

NORTHUMBERLAND DAY EDUCATION PACK 2021:

NORTHUMBERLAND: COUNTY OF CASTLES

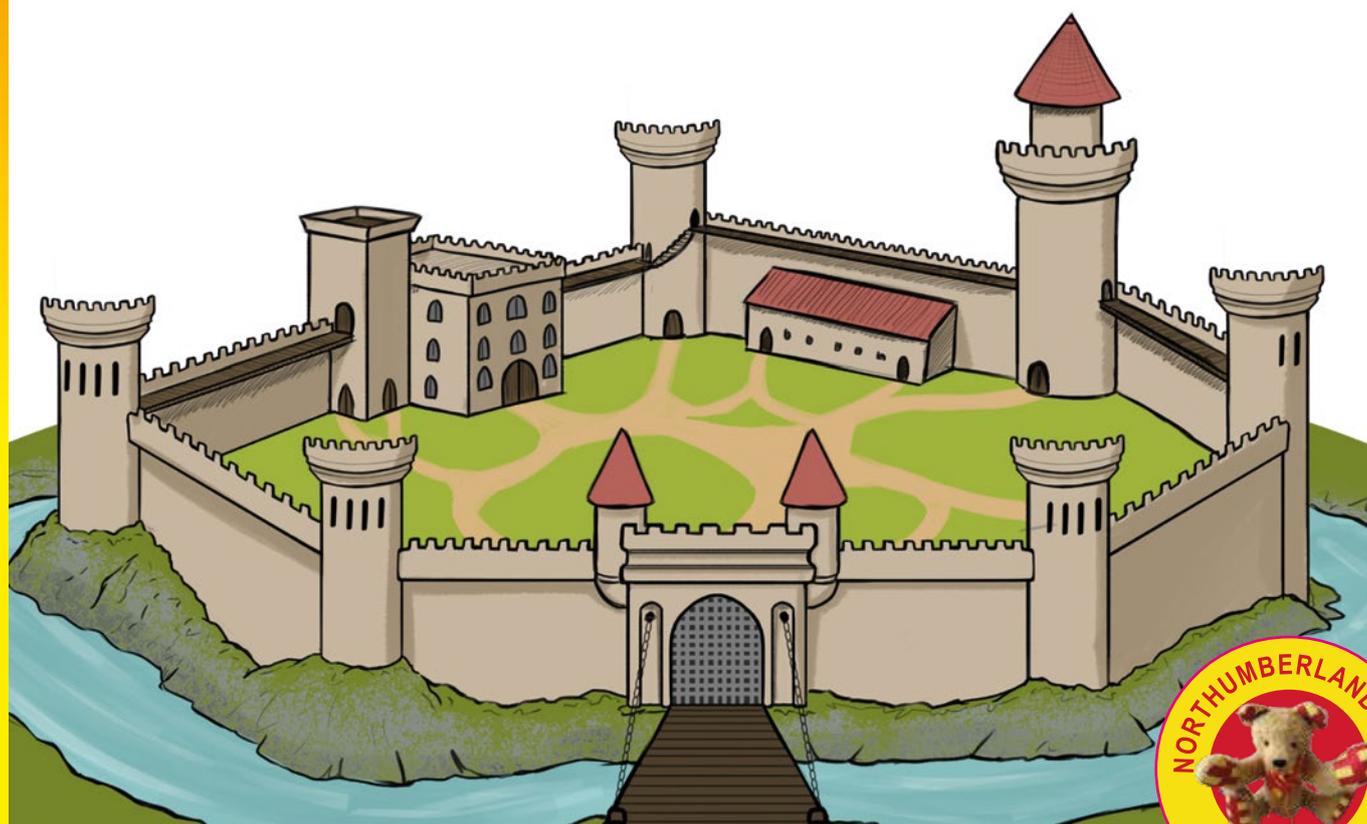
Northumberland has more castles than any other county in England. In fact, it has more than 70 castles, all thanks to being located in such a northerly position, right on the border with what was another country back in olden days, full of fearsome folk and ambitious Scottish Kings, often supported by European monarchs seeking to conquer England.

Then there were the Border Reivers, who answered to nobody except their own 'clans' and who would regularly traverse the border, thieving, kidnapping, pillaging and destroying property.

This area could be a violent place, with castles required as a key means of defence for those wishing to protect their families, property and belongings.

For Northumberland Day 2021, we are focusing on castles in our education pack and giving you a variety of materials linked to castles.

We are also including news of other things happening for Northumberland Day 2021, with which schools can get involved and potentially win prizes.





PARTS OF A CASTLE

A castle had to be strong. It had to be resilient and repel the enemy. Its materials and construction had to be the best they could be. Other factors also mattered to its successful defence. Learn about the parts of a castle and the features they incorporated, to try to keep people and property safe.

Arrow slits:

Arrow slits, can also be called arrow loops or loopholes. These were narrow slits or gaps in a castle wall, wide enough to allow an archer to fire an arrow, or for a crossbow to be used to fire a bolt at the enemy. These very thin slits, were hard to target from the outside.

Bailey:

A bailey was an enclosed courtyard inside a castle and protected by a curtain wall. The bailey was where those living inside the castle could live, cook, keep their stores, house their animals, bake bread and pray. A bailey often had different buildings within it.

Barbican:

A barbican was a fortified gateway to a castle, or a tower found over the gate or bridge. It was a major defence at the entrance to a castle.

Battlements:

A castle's battlement was a defence at the top of a castle's wall. It usually defended those behind a wall (a parapet) whilst having gaps (crenels), through which to fire missiles.

Drawbridge:

The drawbridge was a bridge that was lowered to allow people to cross a castle's moat. It was hinged and lowered on chains. When raised, it would close the castle entrance.

Dungeon:

A dungeon was a strong, underground prison cell within the castle. Any captured enemies would be kept there!

Garderobes:

These were medieval castle toilets. Really, they were just seats set over a shaft in the castle wall, down which the waste fell, down into a pit or watercourse. Sometimes, garderobes had a wooden door, on which castle residents would hang their clothes – hence the name, garderobes. The reason was that the ammonia present in the body's waste materials would kill the fleas in the clothing!

Great Hall:

This was the main room in the castle, where the lord and lady would dine and entertain and hold banquets. It was a place for entertainment and, in some castles, it was where the servants would sleep on the floor, overnight.



**Keep:**

A keep was a large fortified tower within a castle, which would be the last place to which to retreat, if the enemy broke through the other parts of the castle defences. It was usually where the lord had his rooms but could also house treasures.

Moat:

The moat was a deep ditch built around a castle and it could be filled with water, although sometimes it was kept as a dry ditch.

Parapet:

The parapet was the wall on the battlements, which defended the top of the castle.

Portcullis:

The portcullis was a big heavy grating, lowered within a gateway, to prevent entry to the castle. It was lowered on chains or ropes and was usually made of oak, plated with iron.

Ramparts:

Ramparts were originally walls of earth built to defend a castle. Later, they became thinner stone walls that protected the archers. Eventually, this type of wall was used on the battlements.

Spiral staircase:

Castles often had spiral staircases. They were narrow, so enemies could not charge up them with weapons. They wound in a clockwise direction, so right-handed enemies had their weapon-holding hand close to the internal wall, when climbing the staircase. This made it hard for them to wield their sword or other weapon. The advantage was enjoyed by those inside the castle, whose could manoeuvre their weapon with more freedom, striking someone who was climbing difficult, winding stairs, one by one.

Towers:

A castle tower was part of the castle's defences. It was usually a round or square structure, which provided more security against the enemy.

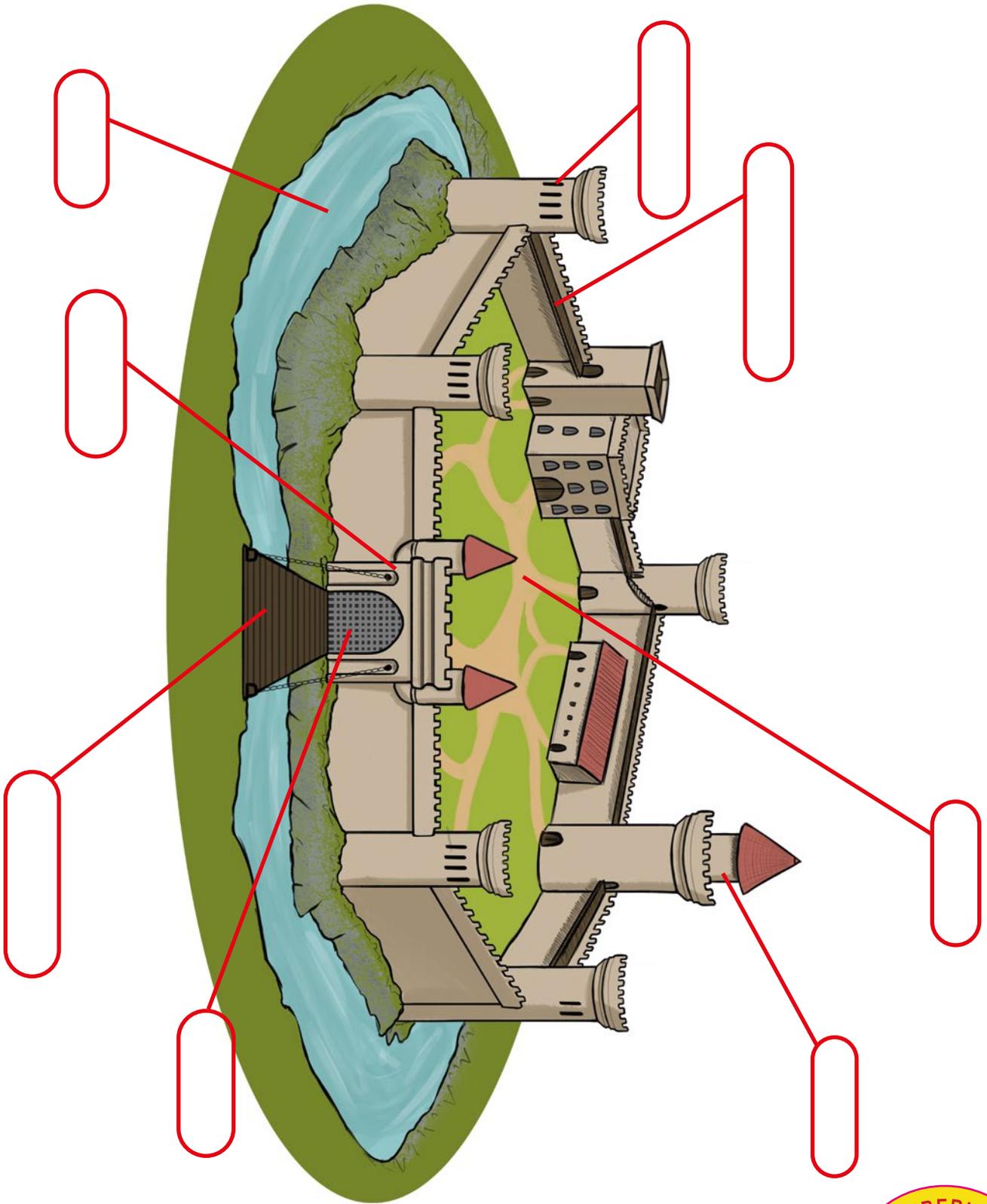
Turrets:

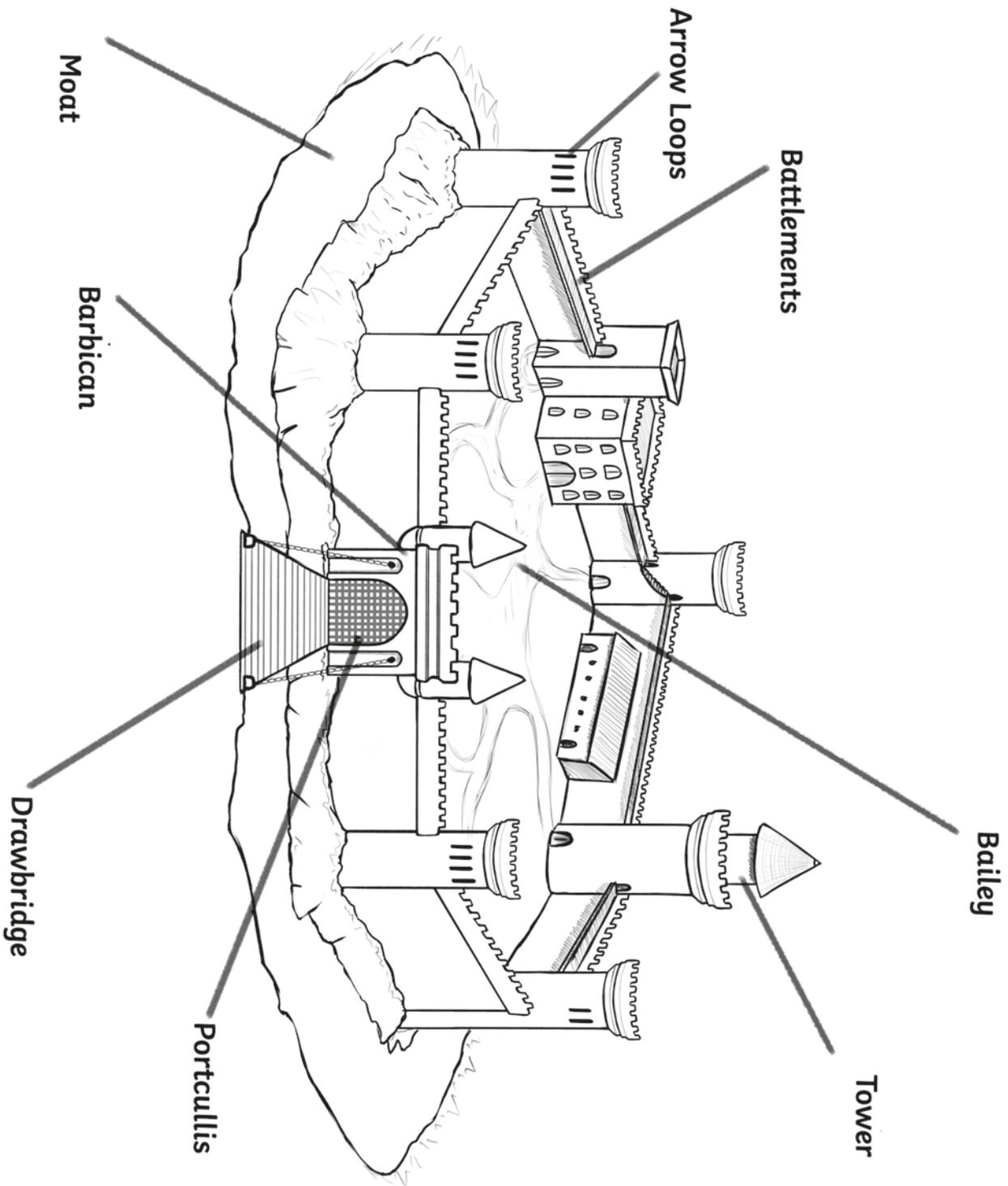
Turrets can be little towers, but they do not start at ground level. They usually stick out from another tower or wall and often have a decorative top.





Parts of a Castle







CASTLE-THEMED WORDSQUARE

Find some of the different parts of a castle, and a few things which might find inside a castle, in our wordsquare.

Word Search

B	M	Z	G	F	O	U	U	A	O	B	T	K	P	Q	Y	D	T
X	A	A	H	A	J	I	T	R	T	A	M	N	O	B	C	R	E
I	B	T	R	Q	R	A	K	M	O	N	T	I	R	R	C	A	M
D	A	A	T	R	S	D	H	O	W	Q	U	G	T	A	D	W	N
J	I	P	R	L	O	H	E	U	E	U	R	H	C	M	U	B	M
U	M	A	C	B	E	W	I	R	R	E	R	T	U	P	N	R	U
N	N	R	R	A	I	M	S	E	O	T	E	O	L	A	G	I	F
M	O	A	T	G	S	C	E	L	L	B	T	C	L	R	E	D	E
S	A	P	S	J	H	T	A	N	I	D	E	P	I	T	O	G	P
Y	K	E	J	P	F	M	L	N	T	T	S	S	S	S	N	E	B
V	U	T	B	S	I	C	K	E	H	S	M	L	H	A	L	L	Z
H	B	B	A	I	L	E	Y	F	H	K	E	E	P	I	V	E	H

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

ARMOUR	DRAWBRIDGE	PARAPET
ARROWSLIT	DUNGEON	PORTCULLIS
BAILEY	GARDEROBES	RAMPARTS
BANQUET	HALL	SHIELD
BARBICAN	KEEP	TOWER
BATTLEMENTS	KNIGHT	TURRET
CASTLE	MOAT	

ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Put these Northumberland Castles into alphabetical order

Langley Castle	
Elsdon Castle	
Chillingham Castle	
Norham Castle	
Alnwick Castle	
Warkworth Castle	
Bamburgh Castle	
Prudhoe Castle	
Berwick-upon-Tweed Castle	





Get to Know Some Great Northumberland Castles

Langley Castle

Langley Castle was built in 1350, probably using some of the stone from Hadrian's Wall. It was built by Sir Thomas de Lucy, a knight who found favour with King Edward III, whose manor house had been destroyed by King David Bruce's Scottish army. The family probably anticipated being under siege rather a lot, as the castle had 12 garderobes, which can still be seen to this day. They are thought to be the best remaining example in Europe.

The castle's fortunes fared well until 1405. By then, the De Lucy family had joined the Percy family of Alnwick, by marriage, and the Percy's had upset King Henry IV. Langley was set alight and its roof destroyed, leaving just its seven-foot thick walls intact.

Although it remained in this state for over 500 years, its owners still had colourful histories. The Radcliffe brothers, James and Charles, both took part in Jacobite uprisings – in 1715 and 1745 – being relations of the Stuart 'Pretenders' to the throne. Both lost their heads at the Tower of London, James in 1716 and Charles in 1746, as Charles escaped from Newgate Prison the first time he was captured. Langley now has a bench donated by the Northumbrian Jacobite Society and, just down the road, there is a shrine to the two brothers.

The castle has been a hotel for 35 years and offers daily Battlements Tours, to convey its rich history, to both residents and non-residents. The tour includes a video about the history of the area in which the castle sits, conveying the perils of the Border Reivers.

Questions:

What was Hadrian's Wall and why, by 1350, were stones being taken from it, to use in local buildings?

Why were the Stuart Pretenders not ruling England in the years of these uprisings?

What is the Tower of London?

Who were the Border Reivers?

Do any of the pupils have any of the famous Border Reivers surnames

e.g. Armstrong, Maxwell, Graham, Bell, Scott, Nixon, Crozier, Robson or Kerr.

Did you know that astronaut Neil Armstrong's heritage links back to the Reivers?





Norham Castle

Norham Castle was built in a key defensive position on the Anglo-Scottish border, at a point where there was relative easy access for the Scots across the River Tweed, which the castle overlooks. It was a great English stronghold for over 450 years and saw many turbulent times, being besieged by the Scots nine times and captured by them four times.

It was originally built by Ranulph Flambard, Bishop of Durham from 1099-1128, who almost enjoyed the status of a king and who wanted to protect church lands. It had a significant bailey area and a ceremonial hall, used by the bishop. Later stone gatehouses were added and a great tower built on top of the ceremonial hall. These 'alterations' made it a formidable fortress. A long 40-day siege in 1215 tested its defences, but Alexander II of Scotland failed to take the castle. In 1219, a peace treaty was signed at Norham, which lasted for most of that century.

In 1291, King Edward I stayed at Norham whilst deciding which of 13 competitors for the Scottish throne to make King of Scotland. He settled on John Balliol, who paid homage to him at Norham. Meddling in Scottish affairs did not go well and, following the fight for Scottish independence and the Battle of Bannockburn, Norham was besieged in 1318, 1319 and 1321 and taken by the Scots in 1327, for a year or so. In 1497, it endured a two-week siege but it was after occupation by James IV of Scotland, in 1513, that it suffered much damage. Thereafter, the walls had to be strengthened, to deal with a new form of warfare – gunfire - whilst also allowing the castle forces to return gunfire. By 1480, artillery had been installed. The upgrades even allowed the castle to survive attack by the great Scottish siege gun known as Mons Meg, despite extensive damage being caused by this famous piece of artillery weaponry.

Following this, there were more repairs and the addition of Clapham's Tower and additional guns, to cover the nearby ford crossing on the River Tweed.

However, Elizabeth I was not interested in maintaining the castle and then Norham ceased to become of strategic importance after the Union of England and Scotland in 1707 and was left to further decay. It is now cared for by Historic England.

Questions/Activities

1. Imagine you are living in a castle under siege for 40 days. What does that feel like? How is life within the castle and amongst its occupants? What fears or hopes do you have?
2. Organise a competition to find a King or Queen of the class. Ask the pupils to suggest reasons why they should be triumphant!





Warkworth Castle

Warkworth Castle sits on a hilltop overlooking the River Coquet and expresses the former power of the Dukes of Northumberland (the Percys). It was once home to Harry Hotspur, who features in Shakespeare's work, Henry IV Part 1. His rebellion against the King was the one which also led to Langley Castle's fire in 1405 and, for a time, led to the Percy family losing Warkworth. Warkworth Castle was, however, later returned to the family.

The founder of the castle may have been Prince Henry of Scotland, in the mid 12th century, or may have been Henry II of England. Originally, the castle was made of timber and was described as "feeble". It could not be defended in 1173, because of this poor construction. This led to the reconstruction of the castle in stone. As part of this process, Warkworth now has what is described as an "awe-inspiring keep", which is shaped like a cross.

The Percy 'lion' symbol, from the family's coat of arms, can be seen in various places around the castle.

Various Kings, including King John and Edward I have stayed at Warkworth Castle. Although damaged in the English Civil War, the castle has survived to be one of Northumberland's gems, under the care of English Heritage.

Questions/activities

1. Why was timber a "feeble" material for the castle to use?
2. Why do you think families liked to have a coat of arms in past times and why do you think a lion might have been chosen for a coat of arms?



Bamburgh Castle

Bamburgh Castle sits 150 feet above the Northumberland coastline and has done so for 1400 years, since its creation as an original timber, fortified wooden stockade by Ida the Flamebearer, the first of the Anglo-Saxon Kings of Bernicia. From him, Bamburgh passed to his grandson, King Aethelfrith, whose children, Oswald and Oswi, were educated on Iona by monks. When Oswald returned to Bamburgh, he became a Saint King of Northumbria and brought St Aidan from Iona, to found the monastery at Lindisfarne.

Bamburgh Castle is one of the largest inhabited castles in the UK and is now home to a unique collection of artwork, ceramics and objets d'art. It was also one of the first castles to fall to the might of gunpowder, which happened during the Wars of the Roses.

In terms of its structure, Bamburgh's Victorian Kings Hall is built on the site of a medieval Great Hall. It also has a massive square keep, with 11-foot-thick walls at the front and 9-foot-thick walls elsewhere. The castle was built on a plinth, so as to stop enemies from digging underneath it and setting fire to its walls.

The castle has a great view over the coast and to Holy Island and the Farne Islands. It would have been easy to spot invaders arriving by boat.

Questions/activities

1. What were the advantages, do you think, of building a castle high up?
2. Would you like to live in a castle? What would you like and what would you not like?

Find out more about other castles in Northumberland and learn their stories. Some others you could explore are: Alnwick, Lindisfarne, Prudhoe, Elsdon, Mitford, Morpeth, Thirwall and Twizell.





MISSING NUMBERS

There are around 70 Castles in Northumberland. Can you fill in the missing numbers from 1 to 70?

1		3			6	7		9	
11			14		16		18	19	
21	22		24	25			28		30
	32	33	34		36	37		39	
41		43			46		48		50
	52			55	56		58	59	
		63		65		67		69	

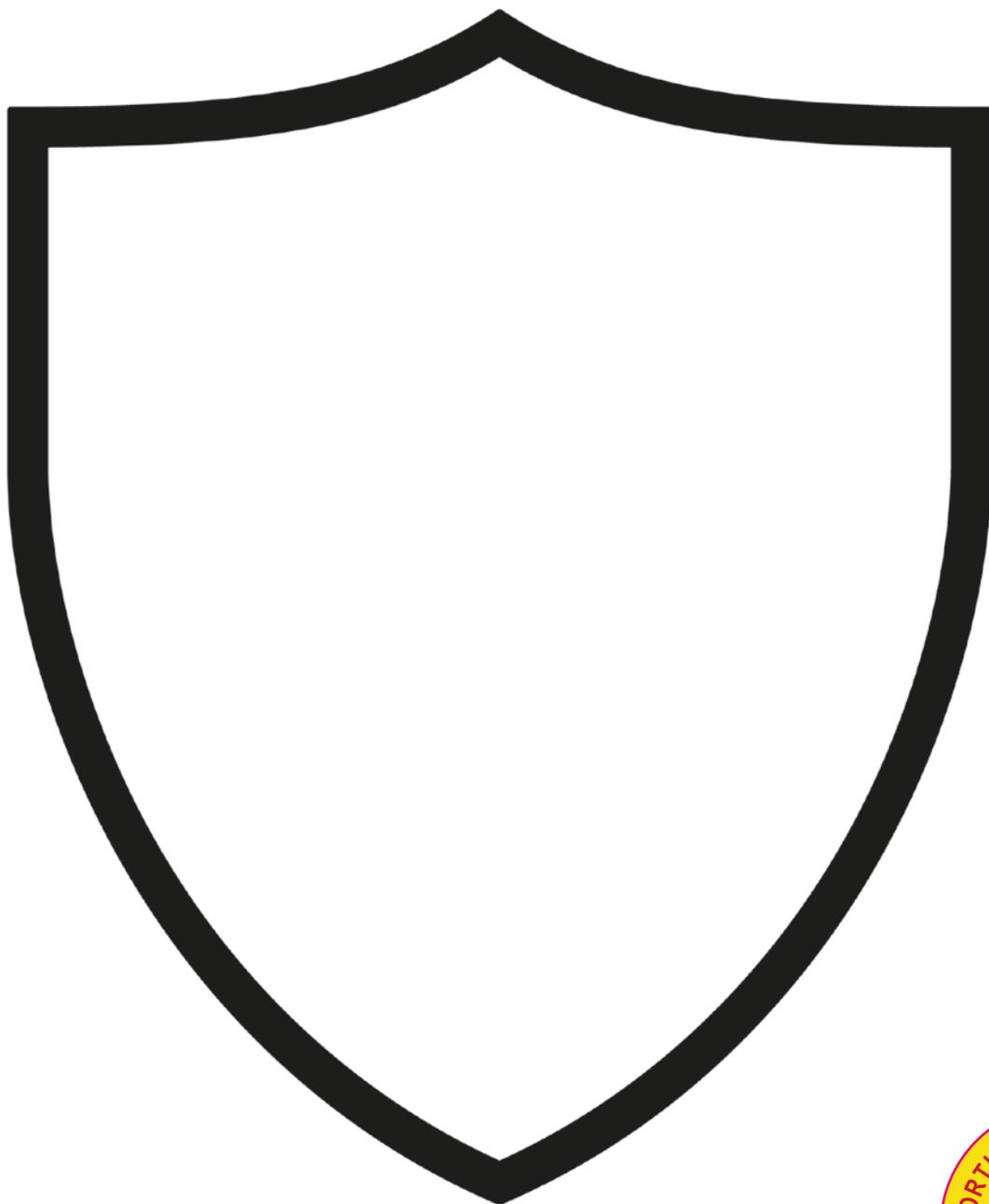




DESIGN A COAT OF ARMS

In medieval times, every family had a coat of arms, with colours and images becoming a sort of family logo. They could feature lions, birds, serpents, crowns, wheatsheafs and all sorts of other things. A coat of arms would be displayed in most castles.

Ask your children to design their own coat of arms, with the symbols and images they would like to use. If you have younger children, ask them to design a shield, which someone defending the castle might use.





CREATE AN ACROSTIC POEM

In an acrostic poem, the first letter of each line is one that helps spell out the word that is the subject of the poem. See if your children can write an acrostic poem around this word.

C

A

S

T

L

E

Story Writing

Ask your children to write a story about one of these themes:

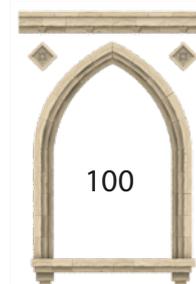
- The day we had to draw up the drawbridge
- The scariest day in the castle
- The strange sight the lady saw on the battlements
- The best banquet the castle ever had
- The thing that lurks in the dungeon





COMPARING NUMBERS WORKSHEET

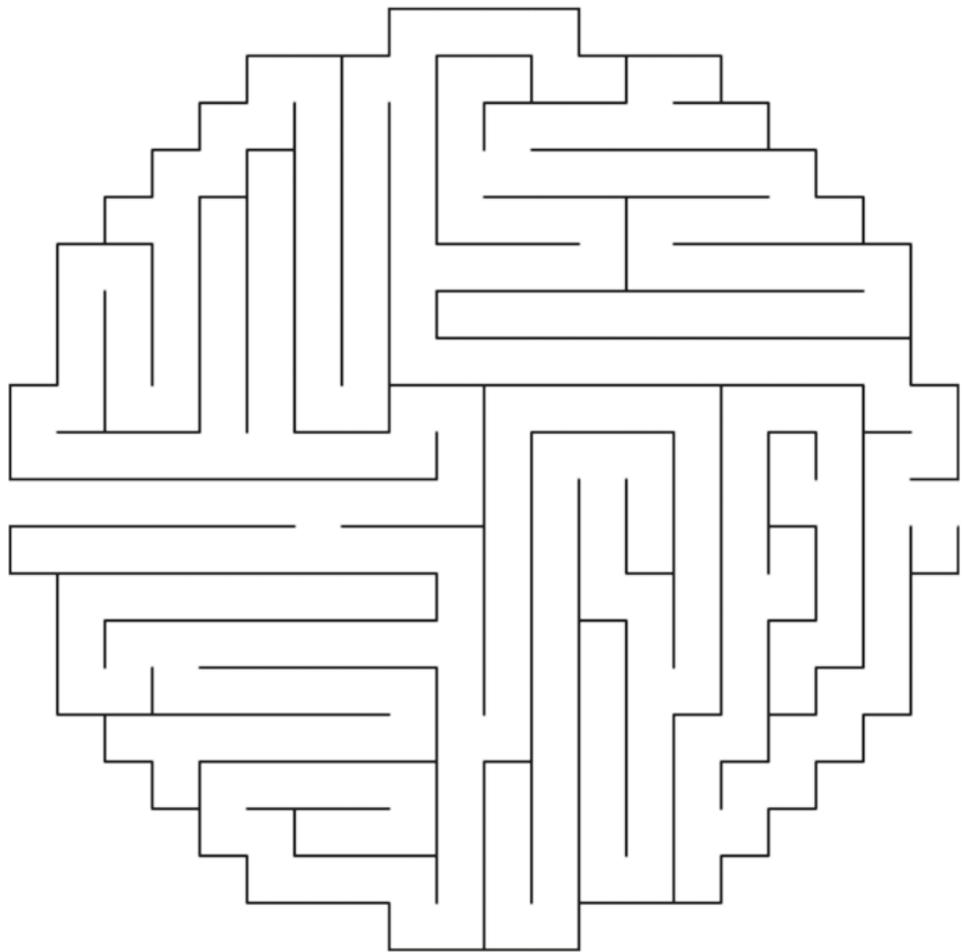
Compare the numbers and put $<$, $>$ or $=$ in the boxes



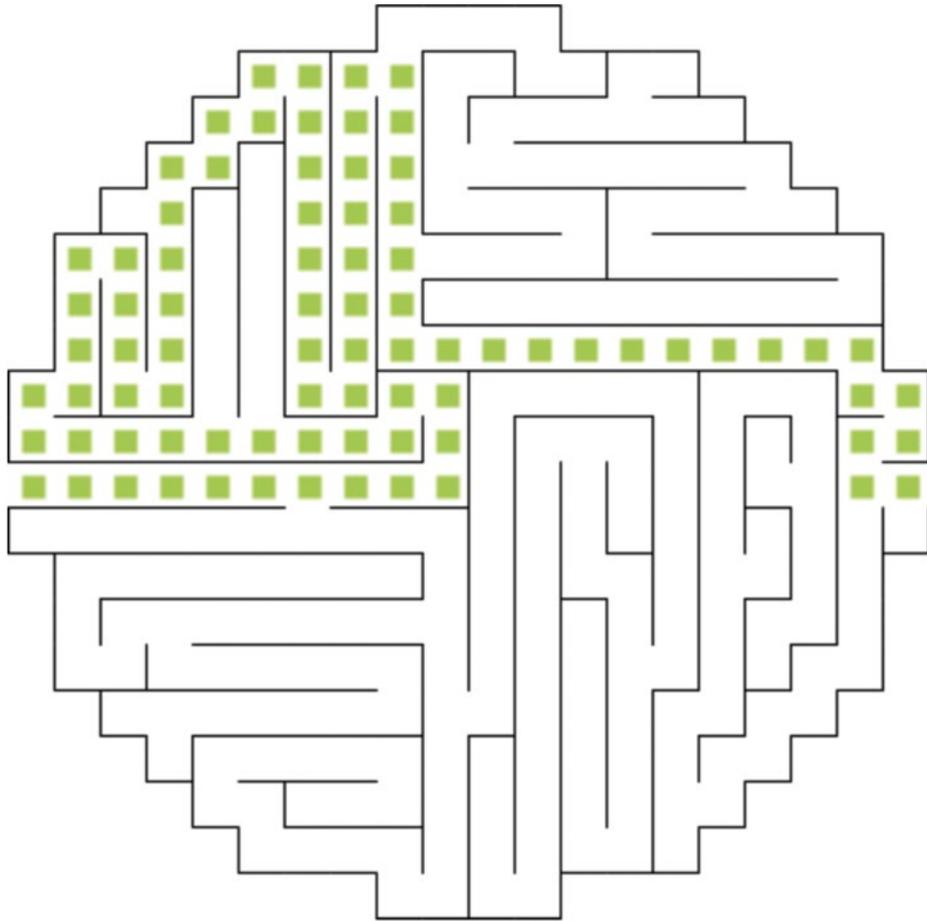


The Knight's Way Out

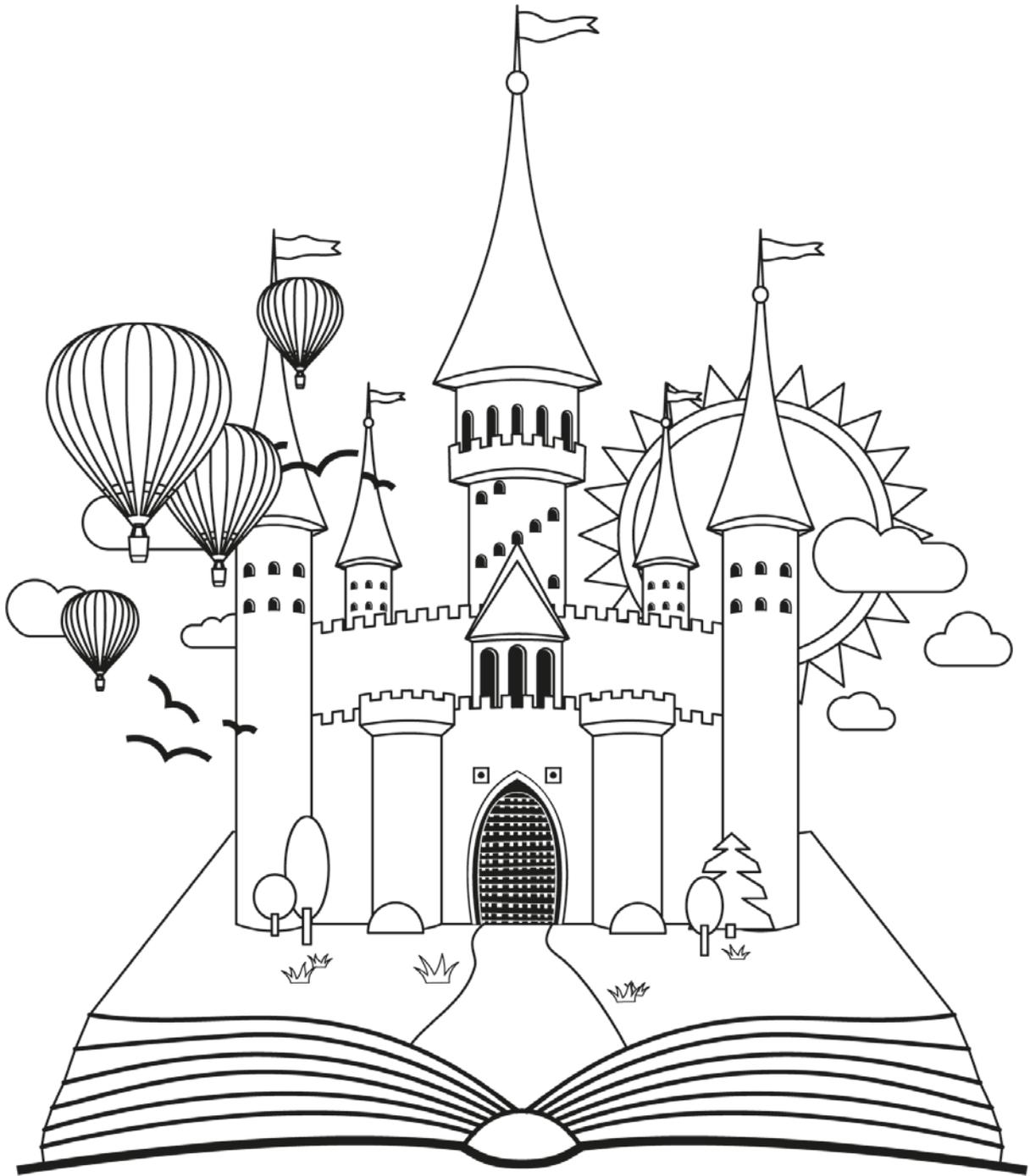
Help the knight find his way out of the castle.



Solution:



Colouring



Northumberland Day 2021 Activities

Letter to Northumbear

This year, we have our very special Letter to Northumbear competition, in which we are asking children to write to our adorable mascot, Northumbear, on one of three themes.

We have prizes in three age groups and schools are welcome to enter their pupils in this contest.

We also have special Letter to Northumbear postboxes, where children can post their entries. If schools would like to have a box, please email office@northumberlandday.co.uk



We also have boxes in venues such as the Saltwater Café in Beadnell, the Amble Pin Cushion in Amble and the Newbiggin Maritime Centre. If you need to know where you can post letters, please email office@northumberlandday.co.uk

Details of our Letter to Northumbear competition can be found in our 2021 Zone at www.northumberlandday.co.uk

The Bunties Awards: Best Decorated School

Due to Covid-19, we have this year put our normal Northumbie Awards on hold, as we did not wish to put too much pressure on schools, businesses and communities.

Instead this year, we have Bunties Awards, which reward the best decorated places. One of our Bunties is for the Best Decorated School.

We would like to see schools decked out in red and yellow and really whatever you think can best celebrate Northumberland Day and its county colours, history and culture.

Send your images or videos to us at office@northumberlandday.co.uk and let us decide who the victorious winner of this Buntie Award will be!

The Northumberland Day Flag Challenge



One of our Bunties will be for our annual Northumberland Day Flag Challenge winner. This award goes to the person (or people) who has/have been pictured with the Northumberland land flag in the most unusual location or way. Why not a pupil or a school?

