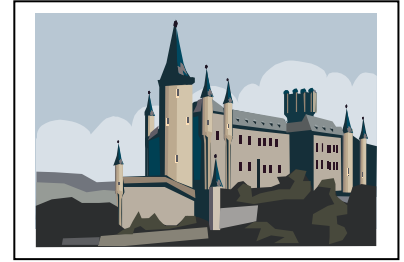


Castle Defences

Castles were built for rich men - lords or kings - and their family to live in. Castles protected them against enemies and kept them all, including horses and valuables, safe.



Were castles built for attack?

Holes in the walls, loopholes, allowed archers to be protected, whilst attacking.

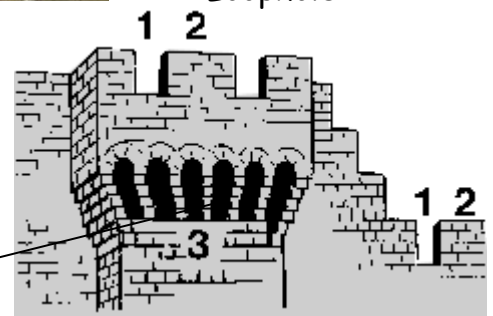
Machicolations were parts of the castle that jutted out. They had holes on the floor to drop stones or pour boiling oil on enemies.

In the 1300s keyhole-shaped holes appeared in the sides of castles. This was after the invention of guns!



Loophole

Machicolations



What weapons were used to attack castles?

Traction trebuchet - This was operated by a team of men. They pulled down on one end of a beam, causing the other end to fly up. This flung a large stone towards the castle.

Catapult - Twisted ropes were used to bend a large beam. When the ropes were released, the beam flew upwards, sending heavy rocks towards the castle.

What was a moat?

A moat was a wide, deep ditch full of water surrounding the castle. It was dug to keep out enemies, as people could only enter over the drawbridge and through the portcullis. Moats also stopped enemies from tunnelling under the castle as any tunnels would fill with water.

DID YOU KNOW?

Some castles were built on the sides of cliffs. This was so that the lord could protect his land from enemies coming from across the sea.