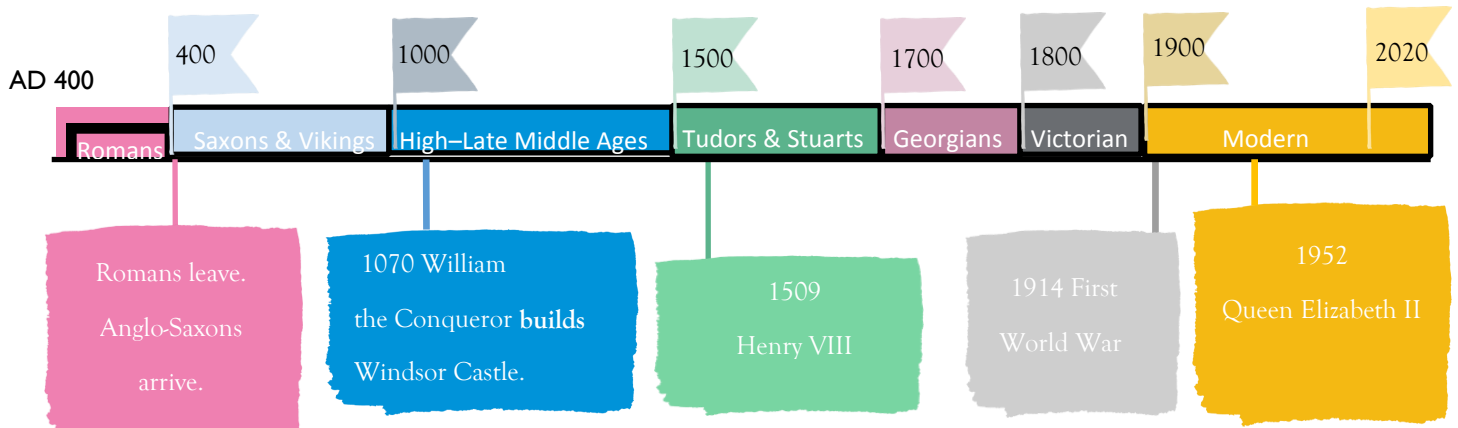




All About Castles

Windsor Castle is the home of Queen Elizabeth II. It is also a place to visit, packed with a wonderful collection of art and treasures. The Castle has had a long and exiting history!



How old do you think Windsor Castle is?
 _____ years old.

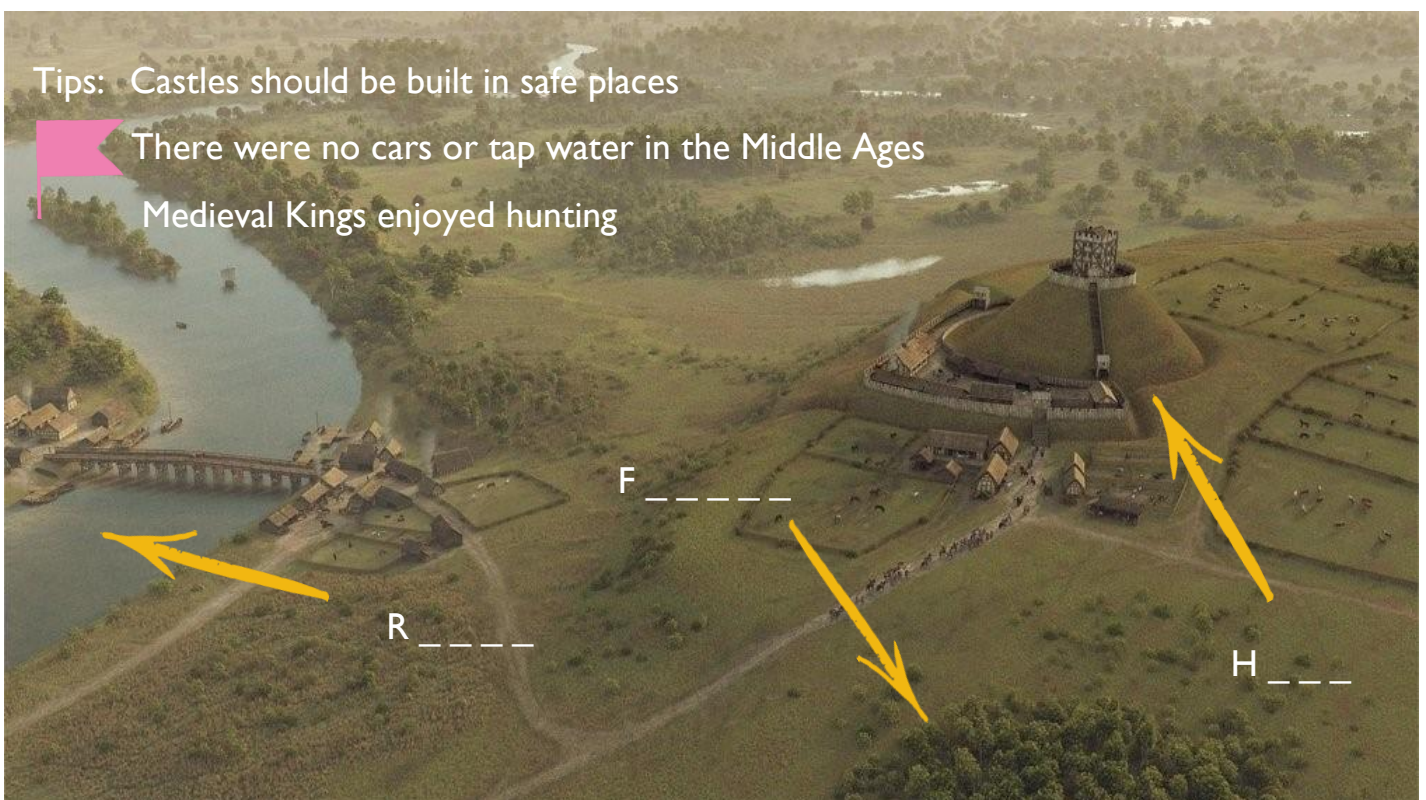


I am William the Conqueror. I built castles to protect me and my Kingdom from enemies. Looking at the picture below, why do you think Windsor was a good place to build a castle?

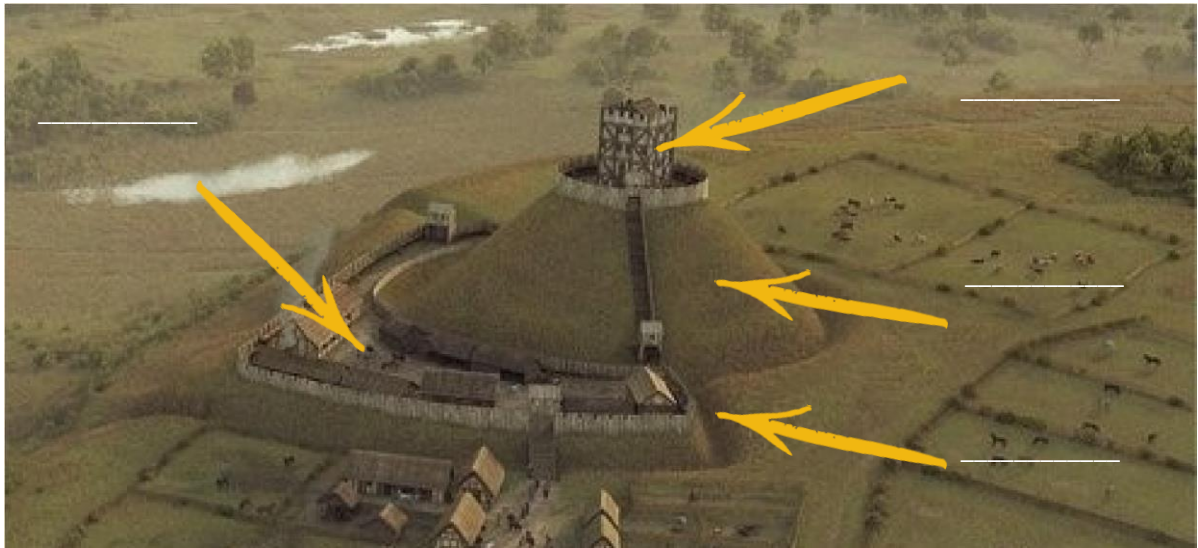
Tips: Castles should be built in safe places

There were no cars or tap water in the Middle Ages

Medieval Kings enjoyed hunting



William the Conqueror was a Norman- he came from Normandy in northern France. He brought castles to England for the first time in 1066. The first castles that he built were called 'Motte and Bailey' castles. Can you label the parts based on the descriptions below?



Keep – a wooden tower in the centre of the castle. It was the last line of defence

Motte – a steep mound built to make it hard for attackers to get to the keep

Moat – a deep ditch to slow down attackers, sometimes filled with water

Bailey – a wooden walled area used by soldiers and craftsmen, and a place to keep animals

Over time the castle changed.

Can you spot the difference between the two pictures?



Castles needed lots of defences to keep them safe

Arrow Loops

Very narrow slits in the wall, which would allow archers to shoot down at the enemy.

Why do you think the windows were so thin?



Murder Holes

Watch your head! There were holes above the castle gateway where defenders could drop things onto the heads of their enemies!

What do you think they might have dropped?



Crenellations

Every wall, tower and gatehouse has crenellations. The tops of the walls are formed of a pattern with gaps or openings.

Why would this design be useful for archers defending the castle?



The Siege of 1216

Hundreds of years ago there lived a bad King known as King John. He was so terrible that his nobles rebelled! The nobles brought a new prince from France to replace John as King and they attacked his Castle at Windsor!

Imagine that you lived in Windsor Castle when it was attacked!

Based on this picture write a story about the Siege of 1216.

Use a new piece of paper to create your tale.

Think about ...

How would you feel? *Worried?*
Scared? Excited?

Why do you live in the Castle? Are you a *knight*, a *princess*, a *page* or even a *jester*?

Use your 5 Senses:
What can you see, hear, touch, smell and taste?

How will your enemies try to get into the Castle?

