

Inside a Castle

Week 12 • Tuesday • Parts of a Castle and the Path to Knighthood

Reading Time

Let's walk through a castle! First we cross the **drawbridge**, a wooden bridge that can lift up over the moat. Then we pass through the **gatehouse**, where guards keep watch. In the middle stands the **keep** — the tallest, strongest tower, where the lord's family lives.

Inside the walls there is a busy courtyard with a kitchen, stables for horses, and a blacksmith making tools and swords.

How did someone become a knight? A boy started as a **page** at age seven, learning manners and riding. Around fourteen, he became a **squire** and helped a real knight with his armor and horse. If he worked hard, he was made a knight in a special ceremony!

Reading Questions

1. What is the keep?

2. What does a drawbridge do?

3. What were the two steps before becoming a knight?

4. Which job in the castle courtyard would you want? Why?

Vocabulary Grid

Write what each word means in your own words.

drawbridge

gatehouse

keep

page

squire

courtyard

Page, Squire, or Knight?

Read each sentence. Write P (page), S (squire), or K (knight).

Sentence	P, S, or K?
I am seven years old and learning manners.	
I ride into battle wearing armor.	
I help a knight put on his armor.	
I just started learning to ride a horse.	
I care for a knight's horse and sword.	
I protect the castle and its people.	

True or False

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

- ☐ The drawbridge could lift up over the moat.
- ☐ The keep was the weakest part of the castle.
- ☐ A page started training at about age seven.
- ☐ A squire helped a knight with his armor and horse.
- ☐ Castles had kitchens and stables inside the walls.
- ☐ Boys became knights without any training.

Draw the Path to Knighthood

Draw three pictures: a page learning manners, a squire helping a knight, and a brave knight on his horse.

Fill in the Blanks

keep drawbridge page squire gatehouse blacksmith

1. The _____ lifts up so enemies cannot cross the moat.
2. Guards keep watch at the _____.
3. The _____ is the tallest, strongest tower.
4. A boy started training as a _____ at age seven.
5. A _____ helped a knight with his armor.
6. The _____ made tools and swords in the courtyard.

Think About It

1. A page trained for about seven years before becoming a squire. What is something you are practicing that takes a long time to learn?

2. Why do you think the keep was built in the middle of the castle?

Review

I learned...	Circle one
The parts of a castle	YES / NOT YET
What pages and squires did	YES / NOT YET
How a boy became a knight	YES / NOT YET