



Castles

What is a castle?

A castle is the home of a king or a very rich family. It protects the people who live there.

Castles have got high walls and small windows so they are difficult to attack.

Castles are usually near rivers, near the sea, on hills or on mountains.

History of castles

In the 10th century people build small wooden castles in Europe.

In 1066 William the Conqueror attacks England. He is from Normandy in France. He builds the first big stone castles in England. He builds the Tower of London in about 1078. The Normans build about 80 stone castles in England.

There are a lot of stone castles in Europe in the 12th and 13th centuries. They are big and they can protect a lot of people.

Let's look at some important castles in Europe.

Bodiam Castle, East Sussex, England. This is an old medieval castle with big, square walls and a moat around it.



Glamis Castle, Scotland. This big castle has got a long history of ghosts ¹ and terrible secrets. It has got more than one hundred rooms.



Chenonceau Castle, France. Chenonceau Castle is on the Cher River in the famous Loire Valley. There are a lot of beautiful castles in this valley.



1. ghosts :



they are the spirits of dead people.

Neuschwanstein Castle, Germany. This castle is like a picture in a fairy-tale book. King Ludwig II built ¹ it in 1869 as his home.



PROJECT ON THE WEB

LET'S VISIT SOME CASTLES!

Connect to the Internet and go to www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine. Open the page for *Beauty and the Beast*. Click on the Internet project link.

Work with a partner and choose a region. Then you can visit some of the castles on the map.

Make a list of the castles you visit.

- 1 What is the name of your favourite castle?
- 2 Where is it?
- 3 How old is it?

1. **built** : past simple of *to build*.