

Year 7) Term 2B: The Development of Castles

Learning objective: To understand change and continuity by examining how castles developed over time.

Assessment Skill focus:

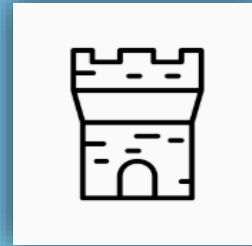
Comparison = Comparing the features of things, like castles.
Describe = give a description of something, e.g. siege weapons.



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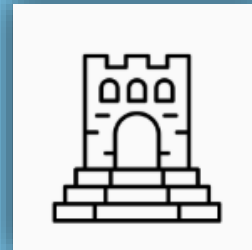
What do I need to know about motte & bailey castles?

- The advantages and disadvantages of the first castle.
- The materials and shape of the castle.
- Why its weaknesses meant it needed to change design.



What do I need to know about shell and square keep castles?

- The advantages and disadvantages of the second and third castle.
- The new materials and shape of the castle.
- Why its weaknesses meant it needed to change design.



What do I need to know about concentric castles?

- The advantages and disadvantages of the final castle.
- The new materials and shape of the castle.
- What changed and what stayed the same since the first castle.



KEYWORDS:

Chronology = events put in the order that they happened.
Change = things that are different over time.
Continuity = things that stay the same over time.

Key events/people:

Motte & Bailey castle
Shell keep castle
Square keep castle
Concentric castle
Siege weapons
Defences

1066 AD



The first motte & bailey castle is created

1070-80



The shell keep castle and the square keep castle are created

1085 – 1300



The final concentric castle is created



What first-order concepts do I need to learn below?

Hint: remember! A first-order concept is a word historians use to describe facts related to events.

➤ Facts on motte and bailey castles:

- The first type of castle to be created by William the Conqueror was the motte and bailey castle.
- The design of this castle was simple. They were made out of wood and in a 'figure of 8' shape.
- The motte was the mound; the bailey was the settlement at the bottom.
- There were defensive features like drawbridges and a moat. These forced invaders to go through one single point when attacking, but because they were made out of wood, the castles burnt down easily.

➤ Facts on the shell and square keep castles:

- Shell keep castles were the answer. They were made of stone and built on motte-type mounds. However, they were so heavy when they were made out of stone that they sank into the ground!
- The design had to change. The castles then became square keeps – which towered high and were built on flat land. New defensive features were added, like arrow slits to shoot out of!

➤ Facts on the concentric castles:

- The square design of the square keep castle was a weakness however. If a siege weapon destroyed one wall, the rest would come crumbling down.
- The answer was to create more than one wall around the keep. This made it harder for invaders to take the castle. The inner wall was always taller than the outer wall so people could shoot over the top.
- There were even more defensive features added, like murder-holes that allowed defenders to drop hot oil and shoot arrows above the entrance, barbican gatehouses, and tall, defensive, circular towers with spiral staircases inside.

What second-order concepts do I need to learn below?

Hint: remember! A 'second-order concept' is a phrase historians use to describe the history skills that are used in history – like putting events in chronological order, or analysing sources!

- Change and continuity. Some things stayed the same throughout the design of castles – such as the drawbridge. But there were much more differences – like shape, materials and new defensive features.

Look to the past:

Below is a primary source: a piece of the Bayeux Tapestry created by the Normans. It depicts Anglo-Saxon northern rebels destroying and burning a particular type of castle. Which type of castle is it being burned?

