

Where do people live?

During the Middle Ages, fortresses and castles were built to defend towns and villages at the foot of the hills. Large castles sometimes have more than 20 towers. They are surrounded by water-filled ditches, called "moats", and the entire property is protected by very high walls.

A drawbridge closes the entrance to the castle when the enemy approaches.

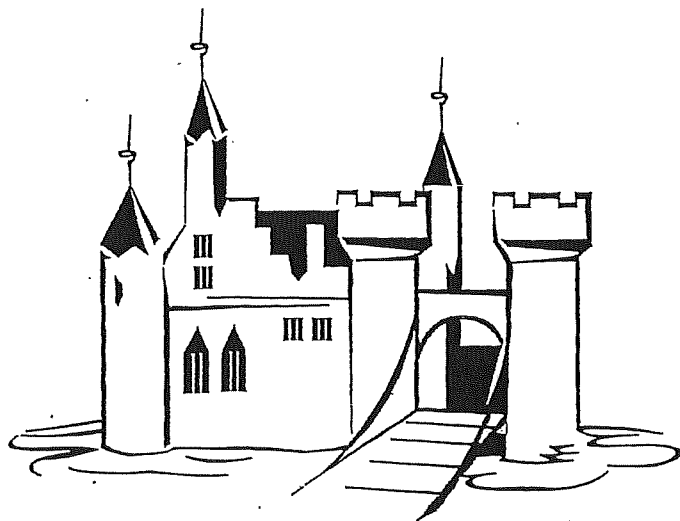
The first castles were wooden fortresses, but from the year 1100 they were built of stone. To protect the inhabitants of the castles, the walls are sometimes 3 meters thick. Inside, these walls are decorated with beautiful hand-woven tapestries. Several castles still exist today in various countries of Europe.

Kings, barons, and lords live in castles. The lord, his lady and his family usually occupy the main tower, called a keep. There are also rooms for all the castle staff. Knights live in castles or manors.

Villagers and peasants live in wooden thatched cottages with straw roofs. Around the year 1400, they were replaced by small stone houses covered with slate tiles.

Usually, these cottages have only two bedrooms where the whole family works, eats and sleeps, often on a single straw mattress.

In the villages, there are, usually, 30 to 40 dwellings located around the church. There are no streets, no sidewalks, no shops, no cars.

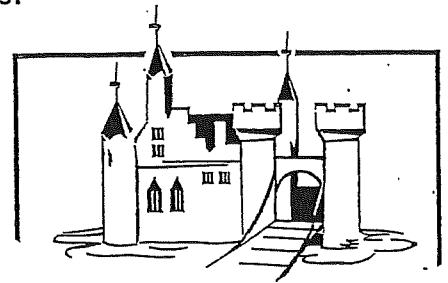


Where do people live? (Short Answers)

Fill in the blanks.

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1. Kings, barons, lords, and their families live in _____.
2. Fortresses are built to defend _____ and _____. (2)
3. The lord and his family occupy _____ called _____. (2)
4. Knights live in _____ or _____, peasants in _____. (3)
5. Large castles sometimes have more than _____ towers.
6. High _____ protect castles and fortresses.
7. A _____ filled with water surrounds the castle.
8. The first castles were built of _____.
9. Medieval castles still exist in various countries of _____.
10. Medieval villages have no _____, _____, _____ or _____. (4)



Where do people live? (Questions)

Please write in complete sentences.

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1. A moat? What is it?

2. What is a drawbridge used for?

3. The keep? What is it?

4. Describe the castle walls?

5. Who lives in the thatched cottages?

6. How many rooms are there usually in a cottage?

7. Why are fortresses and castles built?

8. How many dwellings are usually in the villages?

9. How were the first fortresses built?

10. What kind of roof do the cottages have?
