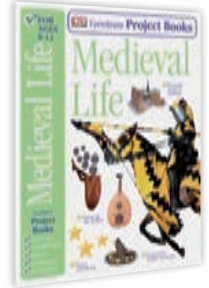




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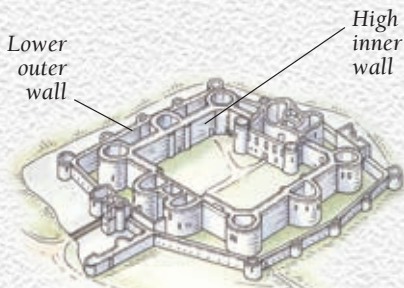


The age of castles

A castle was the fortified residence of a king or a baron, built to keep its occupants safe from enemy attack. Although a castle was a stronghold, with towering walls, watchtowers, and heavily fortified doors, it was also an administrative centre and a home, and its occupants could live there in comfort and style.

Castle development

The earliest castles appeared in the 9th and 10th centuries, in areas now part of France, Germany, and northern Italy. Most were earth ramparts, or walls, surrounded by a ditch and a timber fence.



Concentric castle

FACT

Motte and bailey castles were built in the 11th and 12th centuries.

Castle people

The household of a large castle could easily contain as many people as a village. As well as the lord and his family, there were officials, soldiers, and a host of servants and craftsmen.

FACT

The lord's second-in-command was called the constable.



Lord

Lady

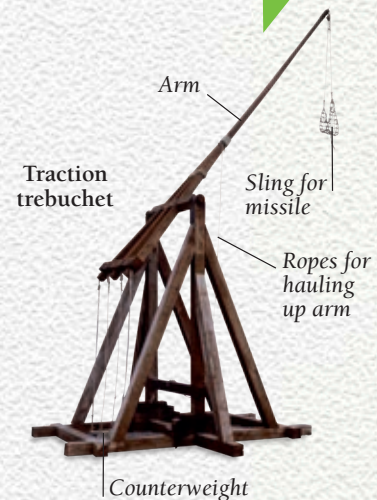
Attack and defence

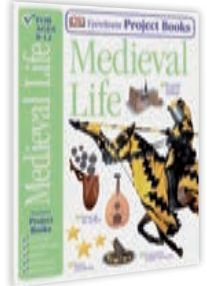
Castles were built to be defended, with strong walls and doors. They also needed plenty of storage space for food and a deep well for water, to withstand a long siege if surrounded by enemy soldiers.

KEY FACTS

Castle attackers could:

- shoot arrows
- hurl missiles over the walls with trebuchets and other catapults
- scale walls with ladders
- break down walls and doors with battering rams
- try to undermine walls by tunnelling beneath them
- wait until the inhabitants starved.





Content taken from

Running a manor

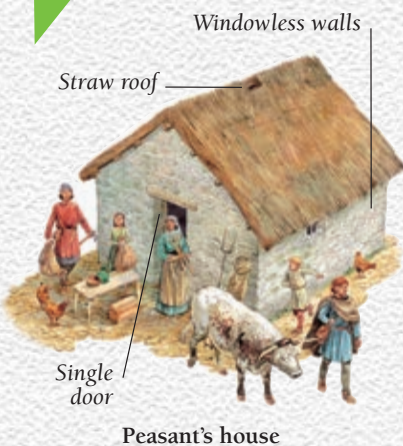
During the Middle Ages, more than ninety per cent of the population lived and worked on manors. Manors usually consisted of the lord's house or castle, a village, a church, and the surrounding countryside. The lord and lady of the manor oversaw the running of the estate and the household, but they also had plenty of free time for leisure activities, such as hunting and hawking.

The peasants

The peasants, also known as serfs or villeins, lived in the village. The peasants worked for their lord, who let them farm a piece of land for themselves in return for their labour on the manor.

FACT

Serfs – along with their land, animals, homes, food, and clothes – belonged to their lord and could not leave the manor without permission.



Peasant's house

Manor officials

The lord appointed officials to help him run the manor. The most important was the steward, who was a well-paid, powerful figure in the district. His second-in-command was the bailiff.

The steward or a treasurer looked after the lord's money

The lord settled disputes and judged crimes

Written records might be kept of the lord's decisions



FACT

The steward organized the farm work, kept accounts of the manor's money, and acted as a judge at the manor court if the lord was away.

Manor life

Without machines, all farm work was done by hand, using simple tools. Crops were grown around the village in two or three big fields. Peasants were allotted some land in each field, so the good and bad soil was shared out equally between them.



Peasants pushing a hay cart up a slope

FACT

Every autumn, the lord allowed his serfs to let their pigs feed on nuts in his private wood, in a custom called pannage.



Peasant with his pig in his lord's woods





Eyewitness Projects

Castle life

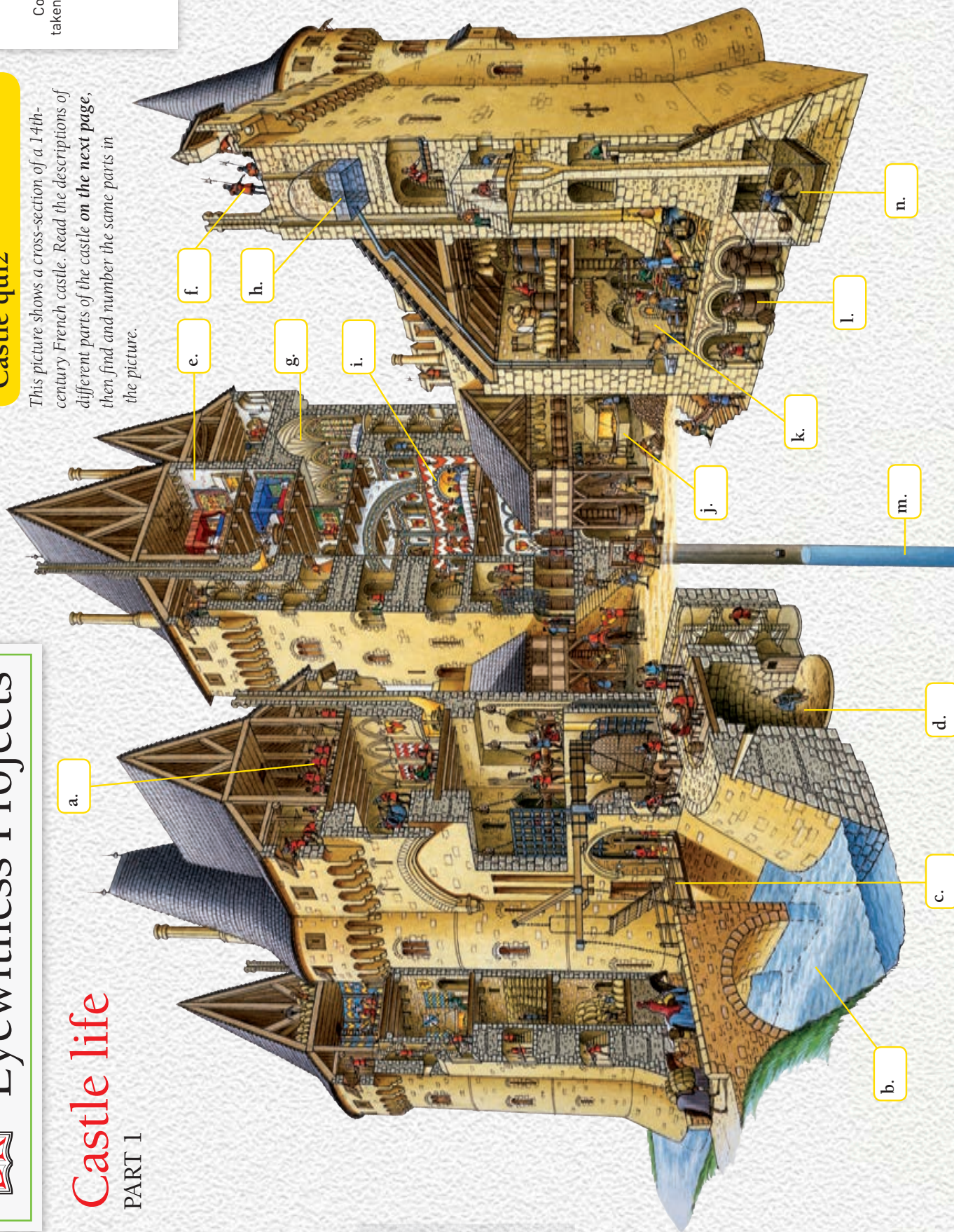
PART 1



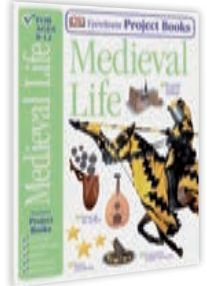
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Castle quiz

This picture shows a cross-section of a 14th-century French castle. Read the descriptions of different parts of the castle **on the next page**, then find and number the same parts in the picture.



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Castle life PART 2

From the ninth century onwards, medieval kings and lords lived in castles. Early castles were often cold and draughty because the only heating came from open fires in large, stone rooms. Everyone usually slept in the castle's main room, the Great Hall. By the 13th century, most people slept where they worked, but the lord's family and important inhabitants, such as the castle's chaplain or priest, had their own rooms.



Castle facts (see picture on previous page)

1. The moat, a water-filled trench surrounding the castle, made it difficult for attackers to approach the castle walls, or dig a tunnel beneath them.
2. A hinged drawbridge across the moat could be raised in seconds.
3. The castle's guardroom was at the top of the tower above the drawbridge.
4. Soldiers patrolled the battlements on a wall-walk, a path that ran along the top of the walls.
5. Prisoners were sometimes kept in an underground cell, called a dungeon.
6. The fire at the forge in the central courtyard was used to heat iron to make horseshoes, tools, armour, and weapons.
7. A deep well supplied the castle's inhabitants with fresh water.
8. The lord's bedroom was in the keep – the largest and strongest tower.
9. Feasts were held in the Great Hall, a large richly decorated room in the keep.
10. The chapel, which was above the Great Hall, had a row of tall stained-glass windows.
11. Food was prepared in the castle kitchen in a huge wood-fired oven or over an open fire.
12. Huge stone tanks called cisterns stored rainwater for use in the kitchen.
13. Storerooms were filled with sacks of grain and barrels of salted meat and beer.
14. Cesspits for toilet waste were cleaned out regularly by servants called gong farmers.

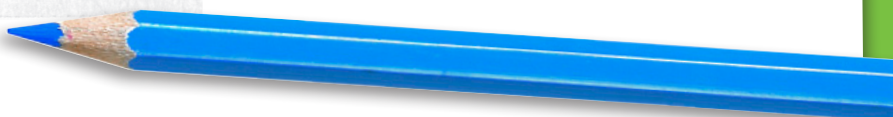
Building a castle

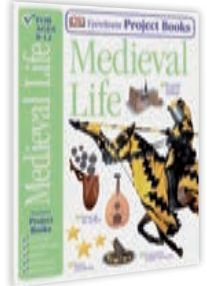
A massive stone castle took many years to build and a huge workforce, including masons (stoneworkers), carpenters (woodworkers), smiths (metalworkers), and plumbers. Draw a line to match each worker to the job description.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. Master mason | a. Made wooden joists, floors, and roofs. |
| 2. Rough mason | b. Cut stone from the ground in quarries. |
| 3. Carpenter | c. Took charge of all the building work. |
| 4. Quarry worker | d. Piped water and sewage. |
| 5. Plumber | e. Forged metal hinges, chains, and tools. |
| 6. Smith | f. Smoothed rough blocks of stone. |



Stonemasons at work





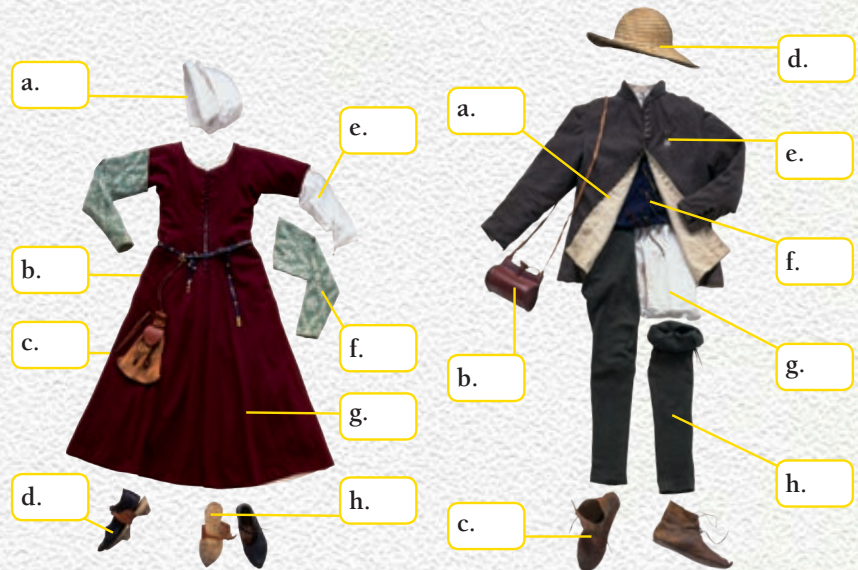
Content taken from

Clothing

During the Middle Ages, people's clothes reflected their position in society. Rich nobles often wore exaggerated styles of clothing with elaborate headdresses, pointed shoes, and long, trailing garments trimmed with fur. Peasants wore simple clothes, suitable for working in the fields, including a woollen tunic, hose (leggings), and a linen shirt. Townspeople's clothes varied according to their status and wealth, with richer citizens wearing finely woven cloth and soft leather shoes or boots.

Clothing puzzle

These pictures show clothes worn by a medieval peasant and a townswoman. Number the parts of each picture to match the labels.

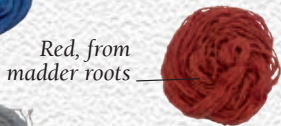


Did you know?

Wool to make clothes was often dyed with tree bark or the leaves and roots of plants.



Blue, from the indigo plant



Red, from madder roots



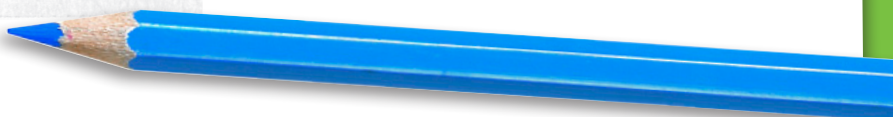
Green, from woad leaves

Townswoman

1. Woollen "kirtle" or dress
2. Leather purse that served as a pocket
3. Buckled leather shoes
4. Pin-on sleeve, worn on Sundays and special occasions
5. White linen shift, or undergarment
6. Linen head-wrap to keep hair hidden and clean
7. Wooden "patten" worn over shoes when muddy
8. Prayer beads

Peasant

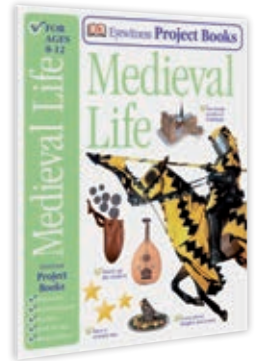
1. Linen shirt
2. Blue woollen tunic fastened with laces, worn under a woollen jacket
3. Woollen jacket lined with linen
4. Hose (leggings) that could be rolled down when working in the fields
5. Leather working boots
6. Straw hat
7. Leather flask to carry ale
8. Cheap pewter good luck badge





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Answers

Castle quiz

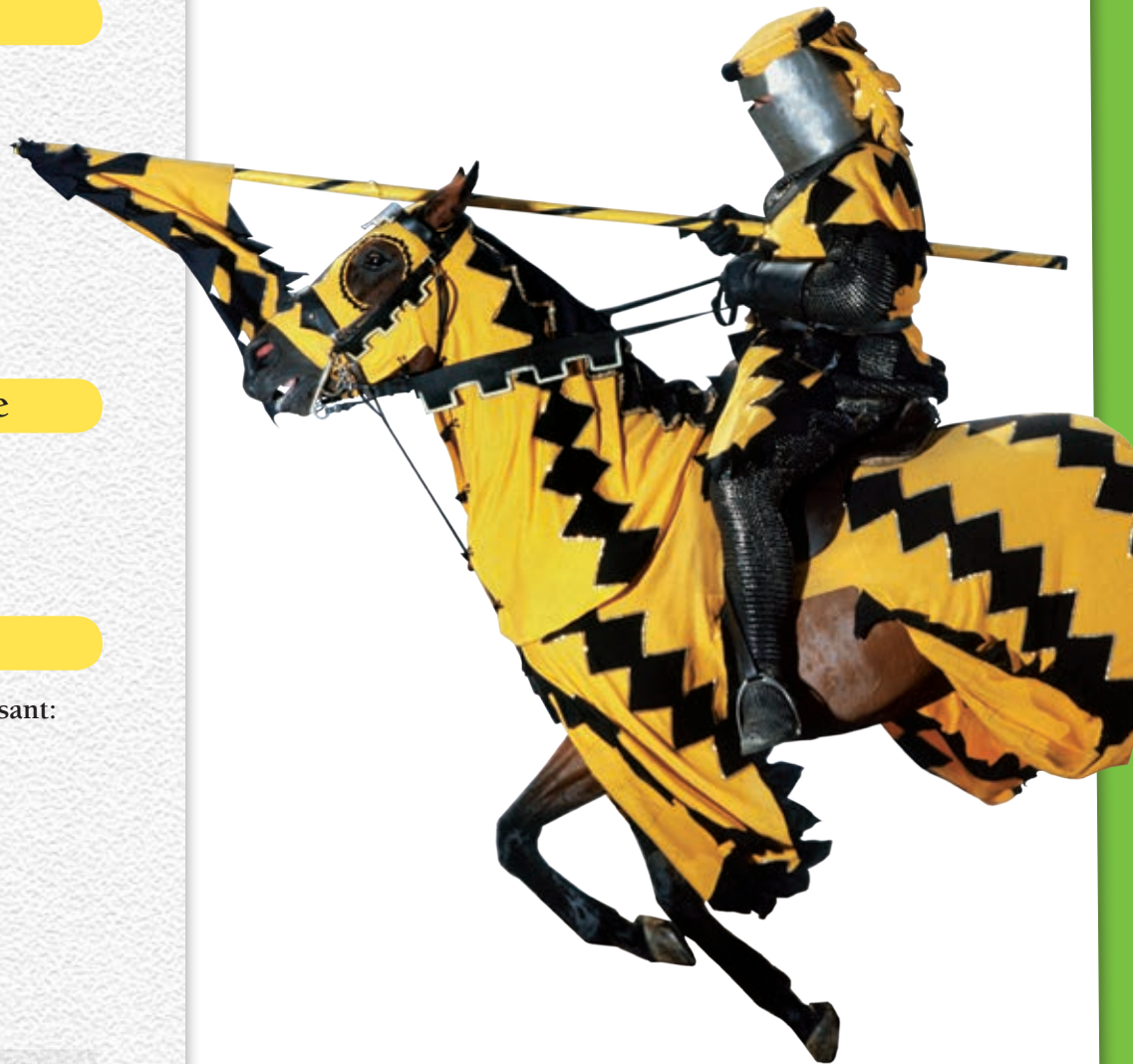
- | | |
|------|------|
| a 3 | h 12 |
| b 1 | i 9 |
| c 2 | j 6 |
| d 5 | k 11 |
| e 8 | l 13 |
| f 4 | m 7 |
| g 10 | n 14 |

Building a castle

- | | |
|-----|-----|
| 1 c | 4 b |
| 2 f | 5 d |
| 3 a | 6 e |

Clothing puzzle

- | Townswoman: | Peasant: |
|-------------|----------|
| a 6 | a 3 |
| b 8 | b 7 |
| c 2 | c 5 |
| d 3 | d 6 |
| e 5 | e 8 |
| f 4 | f 2 |
| g 1 | g 1 |
| h 7 | h 4 |



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