TODAY

- Unit Quiz
  - When you are finished please do something **quietly**
- Castles in the Middle Ages

** Hand in all of your assignments for this last unit please ☺

The High Middle Ages (1066-1300)

Population ⬆

Power of Catholic Church ⬆

Agriculture 👍

Key Events:
- ➢ Norman conquest of Britain
- ➢ Development of **feudalism**
- ➢ Development of knighthood and chivalry
- ➢ The Crusades
- ➢ The Magna Carta

The Late Middle Ages (1301-1450s)

Population ⬇ (Famines, Plague)

Catholic Church losing some power ⬇

Key Events:
- Growth of trade & towns
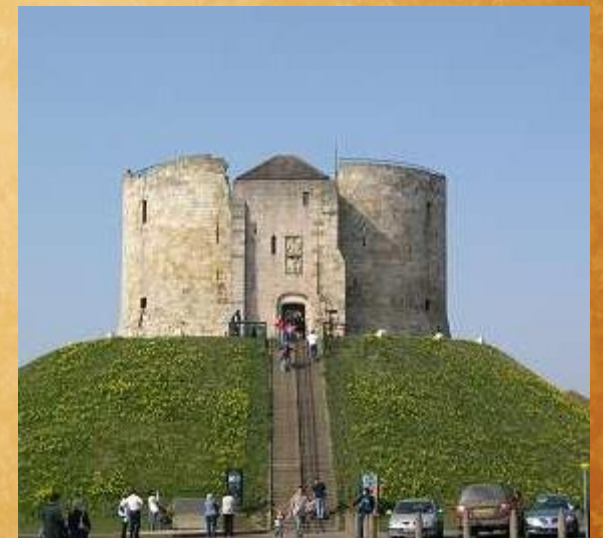- The Black Death
- Peasants' Revolt
- Hundred Years' War

CASTLES IN THE MIDDLE AGES

Learning Outcomes

You will be able to:

✓ Explain **why** castles were built

✓ Describe the advantages and disadvantages of three different types of castles

Where's the best place to build a castle?

A: Spectacular view of the sea

Where's the best place to build a castle?

B: Pastures and woodland

Where's the best place to build a castle?

C: Major trading estuary with fertile fields on its banks

Where's the best place to build a castle?

D: Fertile fields for wheat crops

Where's the best place to build a castle?

E: Marshland with ditches that flood if not kept clear

Where's the best place to build a castle?

F: A view of France from England

Why castles?

When William invaded England he quickly set about building **castles**.

The reason:
He had nowhere near enough men to run England.

So William built castles at important places – hills, rivers, towns – so that if the English tried to control the country they'd be forced to attack a castle – a bad move!
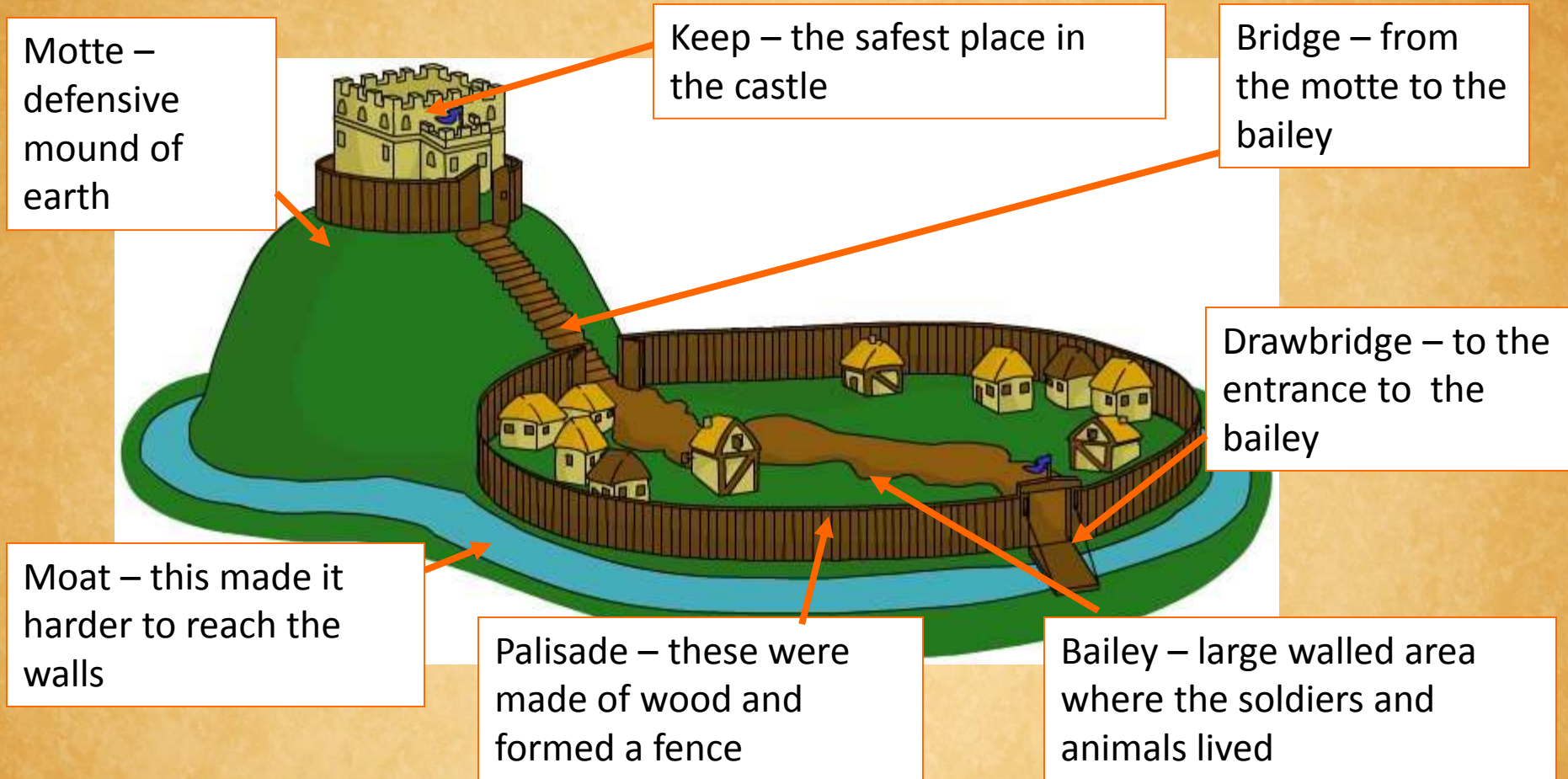
Especially as the English did not have many castles before the Normans came along!

The Motte and Bailey Castle

The **Normans** built the first proper castles in England. They needed bases from which to control the countryside, and strongholds to protect them from Saxon attack.

The castles had to be built in a hurry, so they were originally built of timber on an earth mound (a **motte**).
The **bailey** was the living area for the soldiers.

Motte – defensive mound of earth

Keep – the safest place in the castle

Bridge – from the motte to the bailey

Drawbridge – to the entrance to the bailey

Moat – this made it harder to reach the walls

Palisade – these were made of wood and formed a fence

Bailey – large walled area where the soldiers and animals lived

The Motte-and-Bailey Castle

The Motte and Bailey Castle

Advantages
- Quick, cheap, and easy to build
- Showed strength and control
- Can see potential attackers from top of tower
- Thick walls
- Drawbridge closes for additional protection

Disadvantages
- Made of wood: can burn or rot easily
- Wooden castles not very strong…
- Palisade easily broken by battering ram
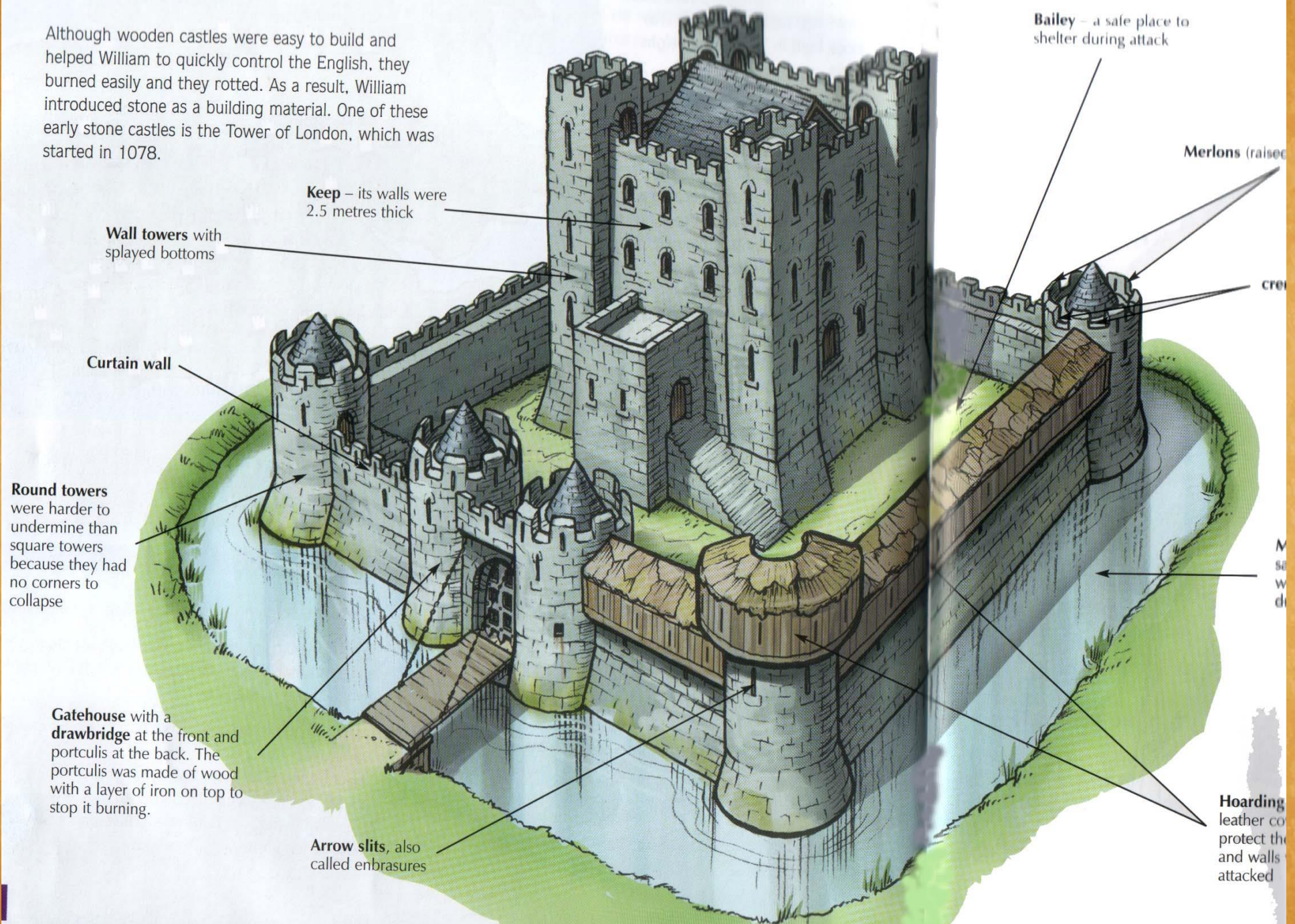
Traditional Square Keep Castles

Advantages:

- Tall thick stone walls made it difficult to climb over or break through.

- Narrow windows for shooting arrows out of.

- The entrance had a large outer gate that could be pulled up.

- There was an inner gate made out of metal called a **portcullis**.

- Large, and lots of room for soldiers, who lived in the top stories.

- Spiral staircase made difficult to storm upper floors

Although wooden castles were easy to build and helped William to quickly control the English, they burned easily and they rotted. As a result, William introduced stone as a building material. One of these early stone castles is the Tower of London, which was started in 1078.

Bailey – a safe place to shelter during attack

Merlons (raise

cre

Keep – its walls were 2.5 metres thick

Wall towers with splayed bottoms

Curtain wall

Round towers were harder to undermine than square towers because they had no corners to collapse

M
s
w
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Gatehouse with a **drawbridge** at the front and portculis at the back. The portculis was made of wood with a layer of iron on top to stop it burning.

Arrow slits, also called enbrasures

Hoarding
leather co
protect th
and walls
attacked

Traditional Square Keep Castles

Disadvantages

-Attackers can get right up close to the walls.

-Once up close, attackers were very hard to shoot.

-The corners were difficult to protect.

-Knocking out one corner could take down two walls.

Concentric Castles

Advantages:

- The corners had a round turret for protection.

- They built a second, lower wall.

- Archers could fire over low wall.
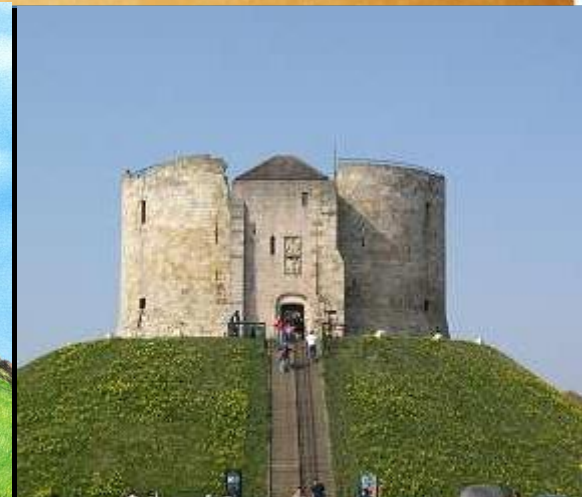
- If outer wall failed, they were trapped "death hole".

Concentric Castles

Disadvantages

- Need for a large garrison to defend it. Difficult to defend with limited soldiers
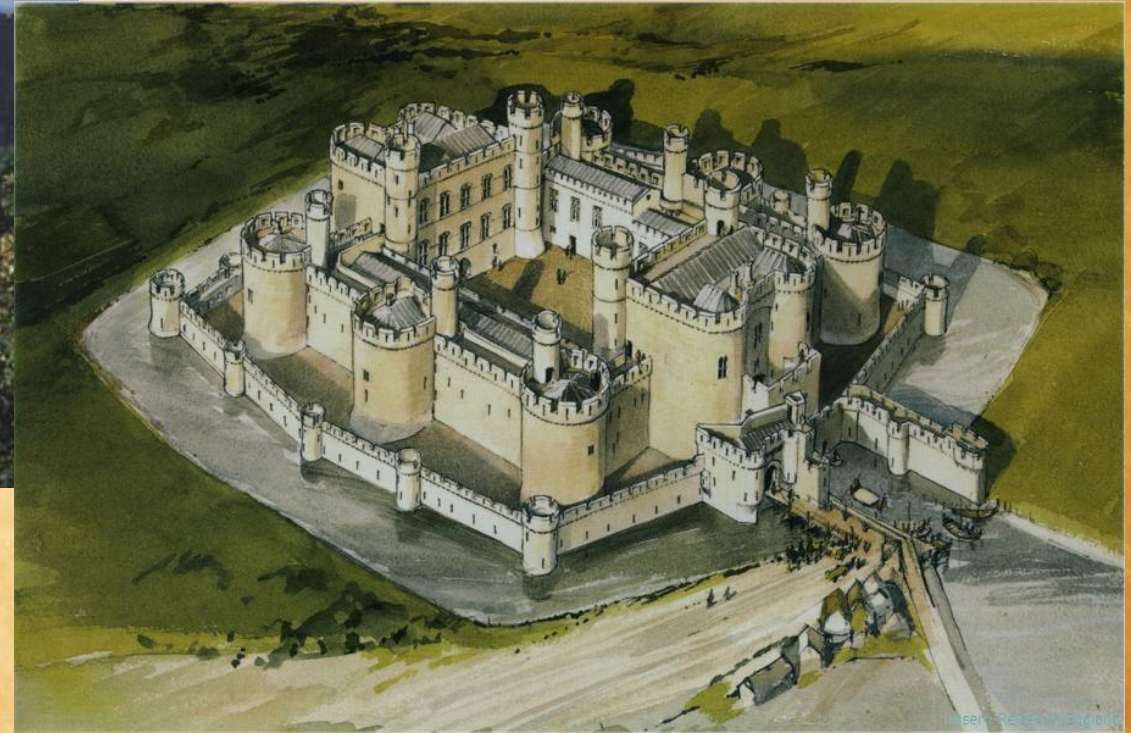
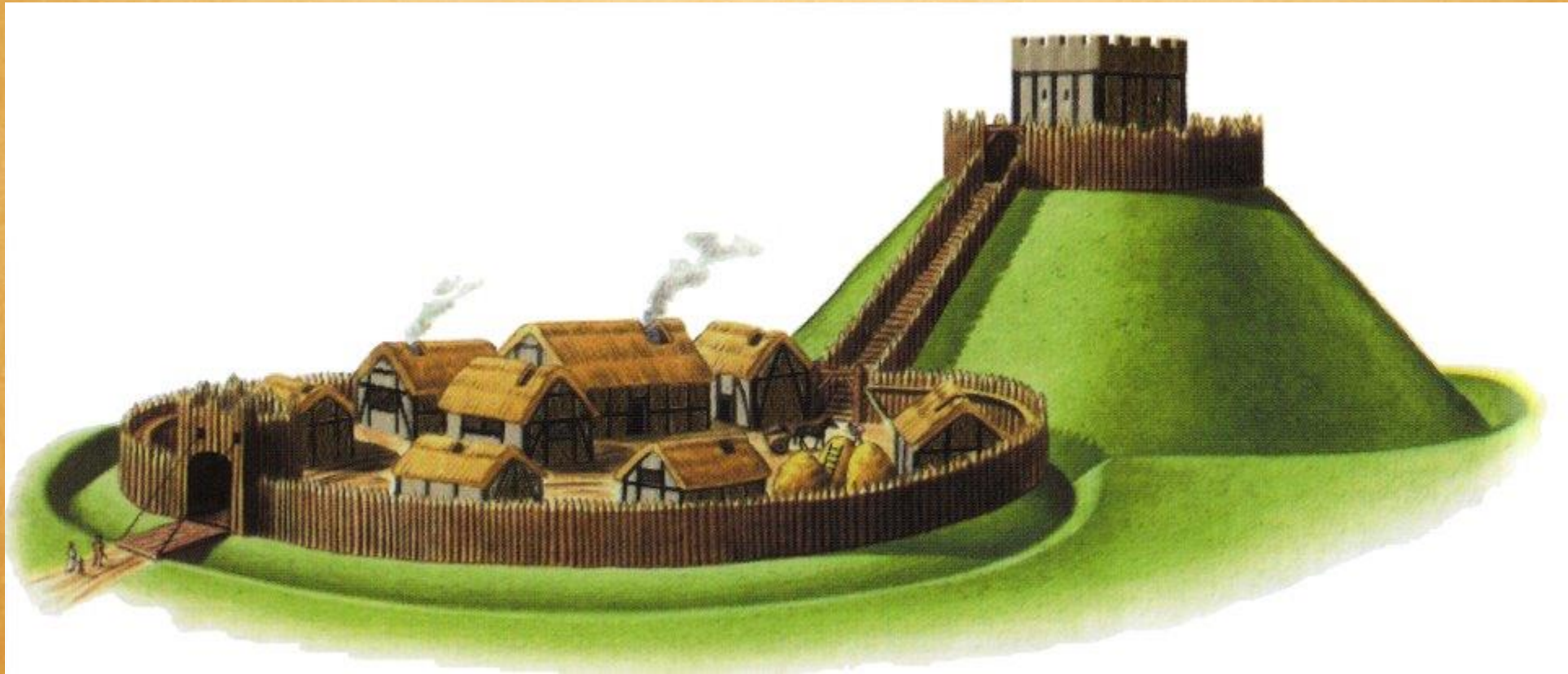- Walls could not stand up to cannon fire

Castles & War

Review: Which kind of Castle is it?

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Castles & War

War in medieval times was about the **control of land.** Garrisons of knights and other soldiers who lived in castles controlled the land around their stone fortresses.
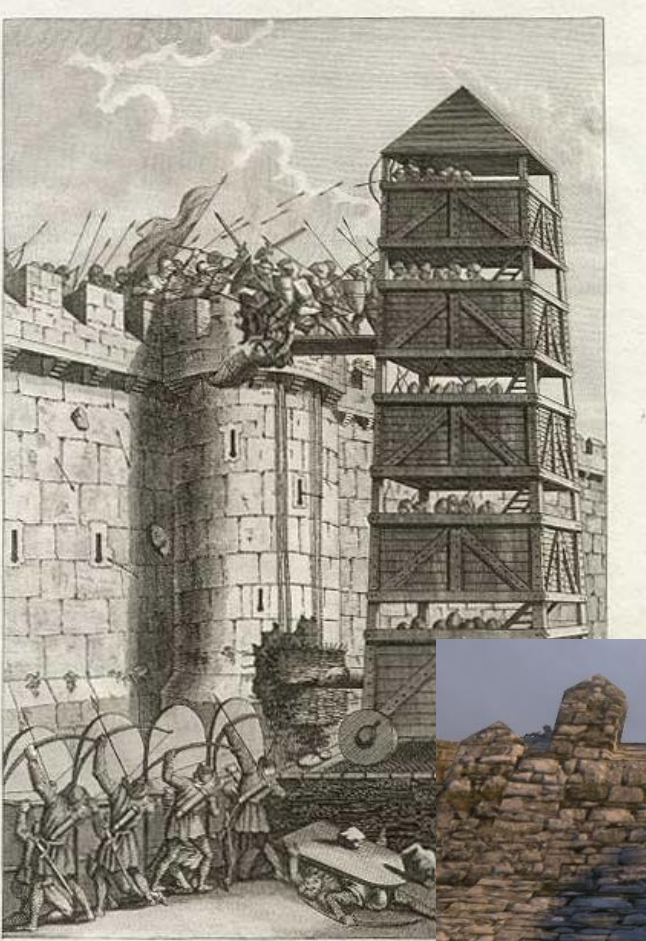
To conquer a territory, an attacking army would have to strike and take these central strongholds.

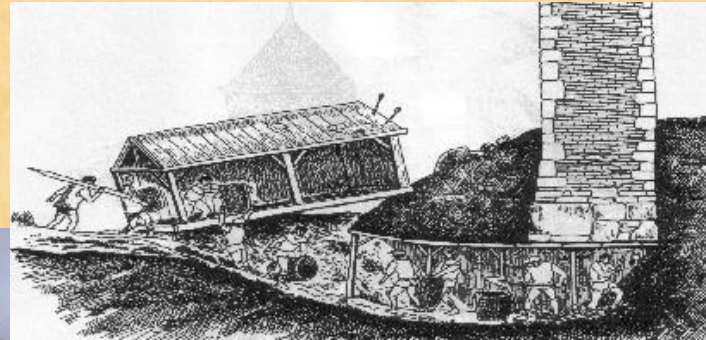To do so, they would launch a **siege**.

Over, Under, Through!

Trebuchet

Tunnels under the wall

Siege ladders and towers

Battering ram

How would you attack a Castle?

Your Task: Create an attack plan for a castle (In pairs or individually)

1. Decide which type of castle you are going to attack
2. Based on the type of castle and its weaknesses, decide which **weapons** you will need and how big of an army you need
3. Create your attack plan (must include some drawing and some text/labels describing the plan)

Criteria:

✓ Shows or describes the **type of castle** you are attacking, as well as the surrounding area

✓ Uses **realistic, historically accurate weapons**

✓ Includes some **images** (drawings) as well as some writing or labels

✓ Plan is logical and shows understanding of Medieval castles and weapons