

Medieval Castles



Open Ended Question



What is the purpose of a castle? Who lived in a castle?



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/AesgRREuCQI>



A castle served as a home for a knight, noble, or monarch.

Their main purpose, however, was for defense. A strong castle provided a based from which the surrounding countryside could be controlled.

How Common? Not Very!

Not every knight or noble lived in a castle.

Only the wealthiest could afford to build one. (Most nobles and knights lived in manor houses!)

Castles tended to be in areas that were important to defend, such as river crossings.



There are many types of castles!



Castles came in all shapes and sizes.

The most common early castles were made of wood and earth. Most were rather small, but could be enlarged over the centuries.

Let's explore the parts of a castle!



Let's learn about the parts of a castle and the purposes they serve.

On the next slide, look over the different parts of a castle.

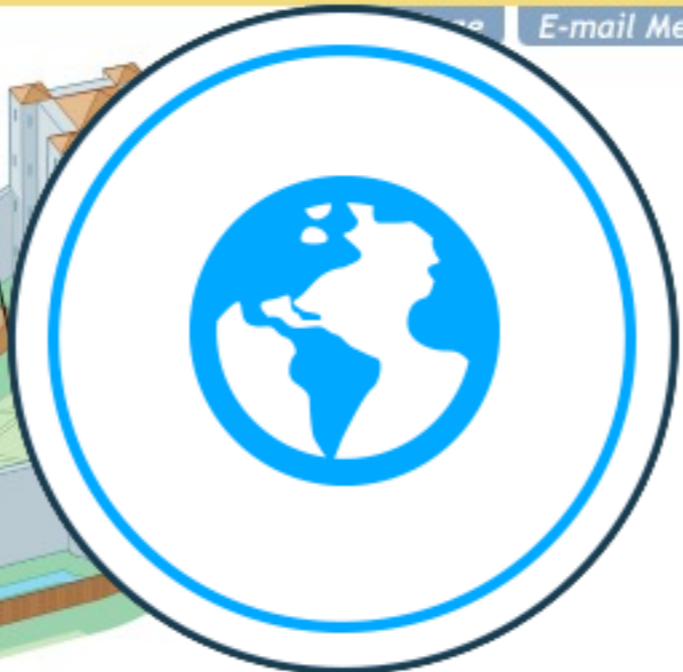
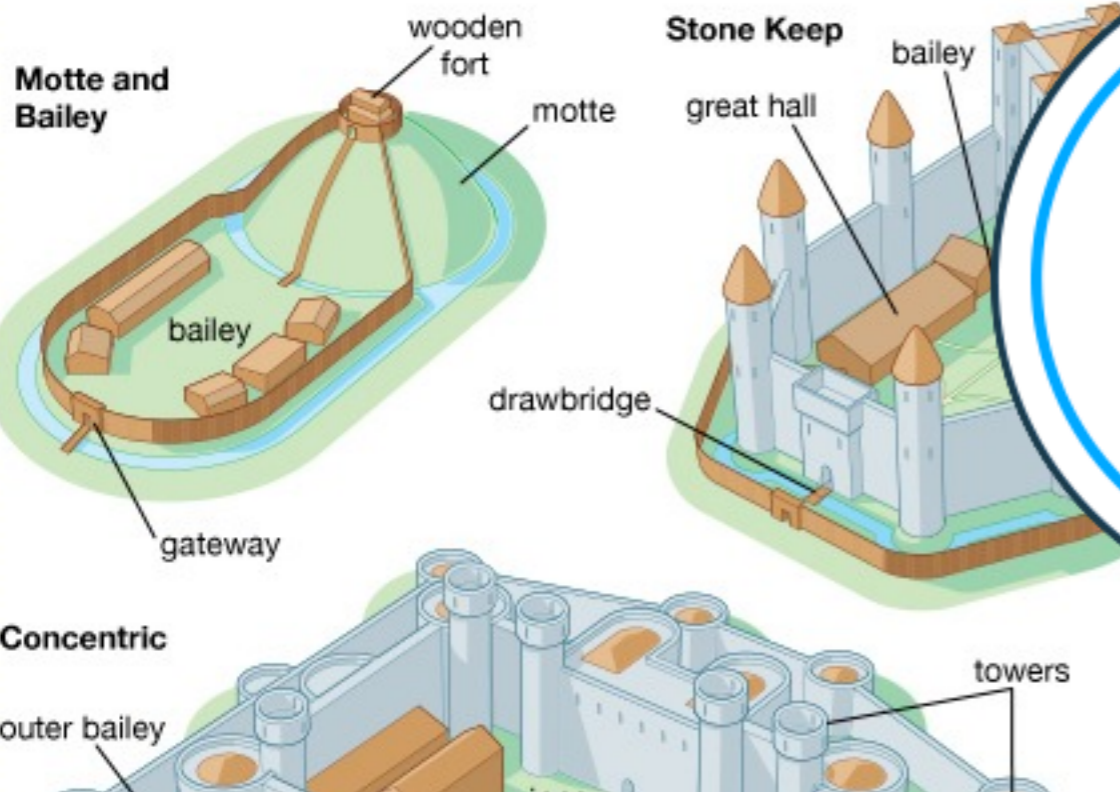
When you finish, we will further explore some of these, and then visit a real-life example of each.



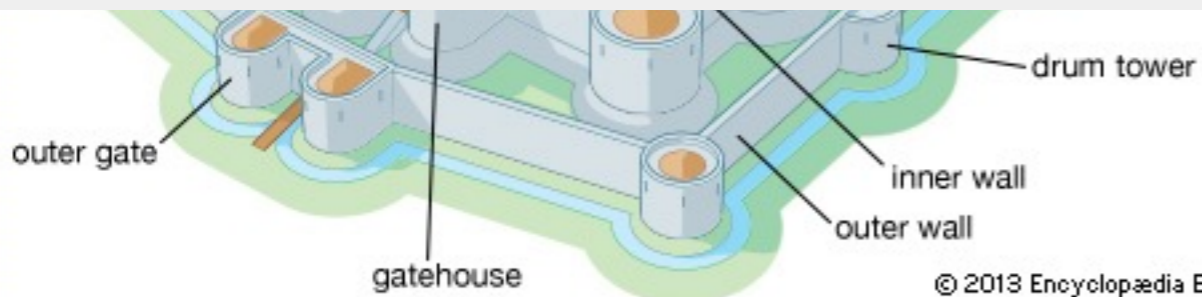
castle: castle types

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<http://kids.britannica.com/eb/art-99675/Three-main-castle-types-motte-and-bailey-stone-keep-and>



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Gatehouse



The gatehouse was the first line of defense. The best had towers to protect it, and a moat in front.

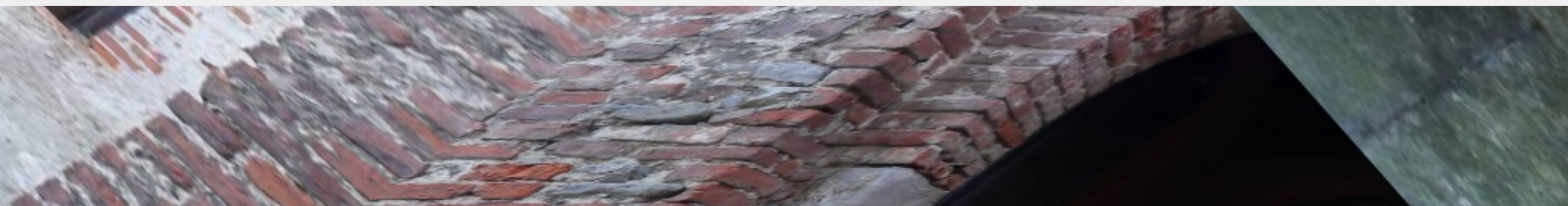
A strong wooden door or portcullis could be closed during times of danger.

An attacker would have to go through a narrow corridor before entering into the castle grounds.





https://www.360cities.net/embed_iframe/varese-somma-lombardo-castle-visconti-san-vito-main-gate?r=nearpod&fullscreen=true



Inner and Outer Wall



Where possible, a castle had an inner and outer wall.

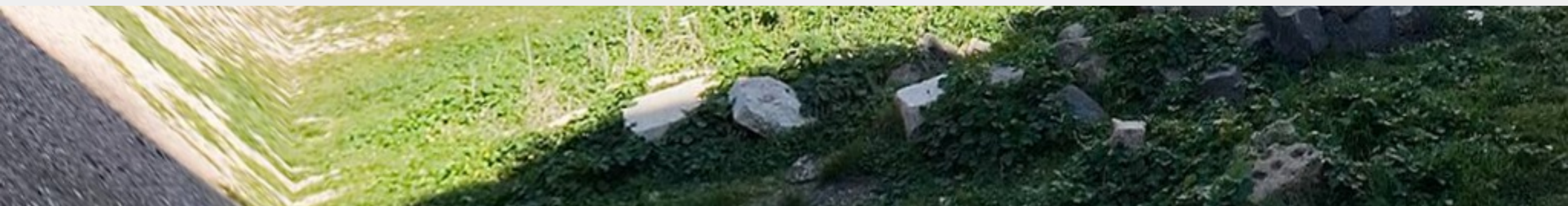
This made the castle even more difficult to capture.

Once you got over (or under or through) the first wall, you had to repeat the process all over again!





https://www.360cities.net/embed_iframe/syria-krak-des-chevaliers-crusader-castle?r=nearpod&fullscreen=true



Towers



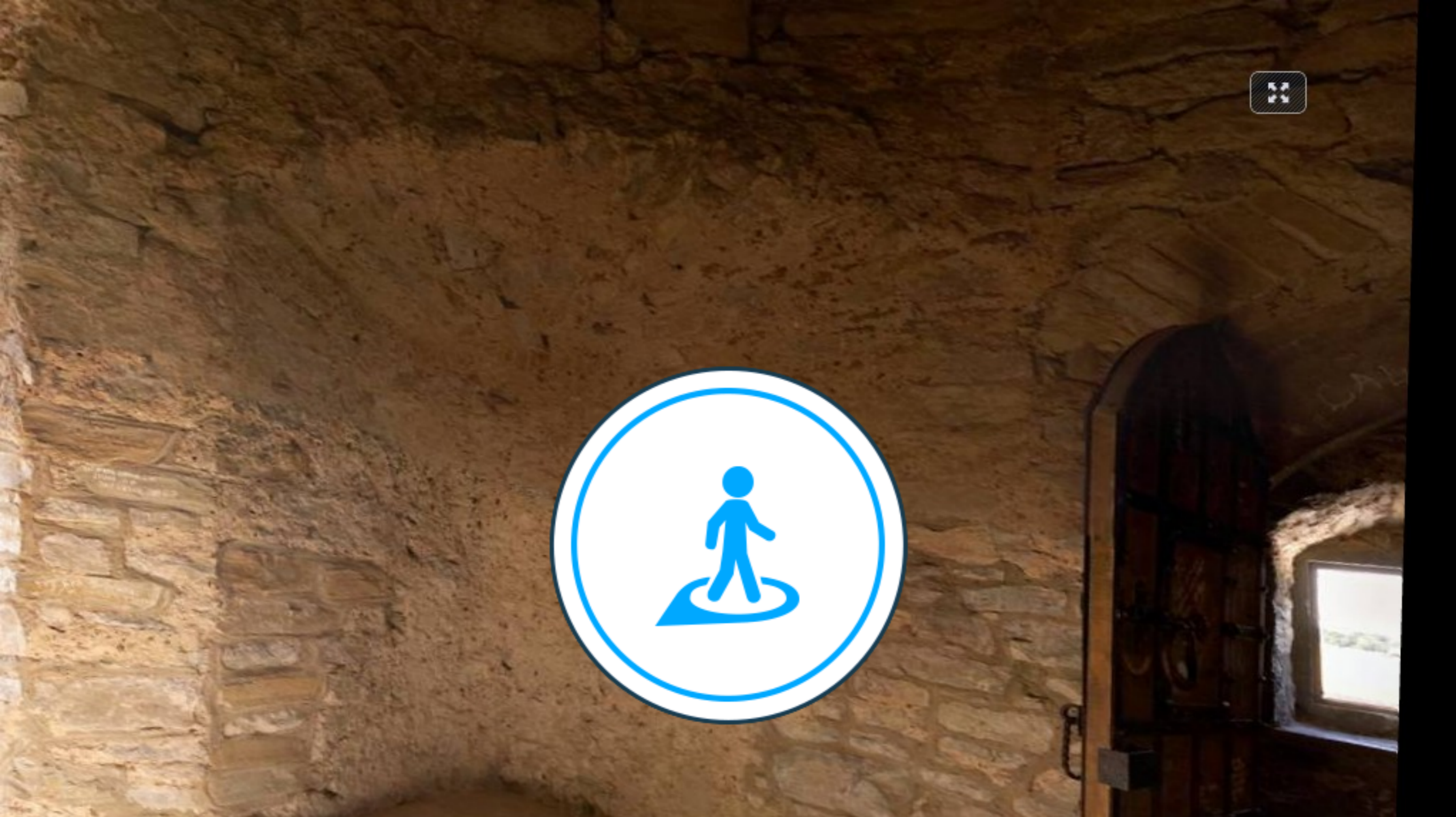
Towers anchored the walls of a castle.

They provided a better view of the area, and improved defense.

Round or curved walls help make sure an enemy next to the walls could always be seen.

Look around the inside of a couple of towers. How could the soldiers inside defend it?





https://www.360cities.net/embed_iframe/kamenets-podolsky-castle-tower-ukraine?r=nearpod&fullscreen=true





https://www.360cities.net/embed_iframe/litice-castle-the-tower-interior?r=nearpod&fullscreen=true

Keep



The keep serves as the home of the castle's owner, and is the last line of defense.

Even if an enemy got over both walls, they would still have to get inside the keep, which is like a mini-castle.

Most stone castles first started as a keep with a stone, wooden, or earthen wall around it.





https://www.360cities.net/embed_iframe/castle-rising-1138?r=nearpod&fullscreen=true

Bailey



The bailey was the enclosed area within a castle.

Essential buildings such as kitchens and stables were located in the bailey.

If a castle had two walls, the open area near the keep was called the 'inner bailey'.

On the next slide, look down from the tower into the bailey of a small, hilltop castle in Germany.





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Kitchens



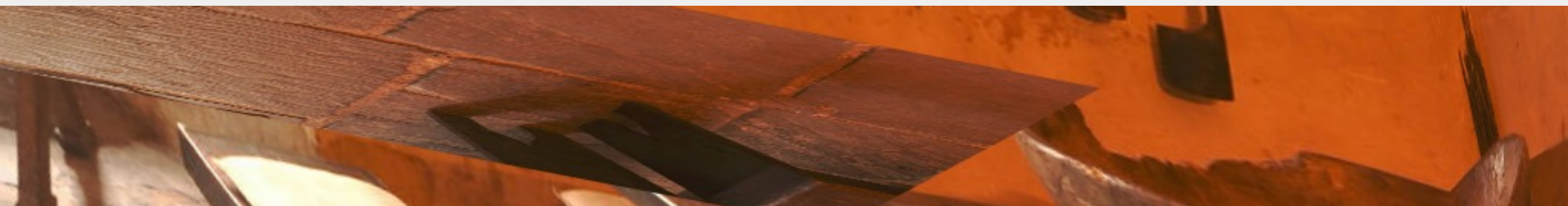
Kitchens were usually in a building separate from the main keep or living quarters in a castle.

Look around the kitchen. What features do you recognize? What would be some of the challenges a cook might face when trying to feed a large group?





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Chapel

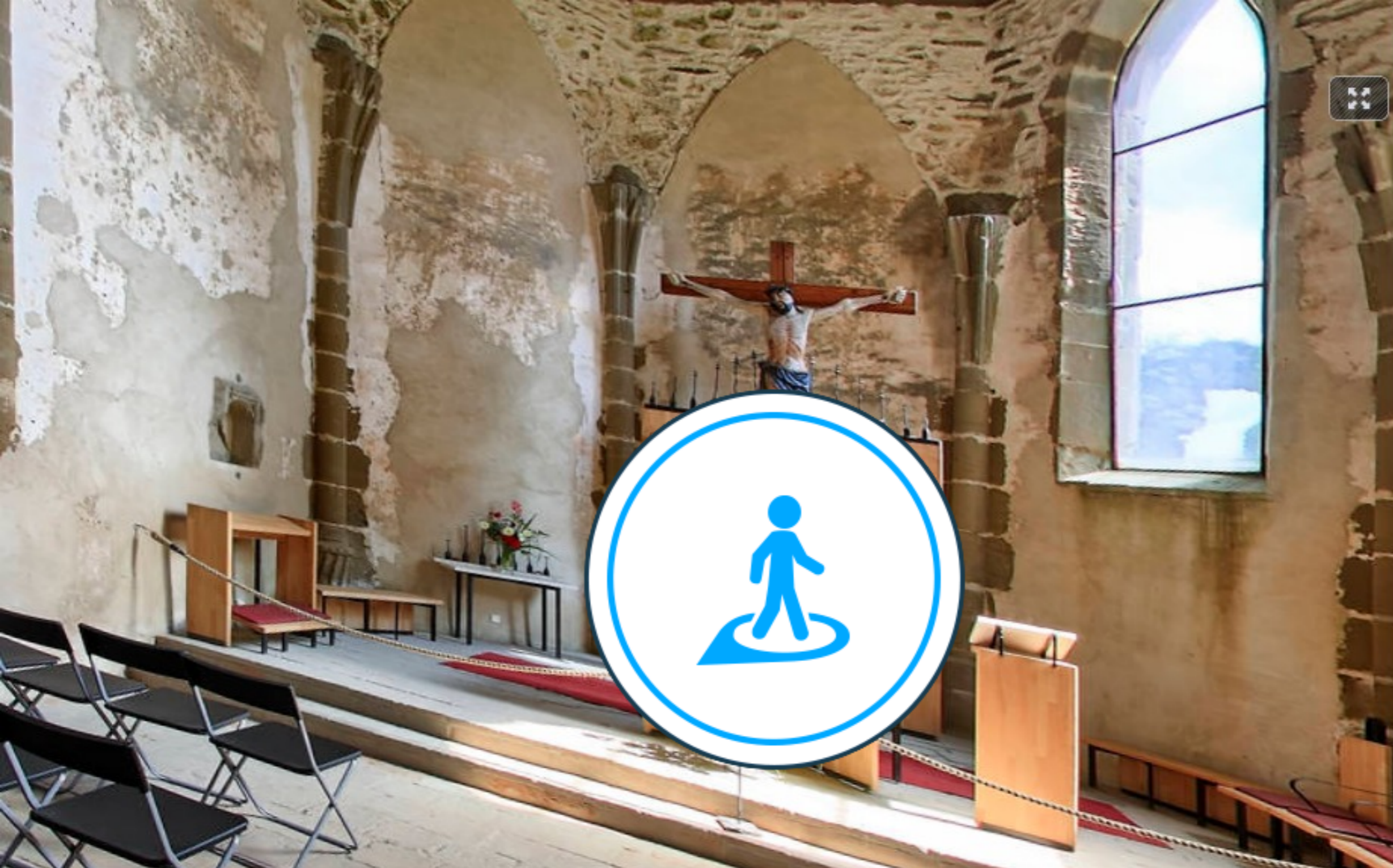


Religion was the center of life during the Middle Ages.

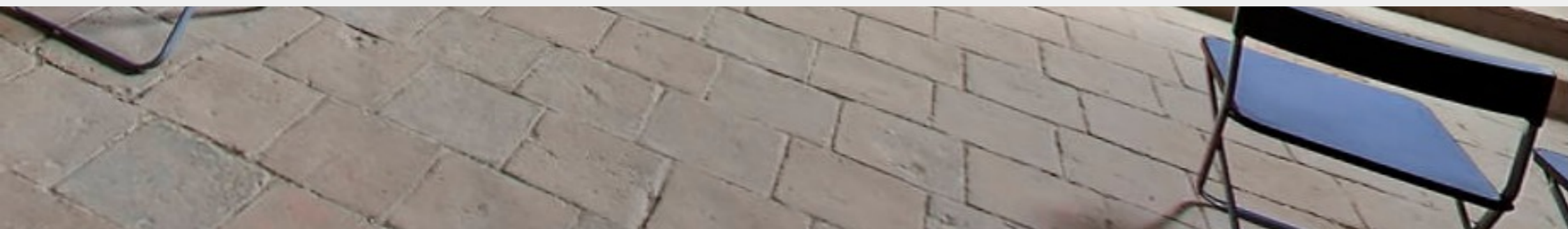
No castle would be complete without a chapel.

The following example is typical, but they could be MUCH more elaborate!





https://www.360cities.net/embed_iframe/spissky-hrad-castle-chapel-slovakia?r=nearpod&fullscreen=true



Great Hall



The Great Hall is where the lord of the castle gathered with family and friends, received guests, ate their meals, and held court. It could be inside the keep, or a separate building.

Look around the Great Hall. What is the only source of heat? What purposes might the tapestries serve besides decoration?

Note the floor in this hall is now bare. Back in the Middle Ages, it would have been covered with straw or rushes.

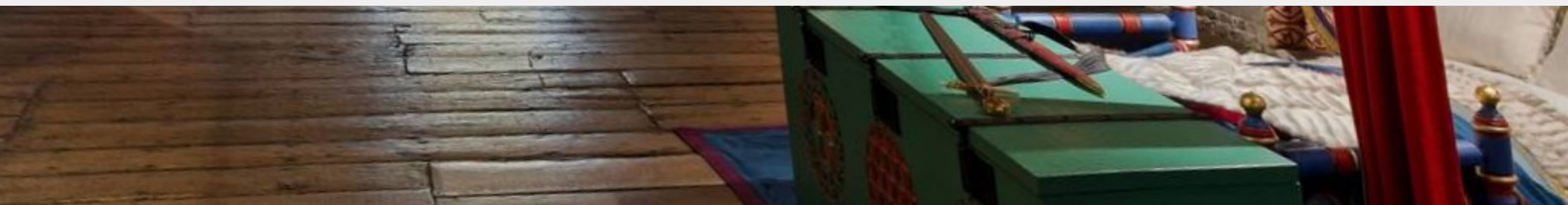




https://www.360cities.net/embed_iframe/tattershall-castle-great-hall?r=nearpod&fullscreen=true



https://www.360cities.net/embed_iframe/kings-chamber-dover-castle-england?r=nearpod&fullscreen=true



Draw It

Label as many parts of the castle as you can!



What did you learn  Medieval Castles?

Collaborate!

What did you learn about Medieval Castles?

Memory Test

