

# Castles

Invading Normans built castles in England in 1066. William the Conqueror fortified strategic locations as he progressed through England to protect the territory he had conquered. The fortresses he constructed allowed the Norman rulers to flee to safety when an English uprising threatened. Castles were often used as launch pads for offensive assaults. Castles were used to summon, coordinate, and deploy troops. In military operations, castles thus played both offensive and defensive functions. Castles were not just used for military purposes; they were also used as the lord's administrative headquarters for managing his fief. The lord of the territory would therefore host court in his castle. Those who belonged to a lower social class than the lord would come to report on the business of the territories they controlled and to pay homage. They would settle problems, conduct business, eat, and take part in celebrations. In this way, castles in medieval England played a significant social role. Castles were used as representations of authority. Castles, which were frequently in the background of many peasants' lives and acted as a daily reminder of the lord's power, were built on conspicuous sites overlooking the surrounding areas.

Answer the following questions.

Q1. Who, when and where were castles built??

A: \_\_\_\_\_

Q2. What did Norman rulers do when an English uprising threatened?

A: \_\_\_\_\_

Q3. What were castles used for?

A: \_\_\_\_\_

Q4. What would people who belonged to the lower class do?

A: \_\_\_\_\_

Q5. What were castles used as a representation of?

A: \_\_\_\_\_