

Knowledge Organiser— Castles & Knights, Year 1

Key Vocabulary

Castle	A large, strong and secure building built to protect the people who owned it and to keep their enemies out. It was built in the past by a ruler or an important person.
Windsor Castle	The original castle was built in the 11th century and is now a Royal Residence where the Queen lives.
Moat	A deep, wide ditch filled with water surrounding the castle and preventing people from easily entering the castle grounds.
Turret	A small tower on the castle.
Battlement	The wall around the top of the castle which changes in height to allow hiding places for the knights to protect themselves against enemies and also gives them a place to shoot from.
Bailey	The grassy area in the middle of the castle grounds that the animals can graze on, people can be entertained by jesters and relax on, and local commoners could gather to escape enemies.
Portcullis	A spiked and heavy gate that could be dropped to stop people entering the castle grounds or to harm enemies that might have got past the castle defences.
Arrow Loop	A slot in the castle walls that allowed a knight to be protected whilst firing arrows through at the enemy.
Drawbridge	A bridge that can be lifted and lowered over the moat for people to get in and out of the castle.
Siege	A castle siege would happen if the invading, enemy army gained access to the castle and took control.
Knight	A man specially trained to work and fight for Lords, Queens and Kings on horseback.
Page	The first stage of becoming a knight. They would begin their horse riding and fighting training.
Squire	The second stage of becoming a knight. They would practice their fighting and horse-riding skills with jousting competitions.
King & Queen	The head of the Royal Family and head of state of the country.

Key Chronological Skills

By the end of this topic, I will know when Windsor Castle was first built and key dates when the castle buildings were developed & expanded until the modern day.

Key Historical Knowledge Skills

By the end of this topic, I will know the key defence features of a castle and their purpose to help protect the important people who lived within, and around, the castle grounds.

I will also be able to label a castle and explain how its features would help keep people safe and try to prevent any enemies from gaining access, or how it would help the knights to protect themselves during a battle or siege.

I will be able to explain how a boy could have trained and studied to become a knight and the different stages he would need to progress through to be successful.

Key Historical Enquiry Skills

By the end of this topic, I will be able to use my knowledge skills to answer questions about how castles were designed to help keep enemies out and the people who lived there safe.

