

Castles



twinkl

Lesson 2 w/c 1.3.21

Our enquiry question for this half term is:

‘Why was a castle built in Nottingham?’

Today we are going to be finding out about **where castles were usually built** and **how enemies attacked the castle**.



Knowledge Organiser

Why was a castle built in Nottingham?

before

after

past

present

a very long time ago

Jobs in the castle (past)

Servants (looked after children, cleaning, sewing, laundry)

Cook (made the meals in the castle)

Priest (a religious leader)

Jester (entertainer)

Gong farmer (the job of cleaning out the smelly cesspits (toilets)).

Jobs in 2021 (present)

Today more commonly known as a **cleaner, maid or nanny**.

Cook or a chef (makes meals for other people)

Priest (a religious leader)

Today known as a **clown (entertainer)**

The improvement of toilet and waste systems means this job **doesn't exist in England** anymore.



1066

The first castle was built in England.

William the Conqueror became king of England.



1500

Castles **stopped being built** to be used as homes.

Weapons including gunpowder improved and castles could no longer provide good enough safety for the people who lived in them.

Here are some places in England where castles can be found today. Can you spot Nottingham?



1828

George Stephenson invented the first steam train "Rocket"















2021

(Present Day)

Castles are used as tourist attractions and museums. Sometimes special events are held inside of castles.



Key Vocabulary

	Moat	A deep wide trench surrounding a castle, usually filled with water.
	Drawbridge	A platform that can be raised or lowered over a moat to allow entry to the castle.
	Arrow slits/loops	A narrow opening in a wall to shoot arrows or look through.
	Turret	A small tower on top of a larger tower.
	Keep	The strongest and most secure part of the castle. Often where the lord lives.
	Battlement	Square-shaped part of the walls around the top of the castle.
	Dungeon	A dark, underground prison.
	Portcullis	Heavy gate made of metal and very strong wood. Allows people in and out of the castle.
	Trebuchet	A large catapult used to attack a castle.
	Battering Ram	A way of attack. A large piece of wood used to force into the side of the castle.
	Battle of Hastings	A fight over who should be the king of England between the Norman-French army and the English army.
	Motte and Bailey Design	A castle surrounded with a wooden or stone wall built high up on a hill.

When were castles built in England?



- 955 years ago!
- **William the Conqueror** was first **Duke of Normandy (northern France)** before invading Britain in the **Battle of Hastings** and becoming **King of England**.

1066

The victory of the Battle of Hastings.
Castles were first built in England.
William the Conqueror was king from 1066 until his death in 1087.
This was a way of making towns safer places against enemies that were still attacking.

1500

1828

2000

2021

(Present Day)

George Stephenson Inventor of the first steam engine - 'Rocket'.



Nottingham Castle

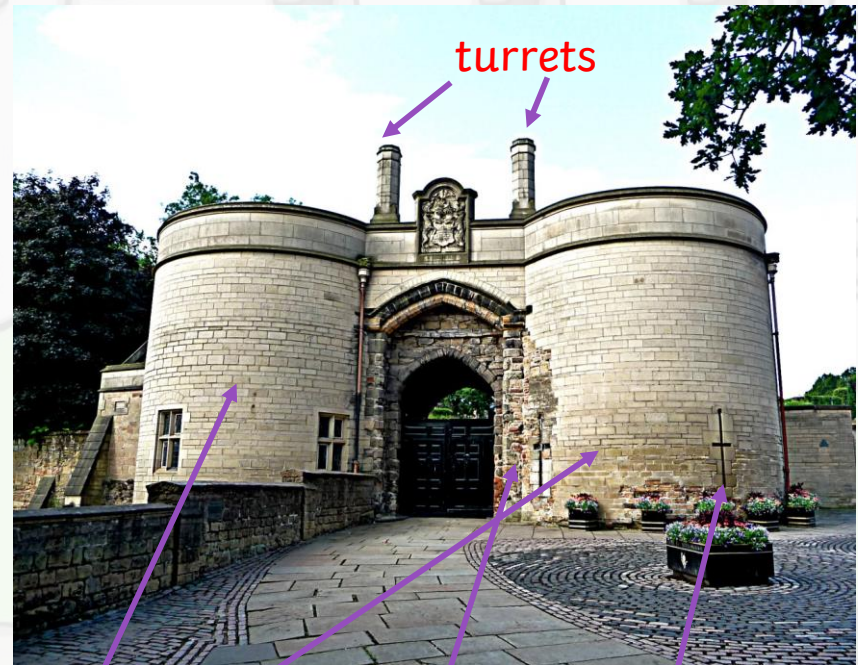
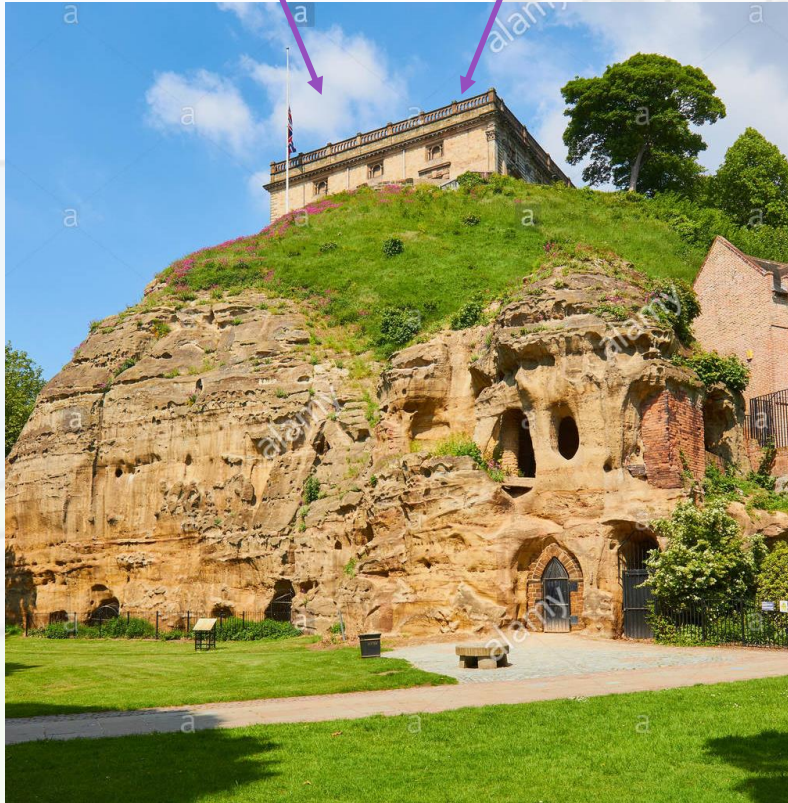
Can you spot any of the features of a castle that we learnt about last week?



Nottingham Castle – Built in 1068

high up on a hill

battlements



turrets

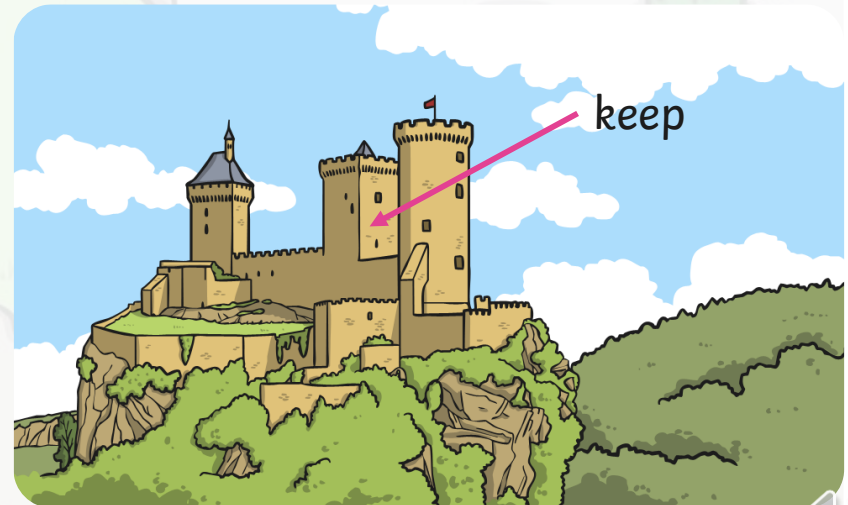
tower blocks

arrow slits/loops

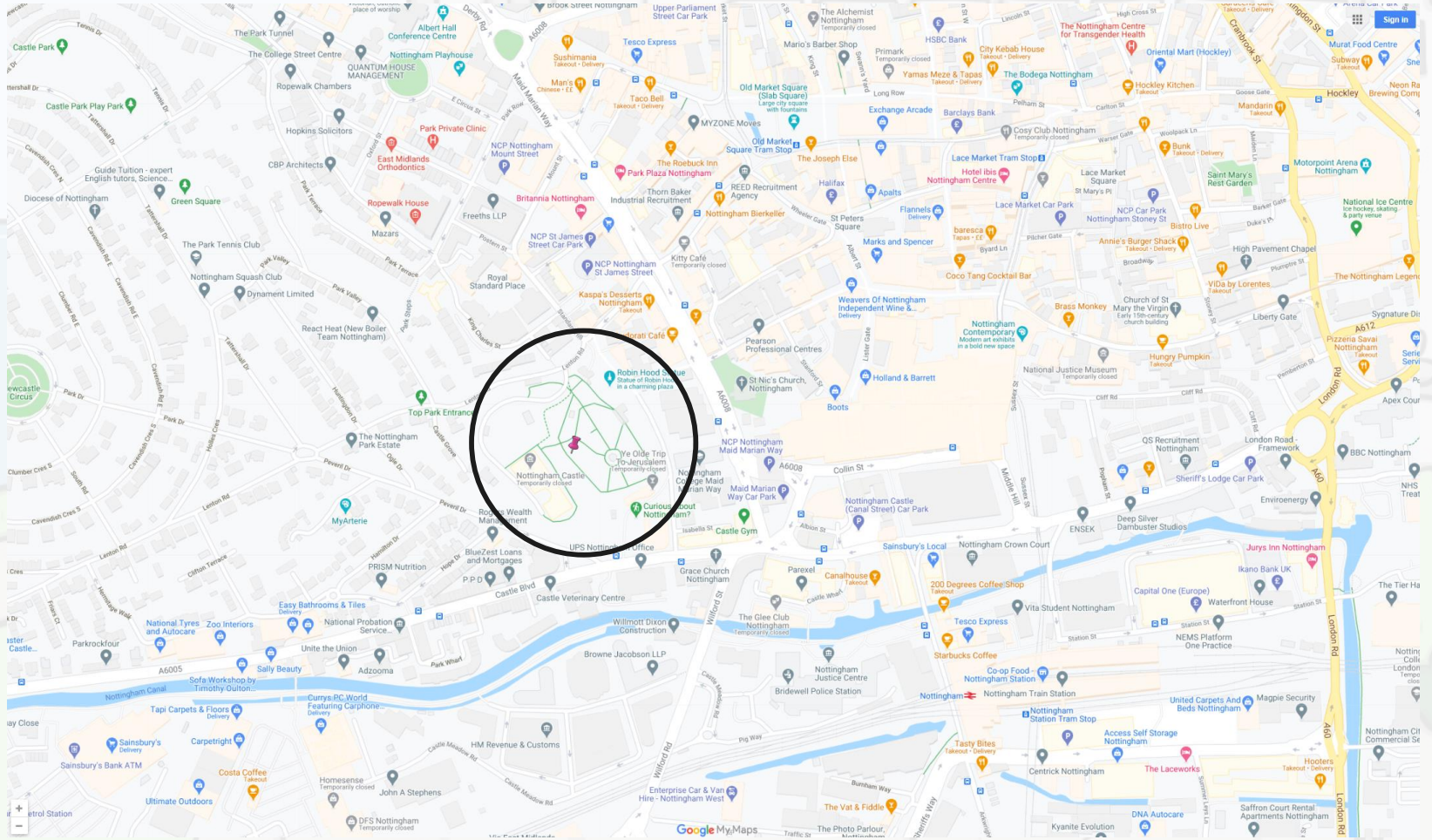
barbican

Where were castles usually built?

- Castles were usually built high up on top of hills or in places where they could use natural features of land to help **defend itself from enemies**.
- They were also built on top of rocks or mountains.
- They were often built near water. Moats would be dug around the castle to make it even more difficult for enemies to reach the castle.
- Nottingham castle was built for William the Conqueror. It was built using a **motte and bailey design** (it has a wooden or stone wall, **keep** and is built high up, often surrounded by a ditch which would become a **moat**).



Let's have a look at Nottingham castle on Google Maps!

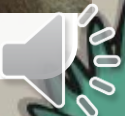


What do you notice about where it is located?

Images of Nottingham Castle from Google Maps



- It was built on a site called 'Castle Rock'
- High up and had a good view of the whole of Nottingham.



How did Nottingham castle defend itself from enemies?

How to defend a castle



Building up high

Building a castle up high made it difficult for enemies to get to the castle. Some castles were built on natural rocks and cliffs like Edinburgh Castle (above). Some other castles, like Duffus Castle in Moray, were built on man-made mounds.



Tall towers

Strong towers were added to curtain walls to watch out for enemies. At first, castle towers were square but they were replaced with round towers which were stronger and harder to destroy. This photo shows the towers at Eglinton Castle in Ayrshire.



Arrow slits

Arrow slits, like the very thin holes you can see at Hermitage Castle near Hawick (above), were very narrow windows that defenders could shoot arrows out of. It was very hard for attackers to aim an arrow and shoot into such a narrow hole. Over time, many of these windows were changed to allow guns or cannons to be fired through the slits. These were known as gun loops.



Battlements

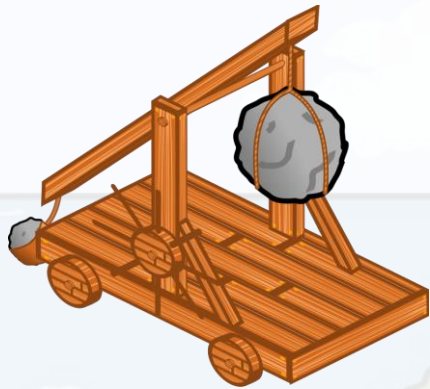
Battlements were walls on the roof of a castle. They had higher walls, called merlons, with lower gaps between, called crenels. Defenders would use crossbows to shoot arrows through the crenels, and then hide behind the higher merlons. This photo shows the battlements at Blackness Castle in Linlithgow.

How did Nottingham castle defend itself from enemies?

- It is also thought to have had a dungeon where it held prisoners.
- People also say that Robin Hood was imprisoned there by the sheriff but he managed to escape through caves within 'Castle Rock' - the rock where Nottingham Castle was built on top of.



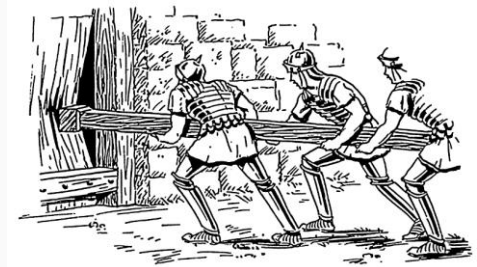
How would enemies attack a castle?



A trebuchet



Fire arrows



Battering ram –
large piece of wood
forced into the side of
the castle



Undermining – digging tunnels beneath the castles



Poisoning the water

Your task - Make a poster!

- Draw a picture of Nottingham Castle.
- Draw and explain 3 ways that it was built to **defend** itself from enemies.
- Draw and explain 3 ways that an enemy might use to try to **attack** the castle.

