

## Year 7 History: WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE IN MEDIEVAL ENGLAND? (2)

### How did Castles change and develop throughout the Medieval Period?

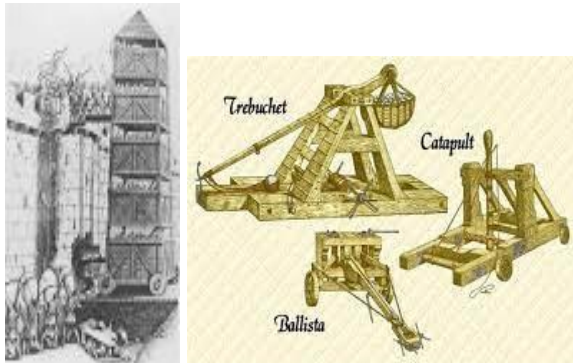
Motte and Bailey castles were the first castles built after the invasion in 1066.

They were quick to build but not very long-lasting...fire could burn them down.

Eventually castles were made out of stone by the 1200s and became squarer in shape. After this circular towers were developed and a number of walls.

They were also extra defensive features added to strengthen the castle against new forms of attack and weapons.

**New methods of attack:** A siege tower, Catapults and a battering ram.



### How did Castles change and develop?

Motte and Bailey	A diagram of a motte and bailey castle. It shows a central raised earthen mound called a 'Motte' with a 'Wooden Keep' on top. To the side is a 'Bailey' enclosed by a wooden fence.
Square stone keep	A diagram of a Norman keep, a square stone tower. It is surrounded by a 'Curtain Wall' with 'Towers' at intervals. The text '12TH Century NORMAN KEEP AND CURTAIN WALLS OF STONE' is visible.
Concentric Castle	A diagram of a concentric castle, showing multiple layers of stone walls surrounding a central courtyard.

### Defensive features added to castles:

<u>Feature and how it worked</u>	<u>Picture</u>
A gatehouse: added extra defence to the door, usually the weakest part of any castle. Thicker walls, arrow slits to fire from and a metal portcullis were usually all added.	A 3D model of a stone gatehouse with a central archway, thick walls, and crenellations on top.
Moat – Sometimes shallow and sometimes deep, the space of water surrounded the castle meant soldiers had to swim (not all could) in heavy army to get to the castle. Not easy when arrows would be raining down on you.	A photograph of a large stone castle with multiple towers, surrounded by a wide moat of water.
Arrow slits or loops – Very narrow windows that would allow an archer to shoot arrows from inside without being hit by arrows from attacking soldiers on the outside.	A close-up photograph of a stone wall featuring several narrow, vertical arrow slits (loopholes).

## SECTION 1 – KEYWORDS

Feudalism	The system where people rented land in exchange for goods or service
Villein	A poor peasant who farmed for a living. They paid 1/3 crops to the local Lord. They were not free to leave the village
Lord	The owner of the village who granted land and would decide on marriages. He maybe a knight in service to the King when called.
Strip farming	The fields around the outside of the village were divided into 'strips'. Villeins/peasants would farm these strips for food.
Freemen	These people usually ran businesses like the local pub or mill or were jobs like the Bailiff who collected rent for the Lord. They tended to live in the Demense (say it domain)
Demense	The area nearer the Lord's manor or castle where Freemen tended to live.
The Church	A permanent stone building in the village where everyone would go on a Sunday. The term also refers to the organisation/people who lead the Catholic Church

## WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE IN MEDIEVAL ENGLAND?

### SECTION 2 – A MEDIEVAL VILLAGE AND LIFE

Some key things to know about Medieval people:

- Most couldn't read
- Most were poor and spoke Anglo-Saxon English (the villeins)
- The Barons and higher classes spoke Norman French
- Most peasants relied on farming their food – if they didn't work hard and grow vegetables they starved!
- Work was physical labour and therefore many people died young (by age of 40) as life was just so exhausting.
- Many children died as babies as there was minimal knowledge of keeping clean and healthy. Also there were no vaccinations to protect you from diseases.
- Most women had many children.....if they didn't die in childbirth that is!
- If you owned an animal you would be considered relatively wealthy.
- Most people didn't travel far from their village as they had to walk everywhere!



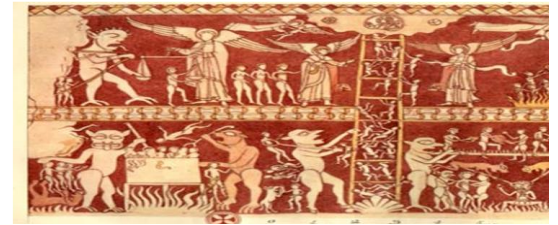
### Church vs King – The death of Thomas Beckett.

- Thomas Beckett was murdered by four knights in Canterbury Cathedral in December 1170.
- The four knights believed they were working on the orders of King Henry II.
- Henry II and Becket had been as close as brothers – that is why Henry gave Becket the top job of Chancellor.
- Henry was frustrated that the Church courts often seemed to give more lenient punishments than the King's courts – he wanted this changed – so gave the top Church job to Becket.
- When Becket became Archbishop of Canterbury he had a personality change and became holy and defended the rights of the Church.
- Henry and Becket argued continuously – Becket even fled to France for nearly a decade, but after Henry asked him to, he returned.
- Henry must have felt that they would be friends again, however Becket then sacked a number of bishops appointed by Henry. Henry was outraged and burst out in a fit of anger – the knights overheard.....and charged to Canterbury....

## SECTION 3 – THE POWER OF THE CHURCH

This is a doom painting.

They were put in Churches to warn people about what would happen to them if they didn't live a good, Christian life.



## SECTION 4 – WHY COULD NO-ONE IGNORE THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH?

- If you didn't go to Church people would consider you a 'heretic' (un-Christian)
- You had to pay the Church a tax called a 'tithe'.
- The Church was often seen as wealthy career for some sons of Noble Lords.
- The Church bell tolled to tell everyone the time of day.
- Saints Days were considered 'Holy-days' and people were given a day off – this became known as a 'holiday'.
- The Church was even richer than the King. Some said it was more powerful.
- The Medieval Church was the Roman Catholic Church – no other religion was permitted.
- If you were female and didn't do as the Church said you could be accused of witch-craft – this was very dangerous as it was incredibly hard to prove your innocence. It usually led to certain death
- People couldn't actually understand Church services as the Priest spoke in Latin – the people had to just do as the Priest said and trust he told them the right thing. They weren't encouraged to read the Bible for themselves – and they couldn't read anyway mostly!