

ATTACKING AND DEFENDING A CASTLE

Name: _____

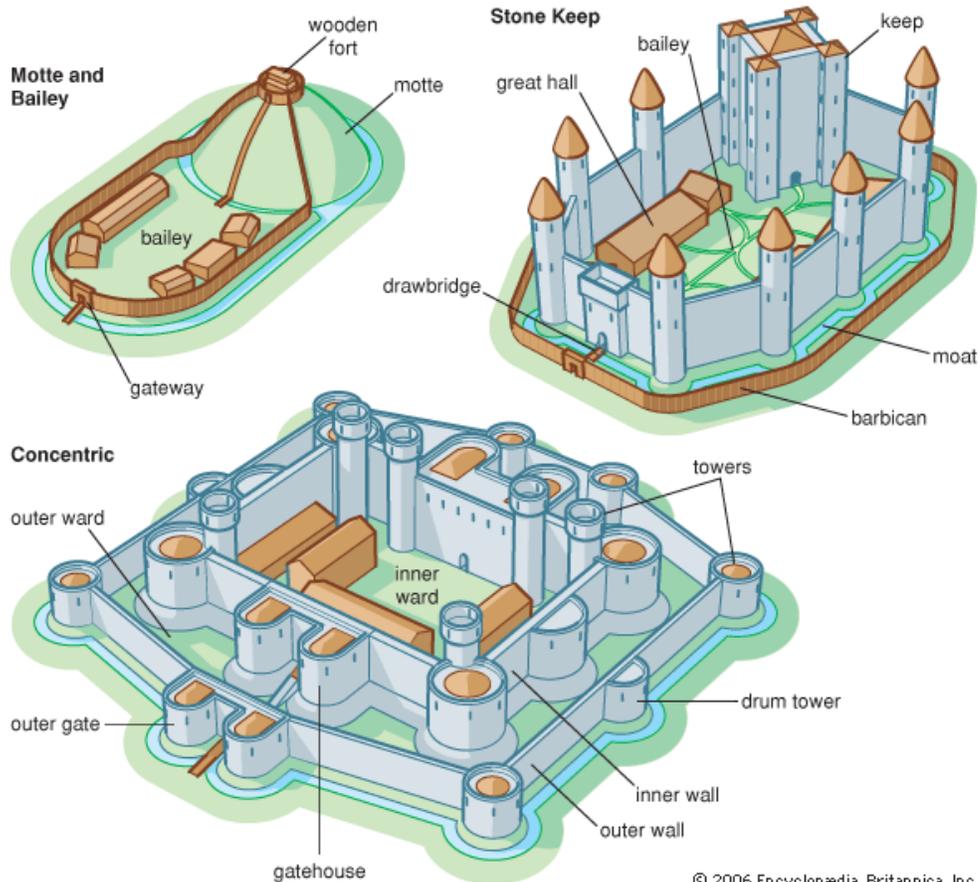
Date: _____ Block: _____

1. Motte and bailey castles were first used as a way of defending, later stone castles were used. What were the advantages and disadvantages of stone castles?

Advantages? Stronger, fire resistant, last longer

Disadvantages? Harder to find and move stone, cold, dark and damp castle

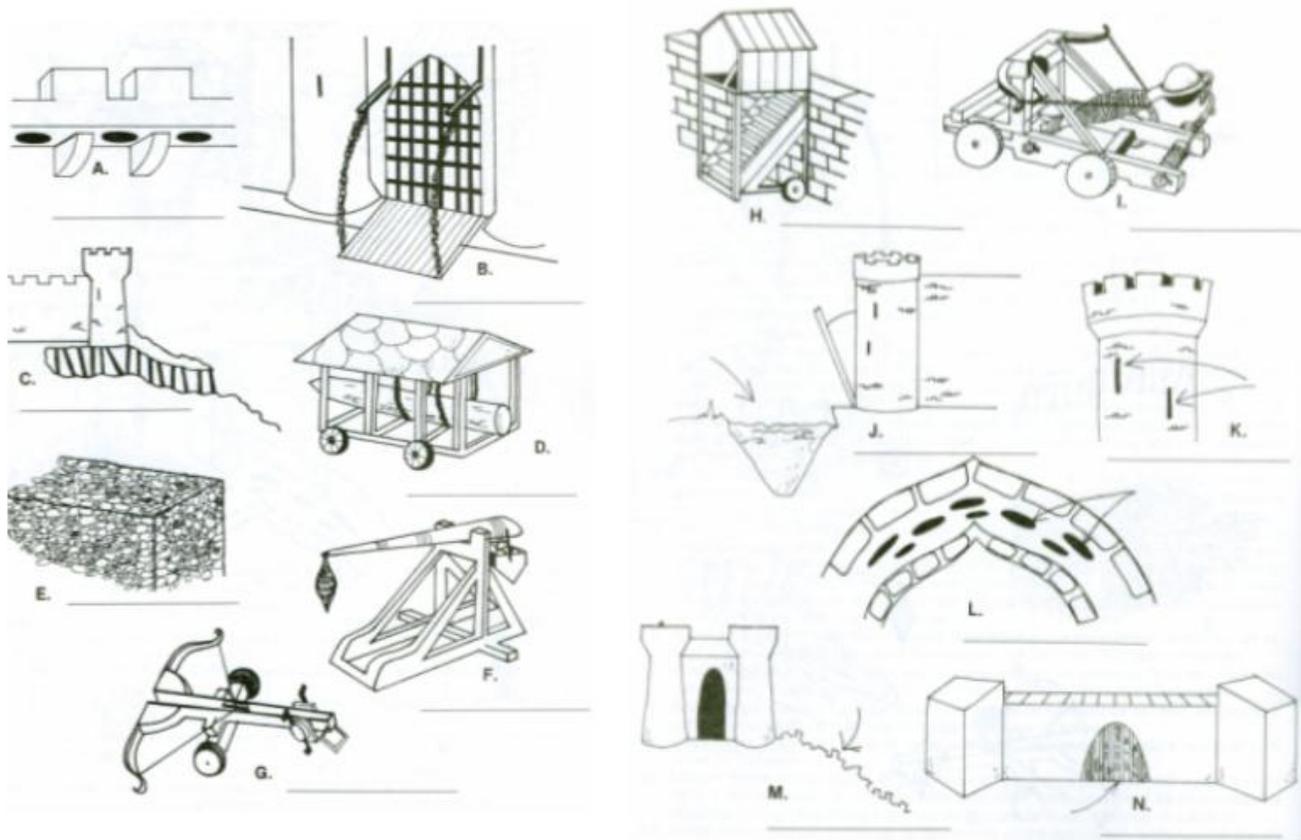
2. Diagram of a motte and bailey and medieval stone castle – label the parts.



3. Castle video questions:

- What were two important factors in deciding a castle's location? Safety, defense
- Name three places where castles were often built. Top of hill, bank of river, top of rocky ledge
- What water-filled defense surrounds many castles? moat
- How was this feature crossed? drawbridge
- Who lived in a keep? Noble and family
- Why did towers become rounded instead of square? So attackers couldn't hide behind corners
- Why were castle walls built so thick? Defend against canon attack
- The weakest part of the castle was the...entrance
- What was the center of activity in the castle? Great Hall

4. Offense or Defense? Match the letter of the diagram to the description below. Add an “O” if it’s an offensive feature or “D” if it’s a defensive feature.



1. ___ *moat* – ditch usually filled w/ water surrounding castle cross by a drawbridge
2. ___ *tunnel* – dug under castle wall to make it collapse
3. ___ *ballista* – giant crossbow requiring several men to operate
4. ___ *siege tower* – used to scale walls of castle, couldn’t be used w/ moat unless it was filled in;
5. ___ *machicolations*– overhanging parts of castle walls with holes that stones, boiling oil or water, or arrows were dropped/shot at attackers
6. ___ *battering ram* – tree trunk swung back and forth on cradle against castle wall causing it to collapse
7. ___ *portcullis* – gate made of heavy wood or iron crossbars
8. ___ *trebuchet* – like a seesaw, launched unpleasant things over or into castle walls, such as large stones or burning pitch
9. ___ *mangonel* – heavy stones were usually shot from this sling-like contraption
10. ___ *postern gate* – secret back gate that allowed defenders to sneak out and surround attackers
11. ___ *rocky ledge* – castles built on this could not be threatened by tunnels
12. ___ *thick walls* – usually ten feet thick or more
13. ___ *murder holes* – holes in the floor over the entrance just past front gate, used like machicolations
14. ___ *arrow loops* – narrow openings in castle towers just wide enough for archers to fire at enemy