



Castles

Castles are large, stone buildings that were built by rich lords to defend different parts of the country. Read on to find out more about these exciting places, meet the people who lived there and discover how they were protected.

Key Features

Castles were built to provide safety from attack and to display the lord's rank and wealth. Castles were often built on hilltops or surrounded by water to make them easier to defend. They also have a drawbridge and a portcullis that could be closed from the inside to keep out enemies. In the centre of the castle, a tall, strong tower, known as the keep, provided a home for the lord and their family.

The people who lived there

Many different people lived in the castle and each person had a job to do. The wealthy lord was in charge and would spend large amounts of time entertaining guests. The lord would have many servants to do things for them.

The most important servant was the cook – she would spend all her time in the large, smoky, castle kitchens. Every day the cook would need to prepare food for everyone who lived in the castle, she would need to grow vegetables in the castle kitchen and would sleep on the cold, stone floor. The castle toilets were cleaned by poor people known as gong farmers.

The castle was defended by a many soldiers. These men would walk around the castle day and night and, if the castle was attacked, they would be ready to fight. Every day, the soldiers would need to look after the horses, muck out the stables and practise their sword fighting skills. Some soldiers trained really hard to become a knight because they would be given special recognition.



Questions

1. Who built the castles?

2. What were castles made out of?

3. Look at the paragraph titled "Key Features"

List three features of a castle that helped keep it defended.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. Match each person to the job they did in the castle.

- Lord
- Cook
- Gong
- Soldiers

- Cleaned the toilets
- Entertained the guests
- Farmer Protected the castle
- Prepared the feast

5. Why did some soldiers train really hard?

Questions

6. List three jobs that the soldiers needed to complete every day.

7. In which part of the castle did the lord or noble live?

8. Look at the paragraph beginning 'Many different people...'.
Find and copy one word that means the same as *rich*.

Answers

1. Who built the castles?

Rich lords

2. What were castles made out of?

Stone

3. Look at the paragraph titled "Key Features"

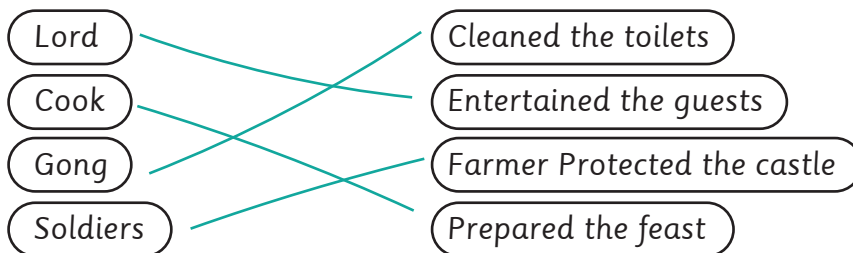
List three features of a castle that helped keep it defended.

1. Accept any three from: built on hill tops/surrounded by water/drawbridge/portcullis

2. _____

3. _____

4. Match each person to the job they did in the castle.



5. Why did some soldiers train really hard?

Because they wanted the special recognition and privileges that came with being a knight.

Answers

6. List three jobs that the soldiers needed to complete every day.

Accept any from: patrol the castle/look after the horses/muck out the stables/practice their sword fighting skills.

7. In which part of the castle did the lord or noble live?

In the keep

8. Look at the paragraph beginning 'Many different people...'

Find and copy one word that means the same as *rich*.

wealthy