	arrow loops	Narrow openings inside walls and towers.

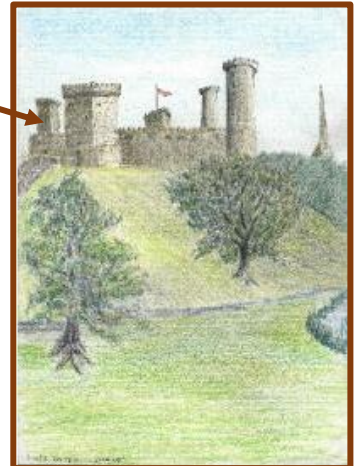
## Roles in a castle



- Lord and Lady – the owner was the most important person in a castle.
- Soldiers – these were people trained to defend the castle.
- Servants – all the housework was done by hand, so castles were full of servants to do the cleaning.
- Cook – the cook had to make the meals for everyone inside the castle.
- Musician – the musicians would entertain the Lord, Lady and guests at big feasts.
- Gong Farmer – there were no flushing toilets in medieval times. The Gong Farmer moved the poo from the cesspit to a field.



This is what the castle might have looked like.



## Castle Donington

Although no longer visible, our village did once have a fully functioning castle. It was first built between 1100 – 1200. The castle was part of a medieval settlement and included a curtain wall, several towers and a moat. Evidence has been found below houses on The Hollow and Castle Hill and this is how they know the shape of certain towers, with two being square shaped, two being circular and one half round.