

Castles



Long ago castles were built to protect people from enemies. The first castles were made of wood. They were small and were built on hills. There was a high fence¹ all around them. Families lived in huts,² in the field³ below. When the enemy attacked, they all ran to the castle.

With time, castles were made of rocks.⁴ They were much stronger and bigger than the first castles. They had very thick walls. It was difficult for the enemy to attack this type of castle. Castles were



Capture of Wark Castle from the Croniques de France et d'Angleterre (1460-1480) by Jean Frossart.

1. **fence** : (here) a division made of stone or wood.
2. **huts** : very small houses.
3. **field** : flat land.
4. **rocks** : big stones.

built to protect important places. They were built on mountains and near rivers and seas.

There are many old castles in the world today. Many are open to the public. It is interesting to visit old castles and see how people lived in the past.

Every castle had a dungeon. It was a cold, dark place for prisoners. Many people lived and worked in a castle. There were noblemen with their families, warriors, servants, jesters¹ and musicians. It was like a village.

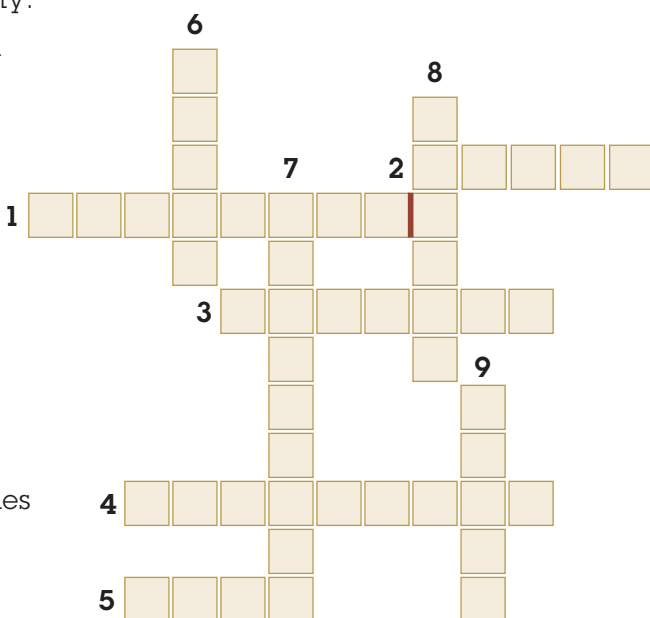
1 How much do you remember?

ACROSS

1. Members of the nobility.
2. Soldiers who attacked the castle.
3. A cold, dark place.
4. People who made music in the castle.
5. Where ordinary people lived.

DOWN

6. Flat land.
7. High area where castles were built.
8. A person who makes people laugh.
9. A division.



1. **jesters** : in the Middle Ages these men made the people at the castle laugh.



*Banquet scene from Les Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry (early 15th century)
by the Limbourg brothers.*

Old Castles of Great Interest

1. Bamburgh Castle was built in the 6th century in Northumberland. It was built on a high cliff. It is surrounded on three sides by the sea. Many films were made here.



2. Carlisle Castle was built at the end of the 11th century by William Rufus. It is near Scotland. At first, it was a wooden castle. In 1122, Henry I built walls of stone.

