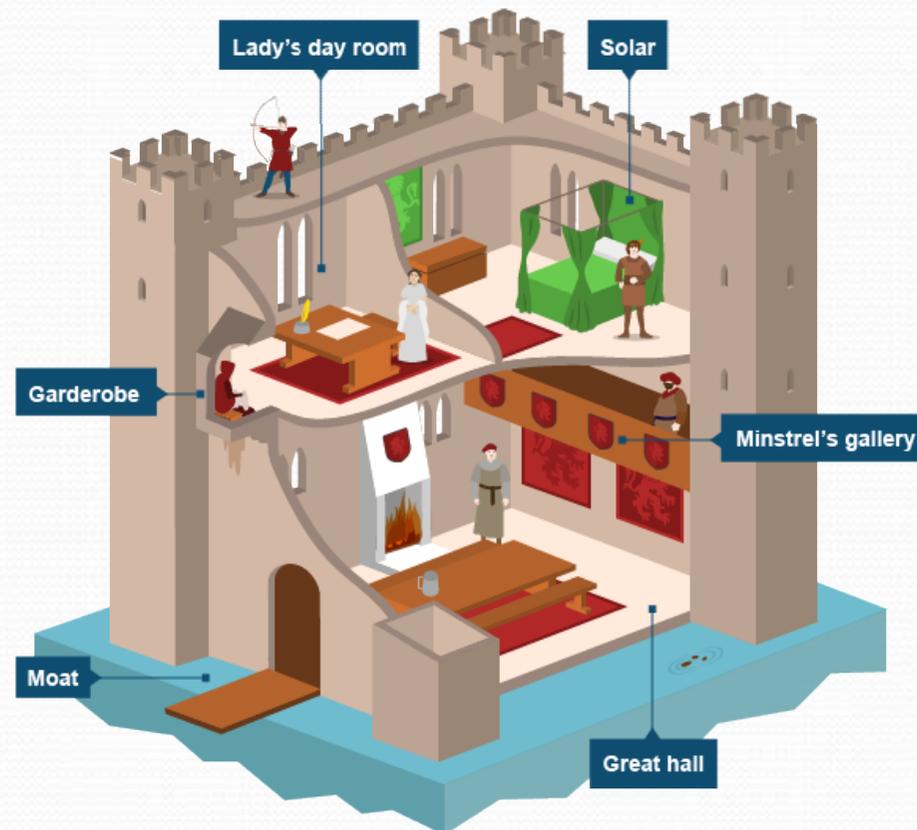


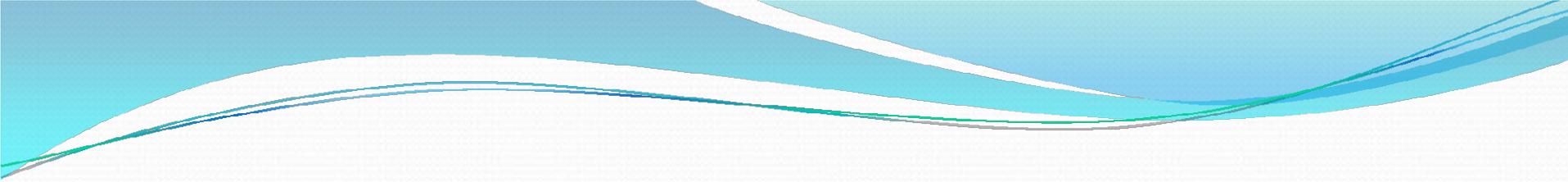
The image features a solid blue background with a subtle gradient. At the top, there are several thin, overlapping wavy lines in shades of blue and teal, creating a sense of movement and depth. The text is centered horizontally and vertically in the upper half of the image.

THE LIFE IN THE CASTLE

LAYOUT OF MONTAGNANA CASTLE

This is a typical medieval castle, it isn't the castle of Montagnana but the structure it was the same...





LIFE IN THE CASTLE...

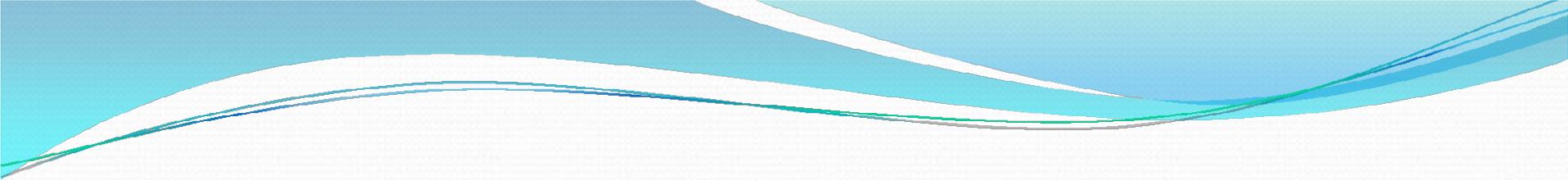
Life in a medieval castle was filled with a constant hubbub of busied work in the kitchens, preparations for celebrations in the Great Hall, and religious worship in each castle's own chapel.

However, of course, life in a Medieval castle would have also included military activities. On many days, knights would have practiced their skills to defend their lord – and his king – in battle. Preparations were made to defend the castle in case it came under siege, and machinery was made to defend the castle in times of attack.



LIFE INSIDE A CASTLE...

A young nobleman would join the household of another lord. He would serve there as a page, learning how to carve and fight on horseback. He would then serve as a squire until he was about 18 years old, when he would go through a religious ceremony and become a knight. Meals had many courses. Each course consisted of many kinds of meats including swan, peacock, magpie, porpoise and boar. This was served on a thick bread 'trencher' and eaten with a knife and the fingers. Nobles ate few vegetables. If the lord was entertaining guests, he might impress them by gilding the food with gold leaf, or serving a pie full of live frogs.



Contrary to Hollywood films, a tournament was usually a mock battle known as a *melee*. Knights did take part in jousts, but these only became common after the 12th century. Almost every lord loved hunting.

Fashions became more extreme as time went by, and included huge sleeves, shoes and codpieces. Men's fashions were just as colourful and gaudy as women's.

Towards the end of the Middle Ages, knights were obsessed with chivalry and courtship.



THE LIFE OF THE LORDS...

Dawn Hear Mass, followed by a breakfast of white bread and wine.

Morning The lord would speak with his reeve, the general manager for his manor. His lady would perhaps do embroidery. Knights and pages would practise fighting.

10am Lunch was normally half-a-dozen simple dishes, but if the lord was entertaining guests there would be many more dishes as well as entertainments such as jesters, fools and jugglers.

Afternoon Hunting or hawking, or chess and backgammon if the weather was bad.

Late afternoon Prayers, then a meal. If there were guests, this would be magnificent.

After supper Listen to the news and stories brought by a travelling minstrel, or just sit and talk.

Bedtime When the lord decided he wished to go to bed, the household would have a light supper, say prayers and go to sleep.