

# History



## Find out about Woodsford Castle's past...



Hello! Welcome to Woodsford Castle! My name is Sir Guy de Bryan and I built Woodsford Castle nearly 700 years ago in 1367.

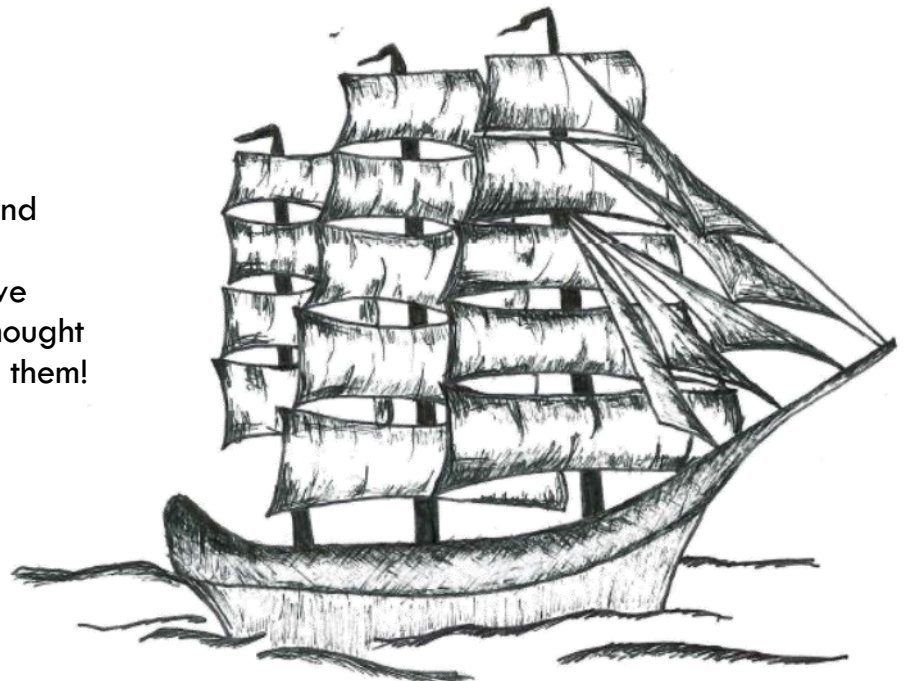
I was best friends with King Edward III and fought in many of his battles. I even went by boat to France to fight in the Hundred Years' War (yes it went on almost that long – imagine that). I hated travelling by boat, it made me so sick! It was much easier when I went to fight the Scottish. I rode my fierce stallion, Shadow all the way there. When I returned to England, King Edward III made me a Knight of the Garter because I was one of the best warriors in the kingdom.

### Fact:

A *Knight of the Garter* is a high honour, one of just 24 knights called the Order of the Garter which was created by King Edward III in 1348.

It's said he founded it when a lady's garter, which held up her stocking fell down while he was dancing with her. So she didn't feel shy, he picked it up and made it the symbol of his best knights.

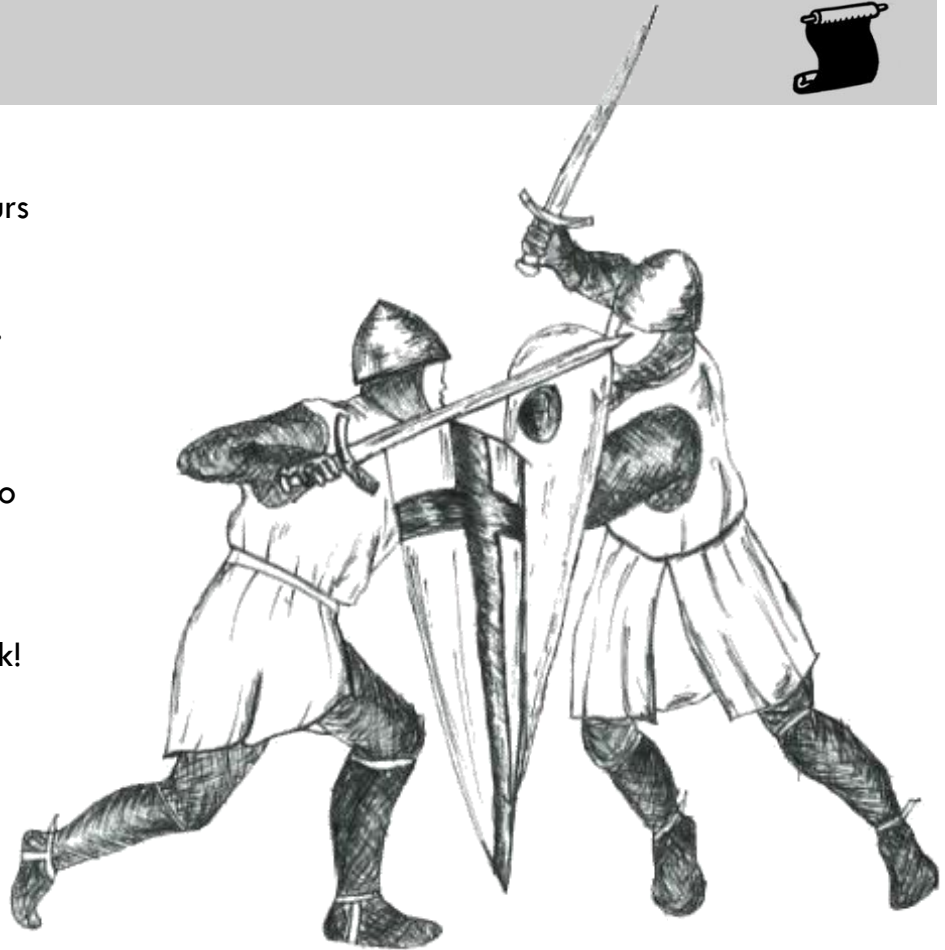
The king and I travelled all over the country. I would leave my trusted friend John in charge of Woodsford Castle. Sometimes when I was with the king we would swap armour so that people thought I was the king! It was so funny to trick them!





I loved coming back to Woodsford Castle. John and I would spend hours in the morning practising our sword fighting on the grass. John always lost and blamed the heavy armour. He could never admit that he was just rubbish at sword fighting!

In the afternoons we went hunting to catch wild boar for feasts in the evening. One time I managed to shoot a deer straight in the heart with my bow and arrow – what luck! The best part of the feast was our jester, Rufus's jokes. My favourite joke of his was:  
Who made King Arthur's round table?  
Sir Cumference!  
(Say 'sir-cum-fer-ens' – geddit?)



What is your favourite joke?



This is an engraving from around the 18<sup>th</sup> century of Woodsford Castle.

When I died, Woodsford Castle was passed down through my family. None of them loved Woodsford as much as me and didn't look after it.

Most of my castle became a ruin. All that was left were my family's rooms which were turned into a farmhouse (how boring!)

### Fact:

*Thatch* is a roof covering made of straw and reeds.

But don't worry, this story has a happy ending! My castle was saved and repaired by the Landmark Trust so that you can be here today, enjoying a holiday in a little bit of my once grand castle. Woodsford was my favourite castle. I hope you enjoy your stay!



## What does Woodsford Castle look like?

Can you walk all the way around it?

Can you use any of these words to describe the building? Draw a circle around the ones that do.

Does Woodsford Castle look similar to the buildings in the area?

Castle

Tall

Pretty

Industrial

Stone

Brick

Symmetrical

Home

Square

Elegant

Friendly

Low

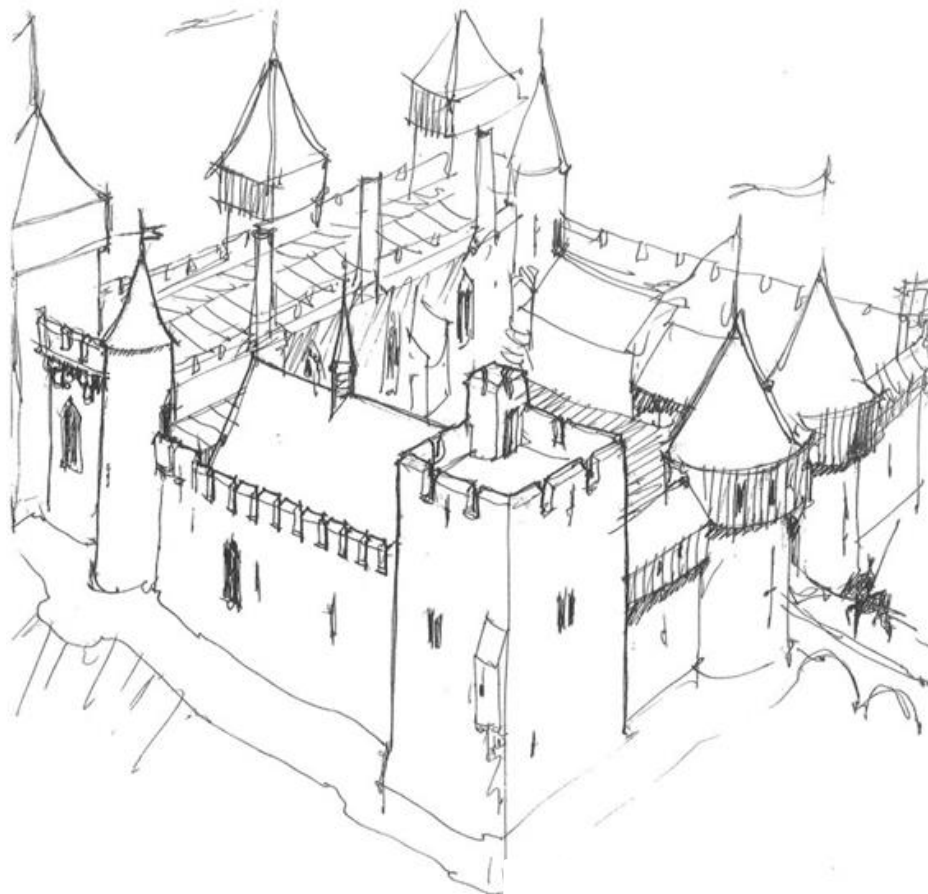
### Fact:

I bet you've never heard of **crenellations** before! They are the pattern along the top of a castle wall. They look like this:



When Woodsford Castle was first built we think that it looked like the drawing below.

There was a draw bridge leading to a gatehouse, tall walls around the outside and towers on each corner. The crenellations (say 'cren- elay-shun') were added in 1335 (you had to have permission from the King to add crenellations!). All that is left today is a grand apartment block built by Guy de Bryan who owned Woodsford Castle from 1370.

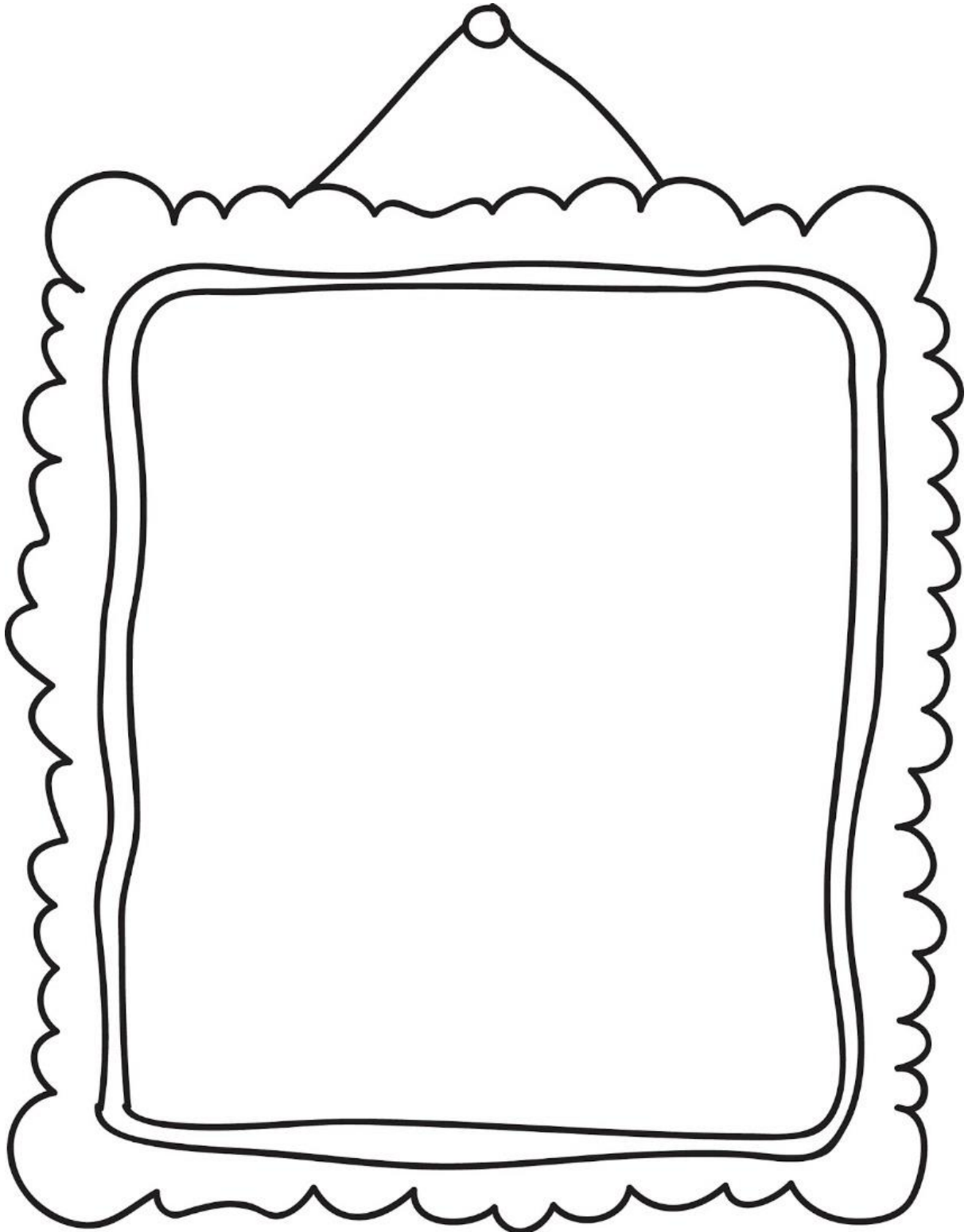




Buildings are quite easy to draw. They are usually made up of lots of geometric shapes, like squares, triangles and circles.

**Have a go at drawing the façade of Woodsford Castle.**

Please tell an adult where you are going so they don't worry about where you are!  
And don't worry if you make a mess of your drawing, just use the other side.





## What is Woodsford Castle built from?

Stone is the solid foundation of the earth. It exists as huge mountains, rocks, stones or small pebbles washed smooth by water. There are lots of different types of stone, with different colours and textures. Some are better to build with than others.

### Fact:

Some buildings were built from stone that was dug out of the ground when farmers ploughed the fields, other buildings were made from stone that was quarried and cut into neat shapes and sizes. There are still many stone quarries around the country today, where people get stone out of the ground.

Stone houses were once cheaper to build than brick ones. Once we could transport bricks up and down the country on the canals and railways, brick buildings became cheaper and more popular.



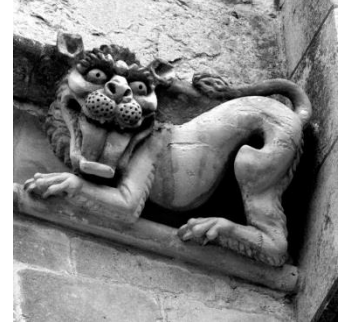
In Guy de Bryan's time, stone was taken out of the ground by hand. Today, a quarry is a place where stone is blasted out of the ground with explosives! The one in the picture shows what quarries look like now.

People who work with stone are called stonemasons. They build walls, carve the stone into shapes or add patterns to its surface. The stone window below has been carved into shapes called ogees. They use a mallet and special tools called chisels to shape the stone.





Sometimes stone masons carved faces and animals called gargoyles. You often find these in churches, up near the roof. Here are some examples. Have a go at designing your own gargoyle. Make it as ugly as you like!



What other building materials can you find outside and inside Woodsford Castle?

Circle what you can see and note down where you found them.

Stone

Glass

Wood

Plastic

Metal

Clay

Flint

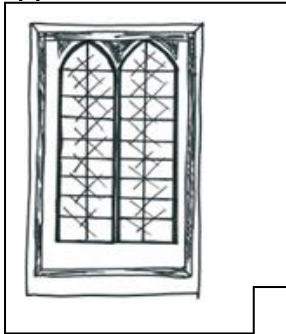
Concrete

Brick

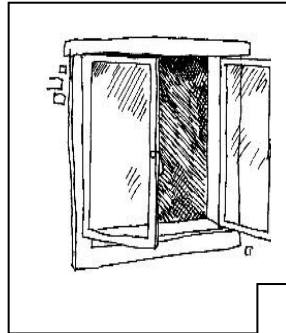
Ceramic



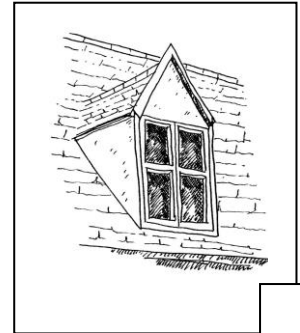
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows does Woodsford Castle have?



Fixed Picture



Casement

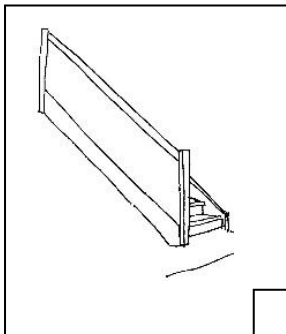


Dormer or attic

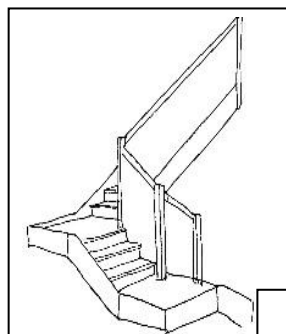
**Fact:**

Have you noticed that spiral staircases go clockwise when you're going up and anti-clockwise when you're going down? This is because most people are right handed so if there was an attacker with a sword they would have to show more of their body if they wanted to fight you on the stairs.

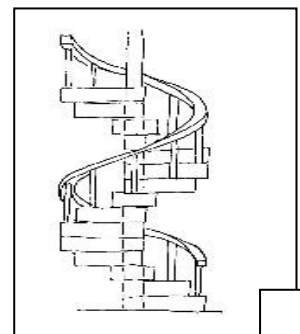
There are many different styles of staircases. Which style is closest to the staircase at Woodsford castle?



Straight

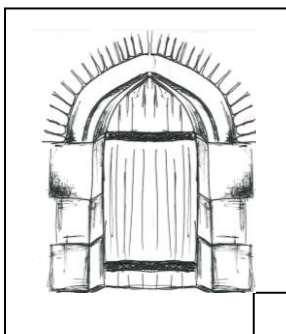


Quarter turn

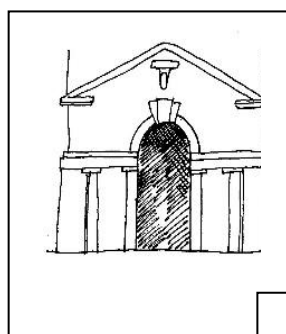


Spiral

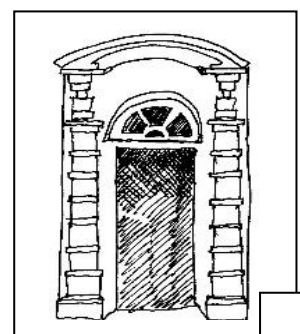
Entrances can be grand or simple. Which front door is most like the one at Woodsford castle?



Tudor arch



Porch



Canopy

# Quest

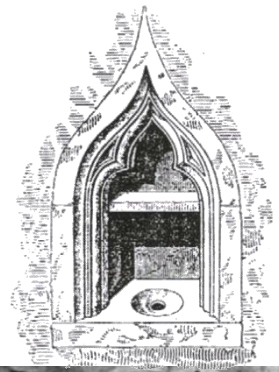


## Discover more about Woodsford Castle

Woodsford Castle was built nearly 800 years ago. In that time, many things have changed both inside and outside the building. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

### Can you find the piscina?

A piscina is a shallow basin that is found normally in a chapel. It is used for pouring away holy water used in a ceremony such as communion.



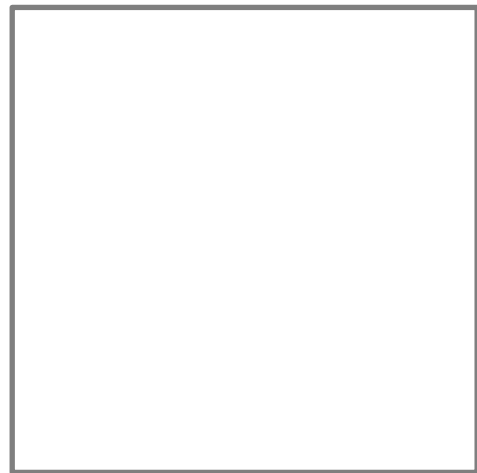
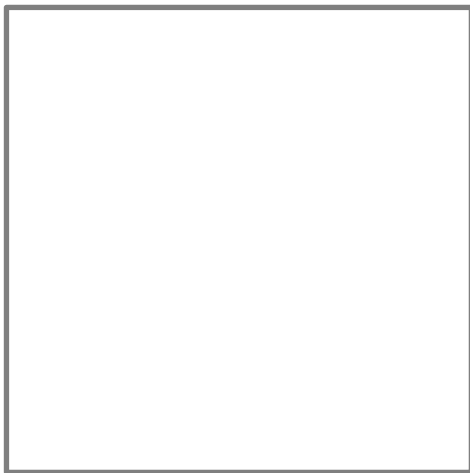
### Can you find the arrow slits?

#### Fact:

An **arrow slit** is a narrow vertical window that archers used to defend the castle by shooting arrows from the sheltered position of the tower. They are sometimes called loopholes because of bow loops.



There are lots of different types of windows at Woodsford Castle. Look at how each one has its own character. Some are very pretty whilst others are quite plain. Have a go at sketching your favourite windows in the boxes below.

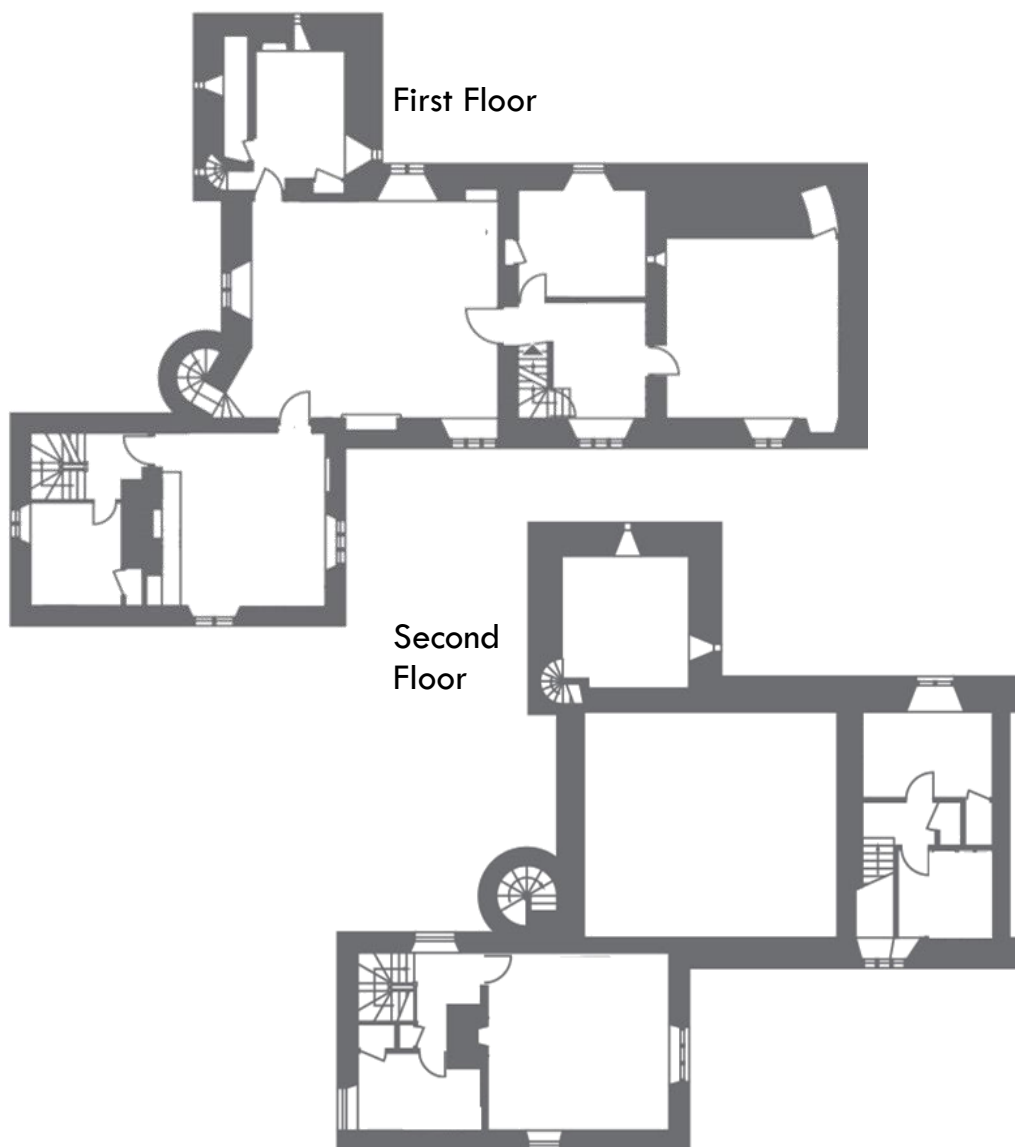






## Living in Woodsford Castle

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Woodsford castle has two floors. The plans below show you the shape of each room. Take a walk around each floor. Can you identify the rooms and write on the plan how they are used today?



We use these symbols to show where beds, tables and bathrooms are. Add the symbols on to the floorplans to show where the furniture is.



Bed



Rectangular (or a round) table



Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



Can you find an example of each of these things inside Woodsford Castle. Describe, or draw the object when you find it.

Your favourite chair

A large empty rectangular box for drawing or describing a favourite chair.

The fireplace (is it an open fire or does it have a stove?)

A large empty rectangular box for drawing or describing a fireplace.

Draw the pattern of a rug on the floor

A large empty rectangular box for drawing the pattern of a rug.

### Fact:

Castles did not have toilets, instead people sat on wooden seats called **garderobes**. They were built over a very long chute (a bit like a tunnel going down). Waste from the toilet would fall down the chute into the moat. Eww!

In the space below, draw the view from your bedroom window. What can you see in the distance? Are there any animals in the fields or any trees that look very old and interesting?

# Create

## Design your own coat of arms

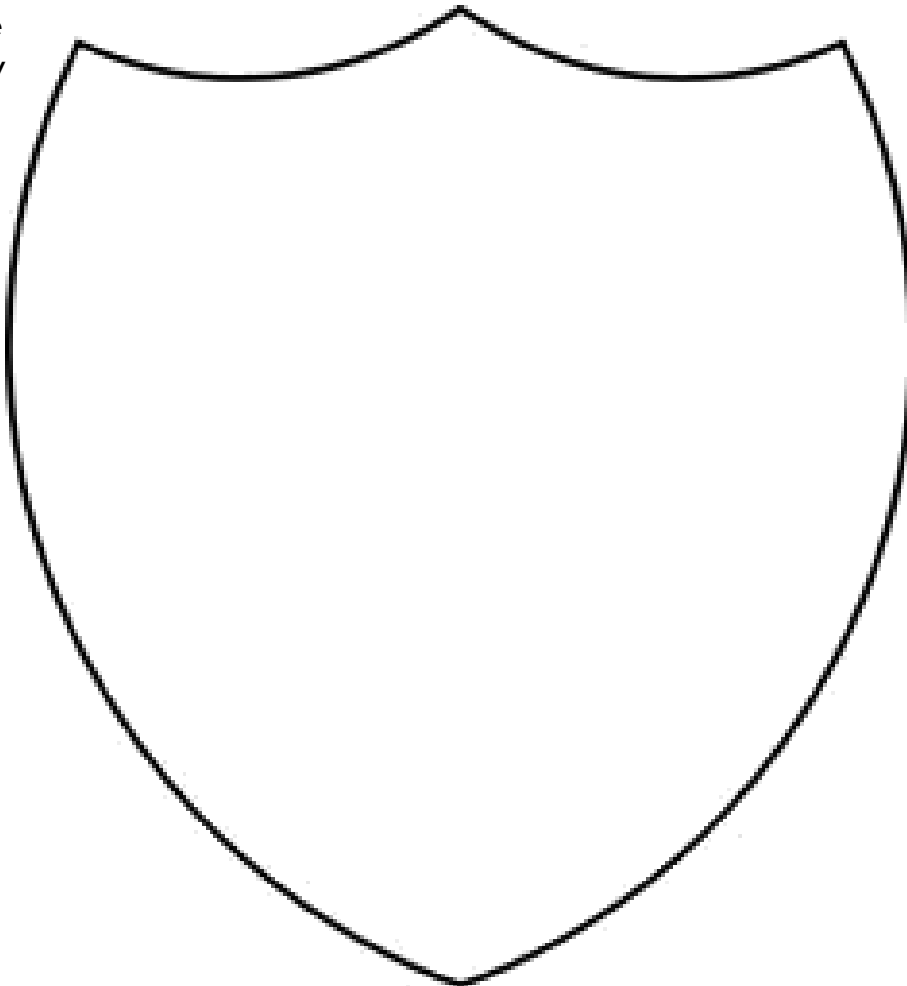
Each knight had a coat of arms which they wore on their armour, on their shield or on a banner. The coat of arms belonged to their family and was used to identify the knight in a battle or when fighting in a tournament. With a helmet on, you couldn't see a person's face and a battle was very confusing. The designs were made by people called heralds. Each pattern and symbol had its own meaning and name.

Each knight had a slightly different design based on whether they were the first (or second etc.) son in the family and who they married.

In the space below design your own shield. Use the herald's list to help you. Use your imagination and draw something that you feel describes you!

What colours will you use?

- Purple = Purpure
- Orange = Tawny
- Black = Sable
- Green = Vert
- Blue = Azure
- Red = Gules
- Gold = Or



Bars = Religion and honour	Pale = Military Strength	Fess = Honour	Bend = Defence	Bendlets = Protection
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Label = First son	Crescent = Second son	Mullet = Third son	Martlett = Fourth son	Annulat = Fifth son
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Fleur de lis = Sixth son	Rose = Seventh son	Cross moline = Eighth son	Octofoil = Ninth son
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## Bake a honey cake

In medieval times cakes were very simple. People either bought the ingredients in a market or grew their own. Honey was used to make things sweeter as sugar came from the Middle East (and later Europe) and was very expensive.

Here's a simple recipe for you to try. You might need the help of an adult.

250g clear honey, plus extra 2 tbsp to glaze	100g dark muscovado sugar
225g unsalted butter	3 large eggs, beaten
	300g self-raising flour

Remember to pre-heat the oven: fan 140 °C or electric 160 °C: Gas 3

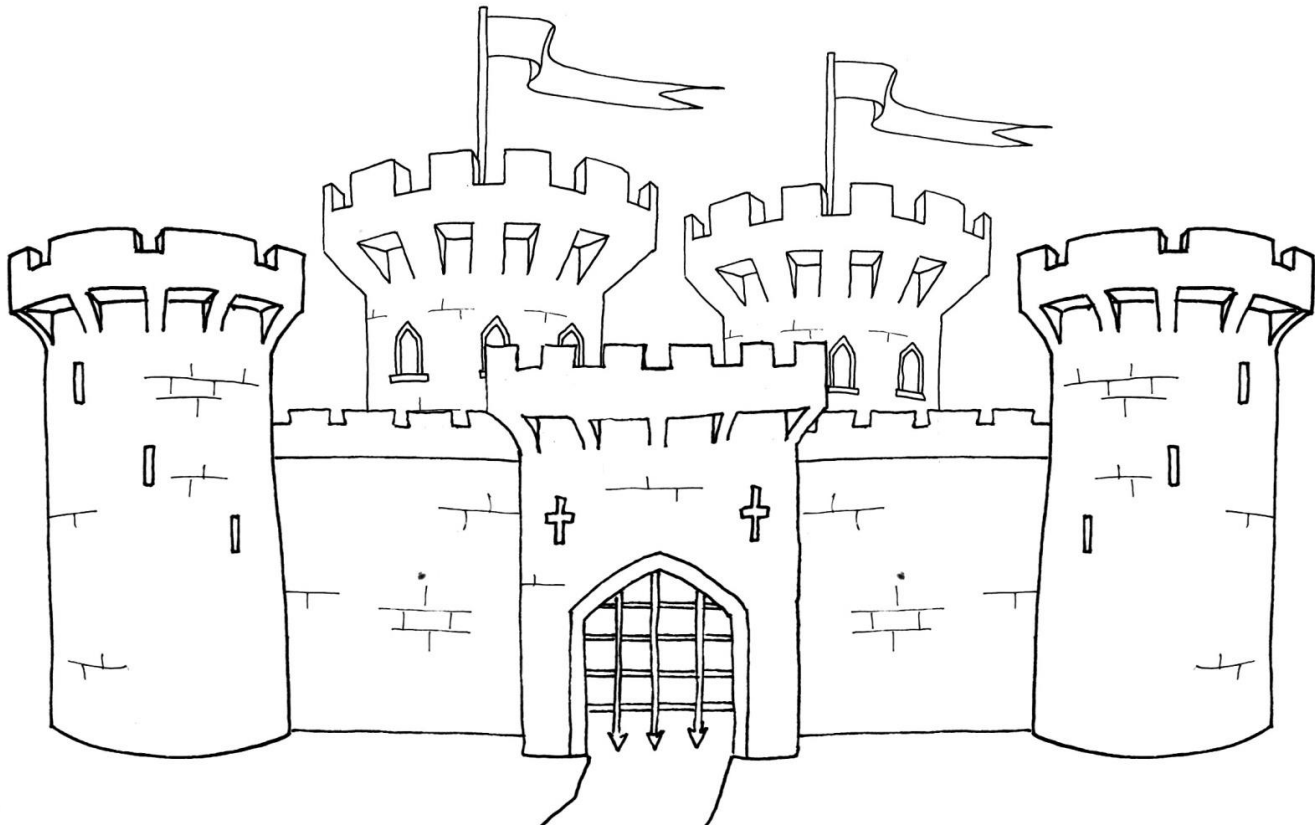
- Butter a 20cm round cake tin and line it with baking paper
- Cut the butter into pieces and drop them into a medium pan with the honey and the sugar, let it melt slowly
- When the mixture looks like liquid, turn up the heat under the pan and boil for about 1 minute
- Leave to cool for 15-20 minutes (important - this stops the eggs cooking when they are mixed in!)
- Beat the eggs into the melted honey mixture using a wooden spoon
- Sift the flour into a large bowl and pour in the egg and honey mixture. Beat until you have a smooth, quite runny batter
- Pour the mixture into the cake tin and bake for 50-60 minutes. You can tell it's ready as it will be golden brown and spring back when pressed. Push a skewer into the centre of the cake and it should come out clean.
- Turn the cake out on a wire rack
- Warm 2tbsp honey in a small pan and brush over the top of the cake to give it a sticky glaze, then leave it to cool.
- If you want, serve with vanilla ice cream! This is making me feel hungry...





## Colour the castle

Have a go at colouring in the castle below. Draw in your own background, the castle could be in the mountains, by the sea or even on a beach! There may even be some knights fighting around it.







## Capture the dragon

Here is a medieval game you can play, it's a lot like hide and seek but with a twist.

- One person is a dragon, everyone else is either knights, ladies or servants (remember it was always the servants who knew all the secret passageways!)
- Home is the big fallen over tree stump on the grass
- Count to 60 seconds with your eyes closed while the dragon hides – you can hide either inside or outside (you just need to check with the adults what rooms you can go in)
- Now all the servants, ladies and knights have to try and find the hidden dragon by themselves
- If you find the dragon you have to chase it and try to capture it
- If the dragon makes it home to the tree stump before you capture them they are safe and they get to choose the next dragon

## Can you answer these questions correctly?

### 1. How many arrows could an archer shoot in a minute using a long bow?

21

12

120

2

### 2. What was a motte and bailey?

Another name for the moat around a castle

A type of early wooden castle

A way of building using wood, dung, straw and clay

A pair of medieval detectives who solved crimes

### 3. What weapon did a knight use in a jousting contest?

Lance

Sword

Pollaxe

Mace

### 4. What do you call a boy training to be a knight?

Apprentice

Foot soldier

Page

Squire

### 5. How heavy was a full suit of plate armour?

As heavy as a man

As heavy as a two year old child

As heavy as a 7 year old child

As heavy as a 14 year old

### 6. Which one of these materials was not used to make clothes in the medieval period?

Wool

Nylon

Linen

Silk

To find the answers skip one page...





## Which weapon is whose?

Each object is the knight's weapon. Match the knight to the weapon.



Did you match them all correctly? Put your score in the box.

/ 5
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## Answer sheet:

### Secret question:

How many stone corbels in the Kings room?

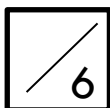
Hint: A corbel is a piece of stone that comes out of the wall to support extra weight.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### Question & Answer:

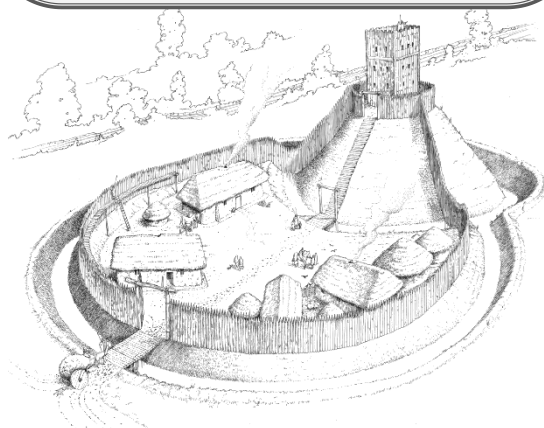
1. 12
2. A type of early wooden castle
3. Lance
4. Squire
5. As heavy as a 7 year old child
6. Nylon

How many did you get right?



### Fact:

A **motte and bailey castle** is the first type of castle to be built. They were built by the Normans. The Normans were French people who invaded England in 1066. **Motte** means mound and **bailey** means enclosed land. A **motte and bailey castle** has a wooden or stone keep on top of the motte and the land around it is the **bailey**. Look at the picture below to see what it would look like.



Have a go at drawing your very own motte and bailey castle below.