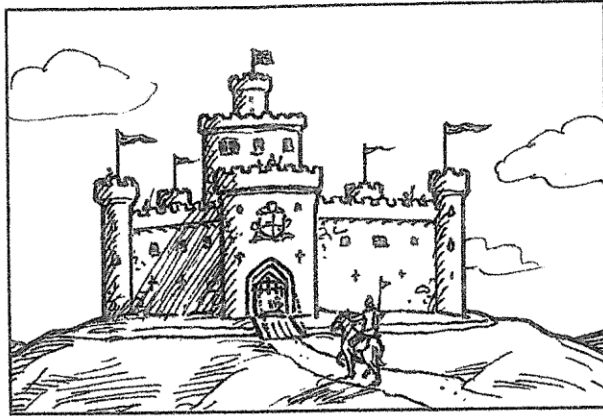


Castles



In the middle ages lords lived in castles. They were built to keep them and their families safe from their enemies. A lot of people and animals lived there. Servants and guards looked after the lord's family. Dogs, horses and falcons were used for hunting. Cattle and sheep were kept for milk and meat.

Castles were usually built on a hill so anyone trying to attack could be spotted quickly. They were often built near water. This would be used to fill the moat, a deep ditch that went around the outside of the walls. A drawbridge would be lowered to let people in and raised to keep enemies out.

Around the outside there was a thick stone wall. It was wide enough for sentries to walk on and keep a lookout for attackers. In the gatehouse there was a heavy wooden or metal grid, called a portcullis. It was lifted to let people in. Behind the portcullis were two heavy wooden doors.

The keep was the largest building and was usually in the middle of the castle. It was a tall building and the lord and his family lived on the top floors. They went up spiral stairs to get there. There was a chapel and great hall, where the people ate. Food was kept in the storeroom and cooked on big fires. Dungeons were the cellars where prisoners were kept chained up.

People

Castles

Animals

The Gatehouse

The Walls

Where they were built

The Moat

The Keep

Dungeons

The Portcullis

