

Key Stage 1 – Elveden C of E Primary Academy
Knowledge Organiser – Castles

The Normans



Picture shows children playing in the great hall of a Norman Castle.

- The Normans were people who lived in Normandy in Northern France.
- They invaded England in 1066, after King Edward the Confessor died without leaving an heir to the throne.
- The first Norman king was William the Conqueror, who won the Battle of Hastings, defeating the Anglo Saxons.
- The Bayeux Tapestry tells us the story of the Battle of Hastings and also provides us with information on what life was like for the Normans, e.g. the clothes they wore and the food they ate.
- The Normans introduced the first proper castle, some of which are still standing today.

Key Vocabulary

bailey	The outer wall of a castle.
Bayeux Tapestry	A famous medieval artefact that tells the story of the Battle of Hastings.
castle	A large building, typically of the medieval period, fortified against attack with thick walls, battlements, towers, and in many cases a moat.
drawbridge	A bridge which can be pulled up to stop attackers entering the castle.
keep	Fortified tower built within castles for defence.
moat	A deep ditch that surrounds a castle. It can be filled with or without water.
Norman Conquest	The invasion of England by the Normans, led by William the Conqueror.
palisade	A fence of wooden stakes or iron railings fixed in the ground around the castle.
portcullis	A spiked, wooden or metal barrier above the castle gateway.
William the Conqueror	Became King in 1066 after winning the Battle of Hastings.



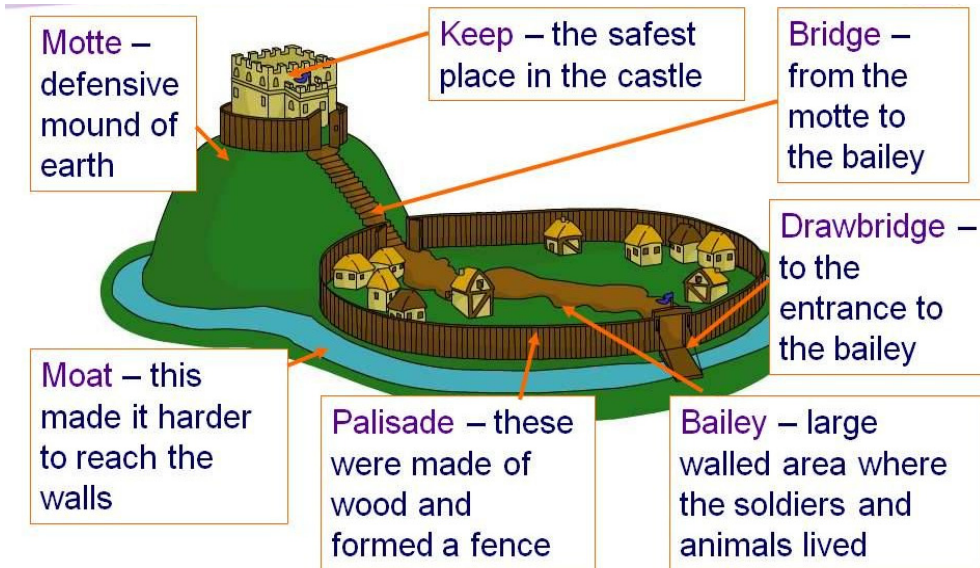
The Bayeux Tapestry

Motte and Bailey Castle

A motte and bailey castle is an early type of castle. They were the first type of castle to be built in England, after the **Norman Conquest** in 1066.

The castle is made up of two parts. The **motte** is a raised mound or earthwork which would have a stone or wooden **keep** on top. A **keep** is a kind of fortified tower. The **bailey** is an enclosed **courtyard** that was protected by a ditch and a **palisade** – which is a wall made from wooden stakes.

Mountfitchet Castle is an example of a motte and bailey castle.



Castles Defences

Castle Defence	What is it for?
Moat 	A deep, wide ditch surrounding a castle, usually filled with water. Attackers were easy to shoot whilst swimming or rowing across the moats.
Drawbridge 	A bridge which can be pulled up to stop the enemy from crossing the moat into the castle.
Portcullis 	A spiked, wooden or metal barrier to protect the castle doors from fire or battering. It was lowered by chains from a chamber above the gateway.
Tower 	Rounded towers projecting out from the castle wall or at a corner which gave a better view to the defenders.
Arrow Slits 	These provided a safer means of firing arrows on the attackers of the castle.
Battlements 	A low wall at the top of a castle with openings to shoot arrows through.