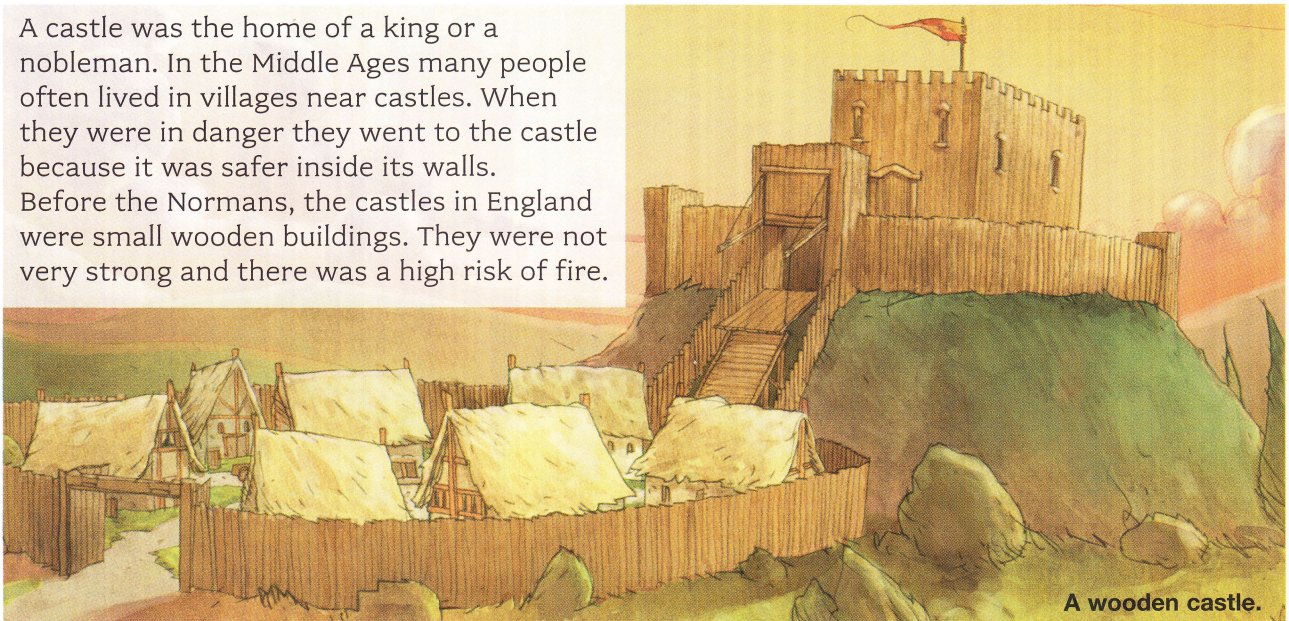


Castles

3 Are there any castles in your local area? What are they like? Read the text to find out more about castles during the Middle Ages in Britain.

A castle was the home of a king or a nobleman. In the Middle Ages many people often lived in villages near castles. When they were in danger they went to the castle because it was safer inside its walls. Before the Normans, the castles in England were small wooden buildings. They were not very strong and there was a high risk of fire.



A wooden castle.

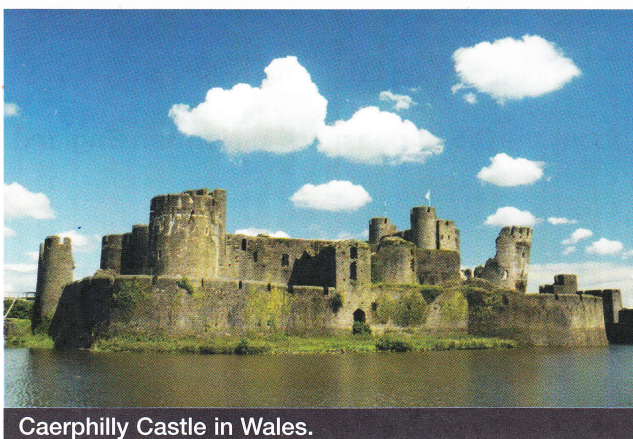


The White Tower of the Tower of London.

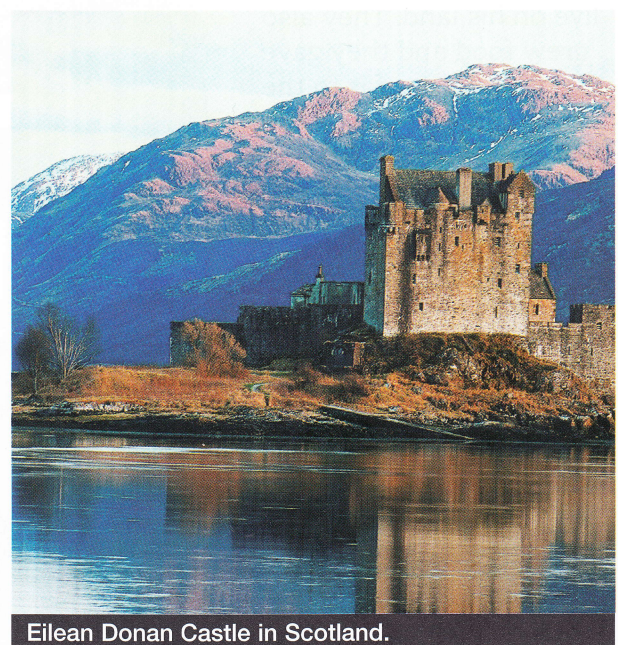
The Normans liked great stone castles because they were strong and did not burn. One of the first Norman stone castles was the **Tower of London** (started in 1078).

Castles were often near rivers, the sea or on hills and mountains. It was difficult to attack them because soldiers could easily see attackers arriving.

A concentric castle was a castle inside a castle. It had two or more rings of walls, and it was almost impossible to attack.



Caerphilly Castle in Wales.



Eilean Donan Castle in Scotland.

Comprehension check

4 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

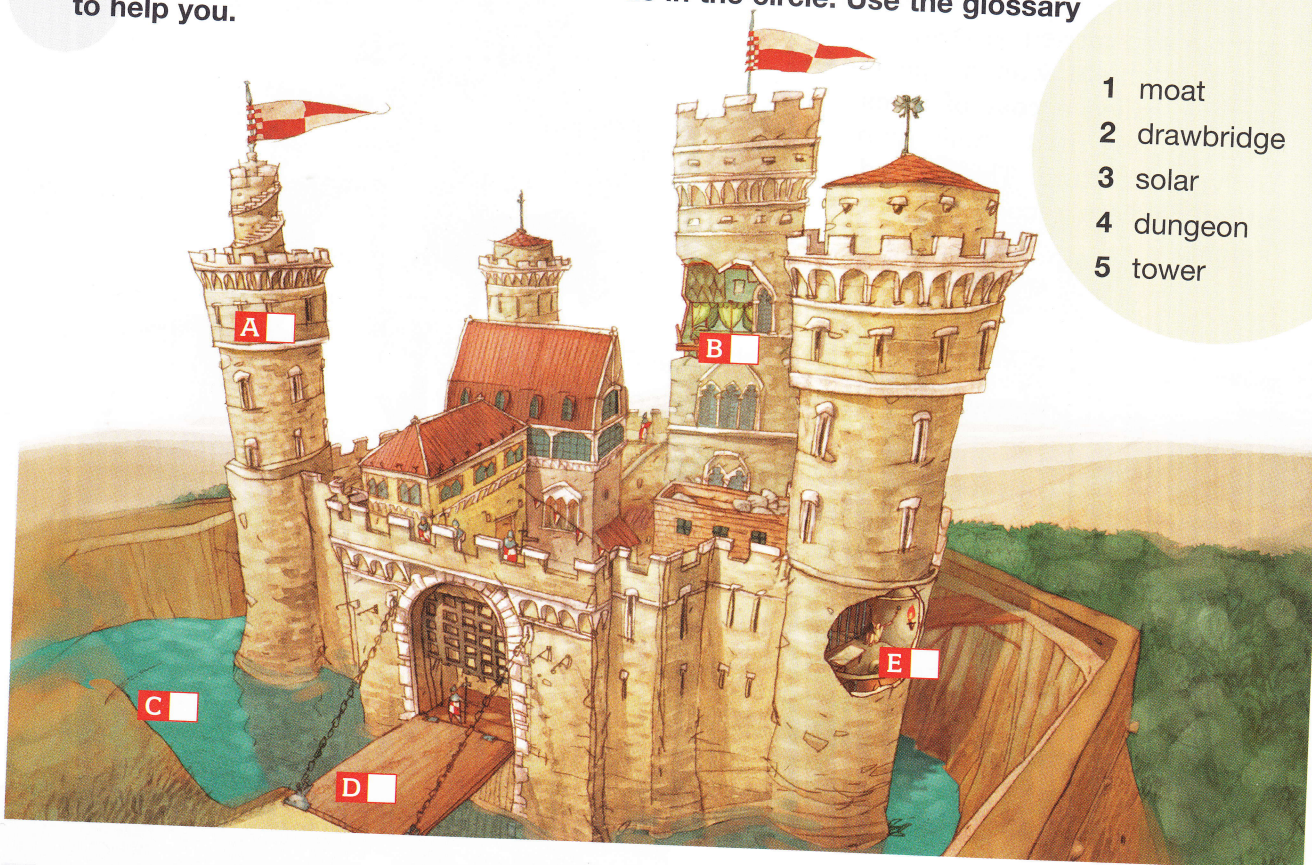
- 1 In the Middle Ages peasants usually lived far away from castles.
- 2 Early castles were made of wood.
- 3 The Normans liked big stone castles because they were safer.
- 4 Castles were often near rivers because it was easy to attack them.
- 5 Concentric castles had two rings of walls and were very difficult to attack.

T	F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Vocabulary

5 Label the parts of a castle with the words in the circle. Use the glossary to help you.

- 1 moat
- 2 drawbridge
- 3 solar
- 4 dungeon
- 5 tower



>>> INTERNET PROJECT

Windsor Castle

William I built another very famous castle: Windsor Castle. Today it is one of the official homes of Queen Elizabeth II. Use the website to find out:

- when it was built;
- what there is to see;
- opening times and prices to visit it.

Then find out more about its history by going on a virtual tour.

