

Castles and Knights

Week 12 • Monday • Welcome to the Middle Ages

This Week's Goals

This week you will learn:

- What a castle is and why people built them
- Who knights were and what they did
- How boys trained for many years to become knights
- The special rules knights promised to follow

Reading Time

Long, long ago — about a thousand years ago — there was a time called the **Middle Ages**. In Europe, kings and queens ruled the land. To stay safe, they built huge stone homes called **castles**.

A castle had thick walls, tall towers, and sometimes a ring of water around it called a **moat**. If enemies came, everyone from the village could run inside the castle walls.

Brave soldiers called **knights** protected the castle. A knight wore metal **armor**, rode a strong horse, and carried a sword and shield. Becoming a knight took many years of hard training. This week, we will step back in time and explore their world!

Reading Questions

1. What time period are we learning about this week?

2. Why did kings and queens build castles?

3. What did a knight wear to stay safe?

4. Would you like to live in a castle? Why or why not?

Vocabulary Grid

Write what each word means in your own words.

castle

knight

moat

armor

Middle Ages

tower

True or False

Write T for true or F for false in each circle.

- ☐ The Middle Ages happened about a thousand years ago.
- ☐ Castles were made of paper and wood only.
- ☐ A moat is a ring of water around a castle.
- ☐ Knights rode horses and carried swords and shields.
- ☐ Anyone could become a knight in one day.
- ☐ People from the village could hide inside castle walls.

Draw a Castle

Draw your own castle. Include thick walls, a tall tower, and a moat. Add a knight standing guard!



Fill in the Blanks

castle knight moat armor Middle Ages horse

1. The _____ was a time about a thousand years ago.
2. A _____ is a huge stone home with thick walls.
3. A _____ is a ring of water around a castle.
4. A _____ was a brave soldier who protected the castle.
5. Knights wore metal _____ to stay safe.
6. A knight rode a strong _____ into battle.

Think About It

1. Castles had thick walls to keep people safe. What keeps your home safe today?
2. If you were a knight, what would you paint on your shield? Why?

Coming Up Next

Tomorrow we will look closer at the parts of a castle and find out what daily life was like inside those thick stone walls. Later this week, you will design your own coat of arms!