

# Windsor Castle



In the Footsteps of  
Medieval Kings

KS3 Workbook

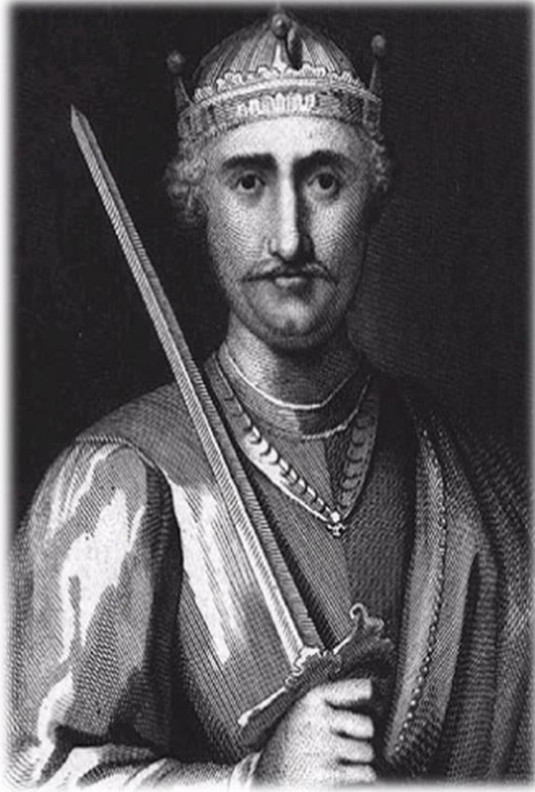
## Security at Windsor Castle

Windsor Castle is a working Royal Palace

- On arrival, you and your belongings will be subject to airport-style security checks. Please try to bring as little as possible with you as it will help you to get through security screening more quickly.
- Eating and drinking are not permitted in the State Apartments or St George's Chapel. You will be asked to place drinks and food in closed bags before being admitted to the Castle.
- Photography and filming are not permitted inside the State Apartments or St George's Chapel.
- Large backpacks are not permitted in the State Apartments and must be checked in.

What do you know about Windsor Castle and its use today?

Windsor Castle was built in about 1080,  
for William the Conqueror.



Why did William build castles to live in?

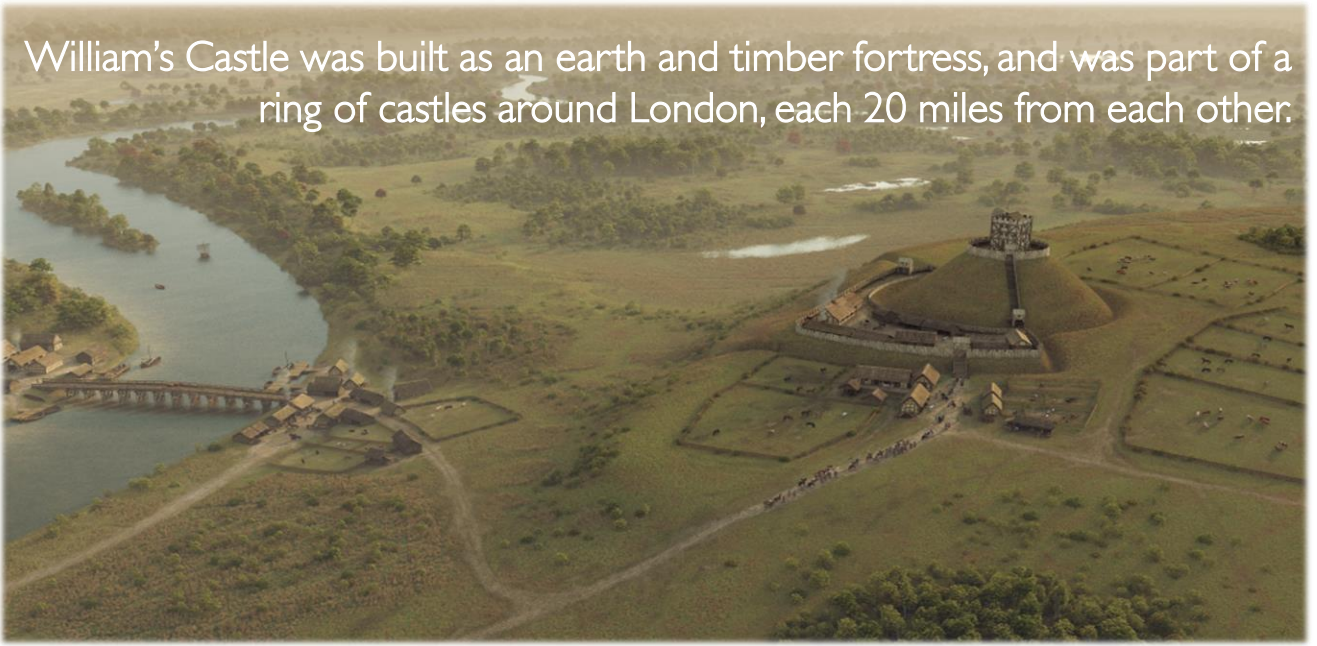
William chose Windsor as a site for his Castle for 3 main reasons. For each reason given below, explain why this was important:

• On a hill:

• Next to a River:

• Near a Forest:

William's Castle was built as an earth and timber fortress, and was part of a ring of castles around London, each 20 miles from each other.



Why did William build a castle of wood?

Why do you think the castles were placed 20 miles apart?

Hertford



Berkhamsted



Windsor



Tower of London

Rayleigh



Ongar

Rochester



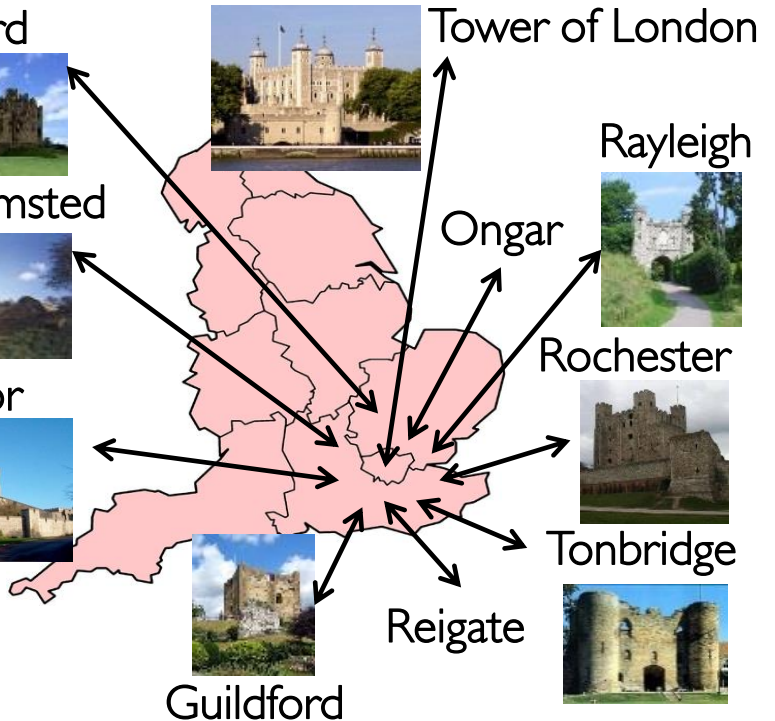
Tonbridge



Reigate

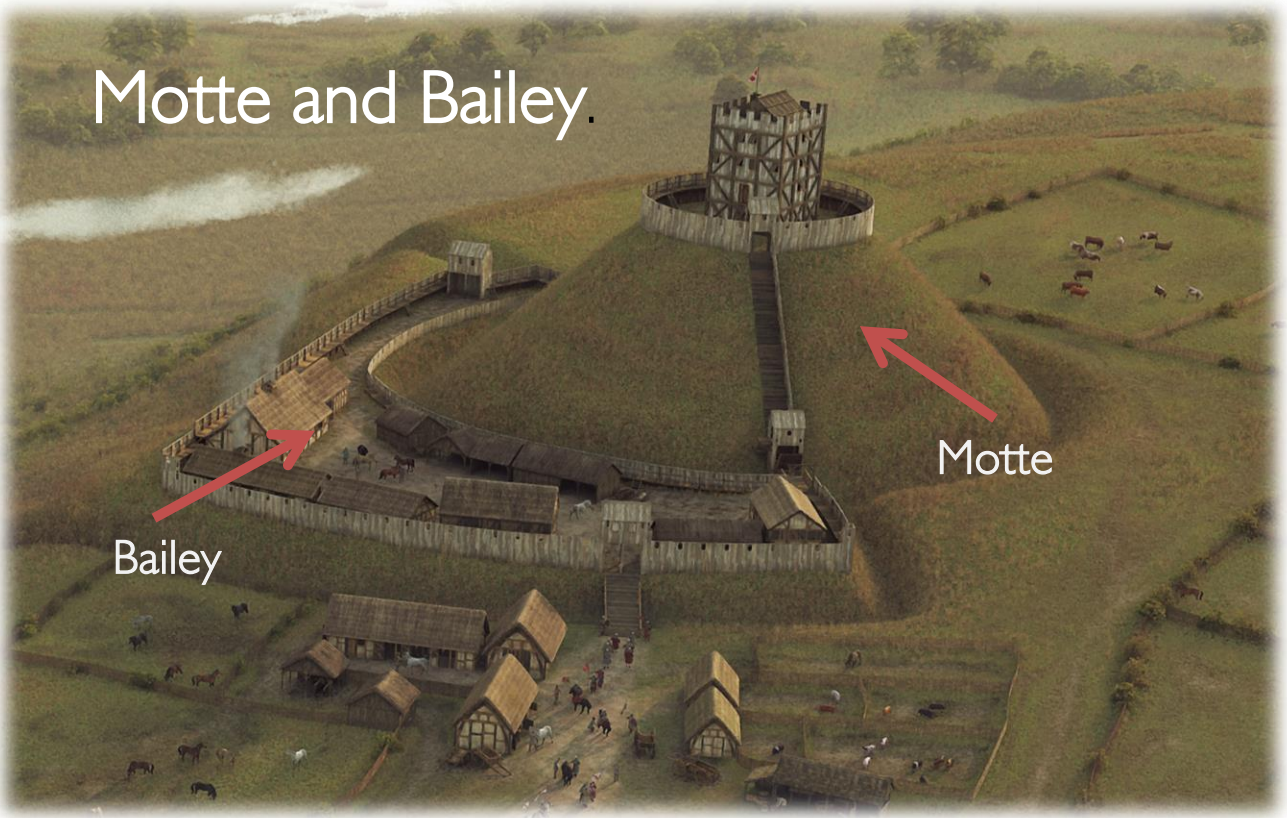


Guildford





# Motte and Bailey.



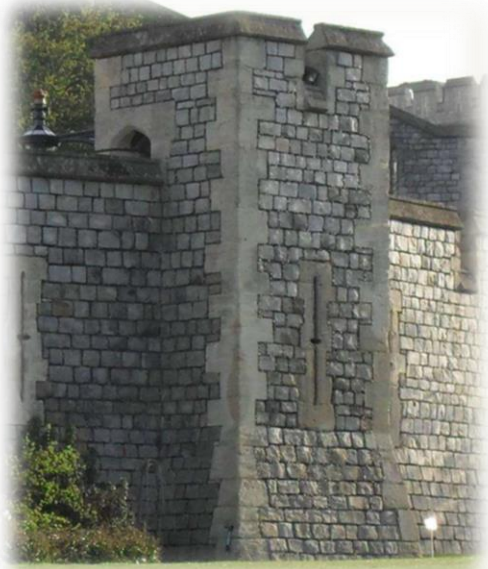
The Motte is the mound in the middle, with the Keep on the top. The Bailey is the area to the side of the Motte. Discuss why you think there are 2 Baileys at Windsor.



This picture shows the Castle rebuilt in stone from the 1170s. Why is stone better than a wooden fortress?

Can you guess why the moat at Windsor Castle had no water in it? (Clue: the answer is to do with geography and soil structure).

Windsor Castle has thick stone walls, in some places up to 4 metres thick. Look at these pictures of the towers situated along the outside wall. Why do you think they are wider at their base?



The tower in the first picture (above) is the original shape, however some of these towers were later given a curved outer edge. Why do you think that happened?



If you asked a small child to draw a picture of a castle, it is likely they would use this shape at the top of the walls. Can you think of any words we associate with this part of the Castle?



## Find some Arrow Slits (or Arrow Loops).



- Why is the opening so narrow?
- Why is it the shape of a cross?
- Why the need for a recess (hollowed-out space) in the inside wall?
- Why was the enemy attacking the Castle at such a disadvantage?



Look closely at the stone walls. Why do you think flint was placed between the stone blocks (**galetting**)?



## Stone Gateways and keeping the enemy out.



You will see lots of stone gateways around the Castle.

- Look up when you are passing through a gateway. What can you see? What is the purpose of some of these features?
- What kind of defensive doorway would you once have seen at Henry VIII gate when there used to be a ditch here?





## Siege – the Castle under attack.



On two occasions during its 900 year history, Windsor Castle has been attacked. In 1216 local Barons attacked many castles, including Windsor. Why do you think this happened?

Draw an arrow to link the label with the picture of the siege weapon below:



Pontoon Bridge



Ballista

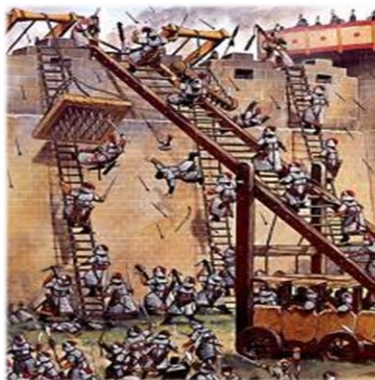
Siege tower

Scaling ladder



Catapult or Mangonel

Battering ram

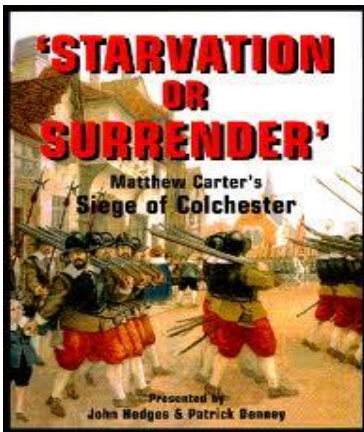


An attacking army had other methods at its disposal. Have a look at these and comment on what they are or how they might be achieved.

Deception



Treachery



Starvation

Biological warfare

Undermining



Simple storm

## Further developments in warfare.

Gunpowder was introduced in 1346 (its use was recorded at the Battle of Crecy), 100 years before the Wars of the Roses.

- What evidence can you find that cannons were ever needed for use at Windsor Castle?
- Consider how the introduction of gunpowder and cannons may have changed the way a battle was fought, and therefore how a Castle was defended.





## St. George's Chapel.



Poised on the roof are some beasts.  
What do you think they are for?



What can you find out about  
the flags in the Chapel and  
the group of people they  
represent?



Why do you think there is a church within the Castle walls?

Use these pages to make some sketches and notes of things or features of the Castle to remind you for follow up at school.

# Windsor Castle today

Windsor Castle has been the home of British kings and queens for almost 1,000 years. It is an official palace of King Charles III, whose standard flies from the Round Tower when His Majesty is in residence.

The King often visits Windsor Castle and takes up official residence for a month over Easter, known as 'Easter Court'. The King is also based at Windsor for one week each June, while attending Royal Ascot and the service of the Order of the Garter at St George's Chapel.

Windsor Castle is still very much a working royal palace and is regularly used for ceremonial and State occasions, including official visits from overseas Heads of State and other dignitaries.

St George's Chapel is the spiritual home of the Order of the Garter, founded by Edward III in 1348. The Garter Knights attend an annual Service of Thanksgiving in the Chapel, processing in their robes and insignia through the Castle. Today, the Order includes The King, who is Sovereign of the Garter, several senior Members of the Royal Family, and 24 knights chosen in recognition of their work. St George's Chapel remains an active centre for daily worship.



*Created by Royal Collection Trust, Learning with thanks to St George's Chapel and Baylis Court School.*