

KS1

Lesson 2

Castles in UK capital cities

History



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Why do you think capital cities have castles?



Why do you think capital cities have castles?

Castles were used to defend important people and places.

Important people and items were protected inside the castles.

Soldiers used castles to look out on their lands in order to protect the land they own and the city.

We still have castles in capitals cities now as they have been saved and preserved as places of historical interest. They are now a tourist attraction.



London

There are three castles in the city of London – The Tower of London, Bruce Castle and Severndroog Castle.

The most famous castle in London is The Tower of London, which we will focus on.

The Tower of London



What do you notice?



Facts about The Tower of London

It was built in 1066.

It was used to defend the city of London.

It is a Royal palace and The Crown Jewels are stored here, which have a value of over £20 billion pounds.

It was built right on the banks of the River Thames.

The Tower is a complex of several buildings inside two rings of defensive walls and it has a moat.



Edinburgh Castle



What do you notice?



Edinburgh

It is built on the volcanic Castle Rock in the centre of Edinburgh.

This means the castle has a naturally defended position as the steep slopes are 130 metres high.

People have lived on Castle Rock for 100s of years and there has been a royal castle here since it was built in the 12th century.

The castle has been used as a royal residence, a prison, and an army base.



Cardiff Castle



What do you notice?



Cardiff Castle

Cardiff Castle is in the heart of the city centre.

For almost 2,000 years, there has been a Roman fort and then a Norman castle on this site.

The castle was built around 1081 to help the Normans to conquer Wales.

During Norman times, the toilets hung over the castle walls, and all the waste ended up in the moat. The job of the gong farmer was to collect the waste during the night!



Belfast Castle



What do you notice?



Belfast

The first Belfast Castle was built by the Normans in the city centre in the late 12th century.

A second castle, made of stone and timber, was later built on the same site in 1611.

The castle was burned down almost 100 years later and now there is just a road called Castle Place in its place.

In 1862, the third Marquis of Donegal, decided to build a new castle within his deer park, on Cave Hill in north Belfast.



Task

Choose one of the capital's castles and make a fact file on it.
You could use the internet to find out more facts about the castle.

Challenge

Draw a diagram of the castle and label all of its castle parts e.g. keep, bailey, well, palisade, scarp, workshops, main gate, barracks, drawbridge, motte, hall, ditch or moat, stables or flying bridge

You may need to use the internet to look at other photographs of the castle also.