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Glossary

arch
A curved structure that goes over an opening and supports the weight of the bridge, wall or roof above it.

archer
A person who shoots with a bow and arrows.

arrow
A thin, straight stick with a sharp point at one end and feathers at the other that is shot from a bow.

bailey
The courtyard inside the outer wall of a castle.

battlements
A wall around the top of a castle with square spaces in it that the people in the castle can shoot through.

burrow
A hole in the ground that has been dug by an animal such as a rabbit, often to live in.

castle
A large, strong building that was built in the past by an important person to protect the people inside from attack.

drawbridge
A bridge that can be raised or lowered to protect a castle from attack.

fortress
A large, strong building or group of buildings that is designed to keep the people inside safe by protecting them from enemies.

keep
The strong, central tower of a castle.

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lord
A nobleman who has a lot of power over the area close to his home.

medieval
Relating to the Middle Ages.

moat
A deep, wide ditch that is dug around a castle, fort or town and usually filled with water, to make it more difficult for enemies to attack.

motte
A small hill in the middle of a castle on which a fort or keep is built.

passage
A covered path that connects places, or a long, narrow part of a building with rooms on one or both sides.

portcullis
A strong gate that hangs above the entrance to a castle and can be lowered to protect those inside from enemies.

rampart
A large mound of earth or a large wall with a walkway built around it, which protects a town, city or castle it from invaders.

Saxon
Relating to people who left Germany to come and live in Britain in the fifth and sixth centuries.

tower
A tall narrow building that either stands alone or forms part of a building such as a church or a castle.

tunnel
A long passage that is made underground.

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turret

A small, circular tower that is built on top of a wall or other tower.

viaduct

A long, high bridge, usually held up by many arches, that carries a railway, waterway or a road over a valley, river or land that is difficult to cross.

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