

CASTLES AND CITIES

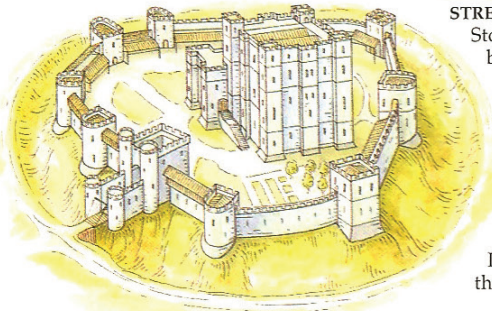
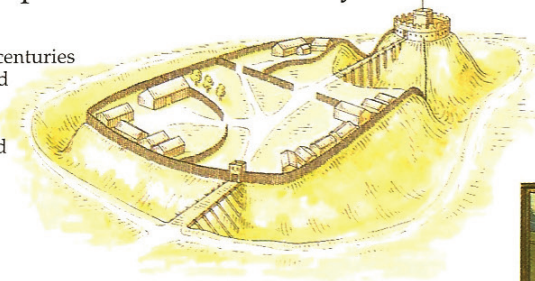


The castle

A CASTLE COULD BE a lord's private home and his business headquarters, as well as a base for his soldiers. The first castles probably appeared in northwestern France in the ninth century, because of civil wars and Viking attacks. Although some early castles were built of stone, many consisted of earthworks and timber walls. But slowly knights began to build castles of stone and later brick, because these materials were stronger and more fire-resistant. In the late 15th century, more settled societies, demand for comfort, and the increasing use of powerful cannons meant that castles became less important. Some of their military roles were taken over by forts, defended gun platforms controlled by the state.

MOTTE AND BAILEY

The castles of the 10th to 12th centuries usually consisted of a ditch and rampart with wooden fences. From the 11th century on, many were also given a mound called a motte, a last line of defense with a wooden tower on top. The bailey, or courtyard, below it held all the domestic buildings.

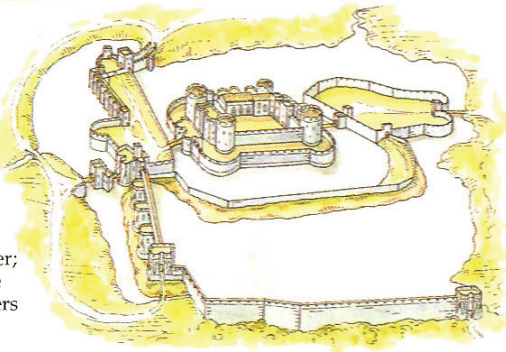


STRENGTH IN STONE

Stone donjons, or keeps, became common in the late 11th and 12th centuries. The larger ones could hold accommodation for the lord and his household. The bailey was by now often surrounded by stone walls with square towers. Round towers appeared in the 12th century.

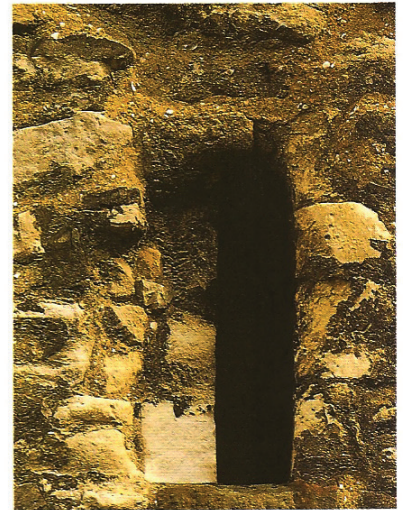
RINGS OF DEFENSE

Concentric castles, which were first built in the 13th century, had two rings of walls, one within the other. This gave two lines of defence. The inner ring was often higher to give archers a clear field of fire. Some old castles with keeps had outer rings, added later; these gave yet another line of defence. Sometimes rivers were used to give broad water defenses.



CRACKING CASTLE

Sometimes wooden fences on the motte were replaced by stone walls, forming a shell keep. Occasionally a stone tower was built on a motte, but the artificial mound was not always strong enough to take the weight. The 13th-century Clifford's Tower in York, England, has cracked as a result.



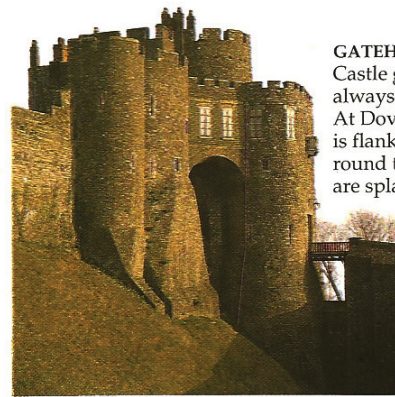
NARROW SLIT

Windows near the ground were made very small to guard against enemy missiles or soldiers climbing through. Such windows were narrow on the outside but splayed on the inside to let in as much light as possible.



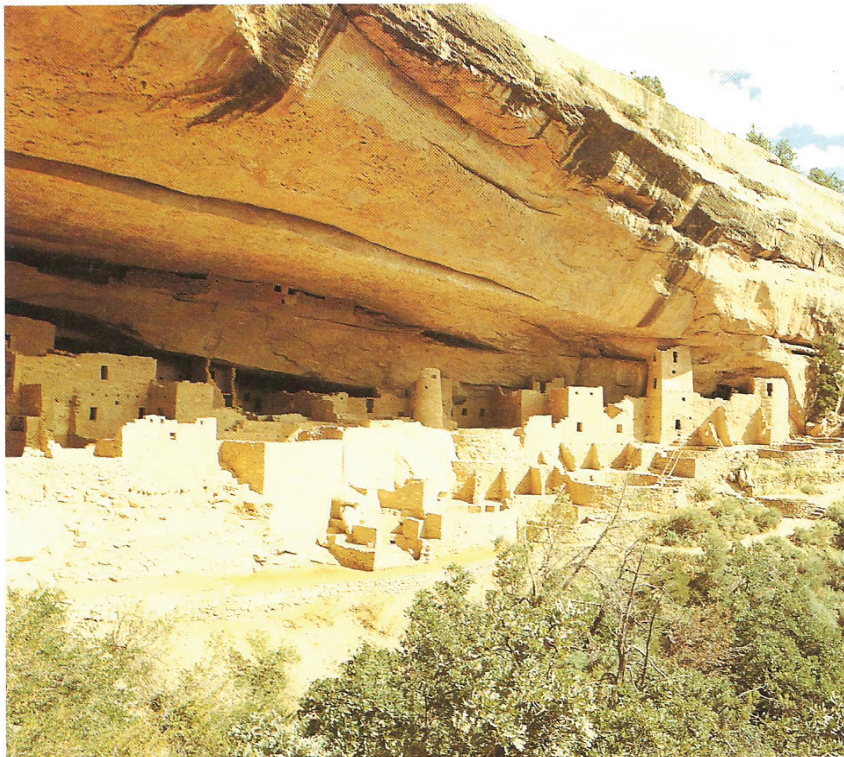
MEN AT WORK

Stone castles cost a fortune to build and could take years to complete. The lord and the master mason chose a strong site and plan. Stone had to be brought in specially. In addition, large amounts of lime, sand, and water were needed for the mortar. The materials and work force were normally provided by the lord.

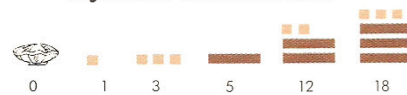


GATEHOUSE

Castle gatehouses were always strongly fortified. At Dover, England, the gate is flanked by two massive round towers. The walls are splayed at the base; the thicker masonry helps to protect them against mining. There is also a deep dry ditch to obstruct attackers.



The Mayan System of Numbers



The Maya were the only truly literate civilization of the Americas. They devised a system of numbers, a calendar,

and a writing system. They used three basic symbols for numbers: a shell for zero, a dot for one, and a bar for five.

Left. The dwellings at Mesa Verde in the southwest United States were built in the twelfth century AD by the Anasazi people. Of the many ruins, Cliff Palace, shown here, is the largest and most famous. It contains over 400 rooms and is four stories high in some places. The rooms were small with low ceilings.

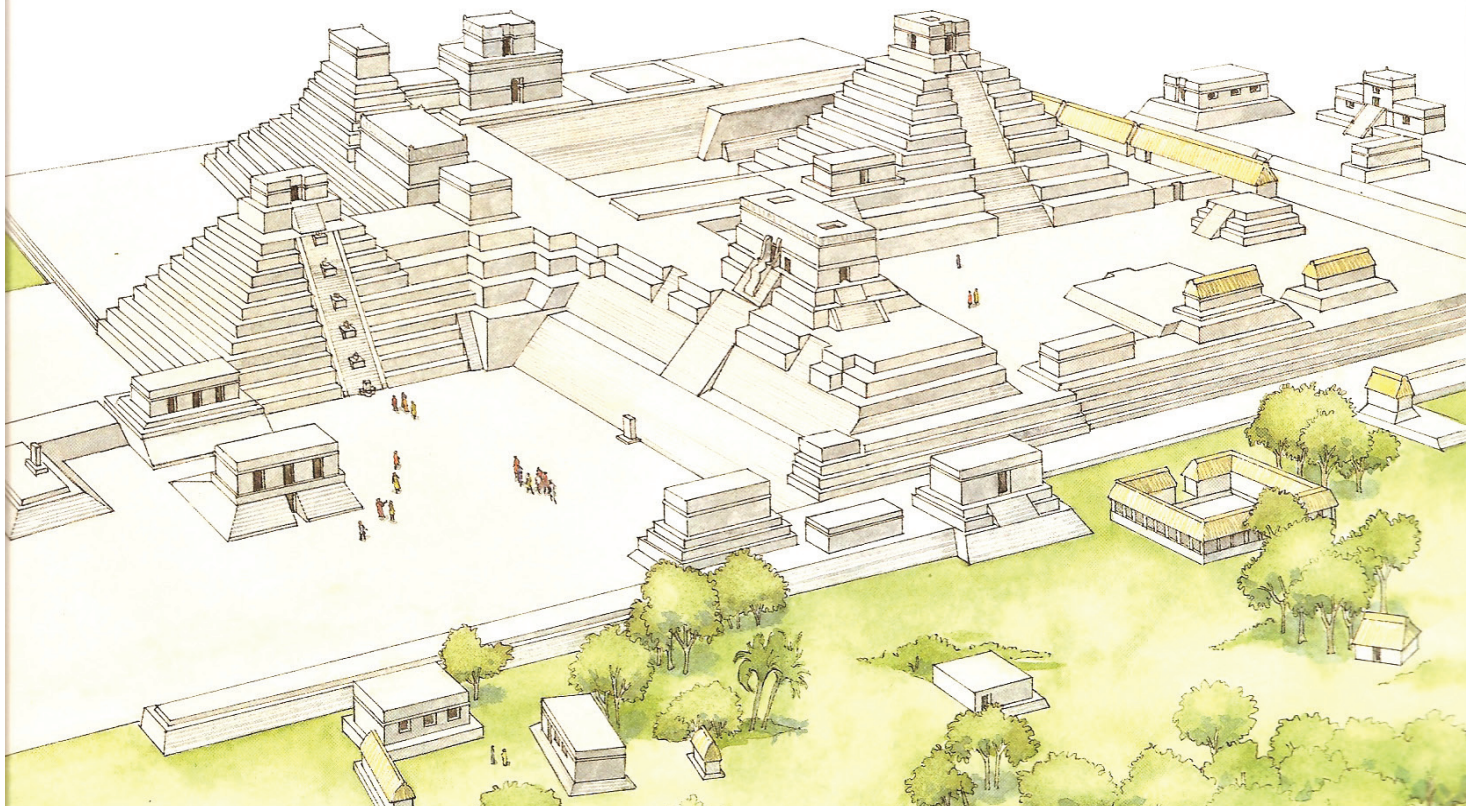
Some rooms seem to have been entered through the roof, by using ladders, rather than by doors. No one is sure what the towers were used for at Cliff Palace. They could possibly have been defensive lookouts, or perhaps observatories for viewing the position of the sun.

earth with wooden temples appeared, that were very much like Mayan cities.

But most spectacular of all North American early towns are the towns in the deserts of the southwest of the United States. In Mesa Verde in Colorado, North American Indians built huge terraced houses in the shelter of the *mesa's* overhanging cliffs. These cliff

dwellings housed hundreds of people. The people of Mesa Verde were farmers and traces of their fields can still be seen on top of the mesa.

Five hundred years before Columbus set foot in America, native Americans had achieved much that was equivalent to what their contemporaries had achieved in Europe.





BADGE

Family badges were known as "mon." They were painted on items such as armor and banners. This is the butterfly mon of the Ashikaga family.

LAYERED TOWER

There were often several towers in a castle to allow the defenders to fire on the enemy from different angles. The gates also often had single-story towers over them. The heart of the castle was the main tower which, built on an earthen mound, was several stories high. In later castles the base was protected by stone, and the structure above was made of wood. To reduce the fire risk, wooden parts of the towers were often thickly plastered and the gates covered with iron plates. Towers like this one at Himeji castle served as command centers, watchtowers, and storage areas. In the upper floors were quarters for the lord.



Highly decorated gable indicates the great power of the lord

Wooden upper story

Pagoda-like roof with broad overhang

Narrow window openings

Plastered outer wall

Roof of wooden shingles

Inner wooden framework

Gun loop

Ground floor protected by dressed stone slabs

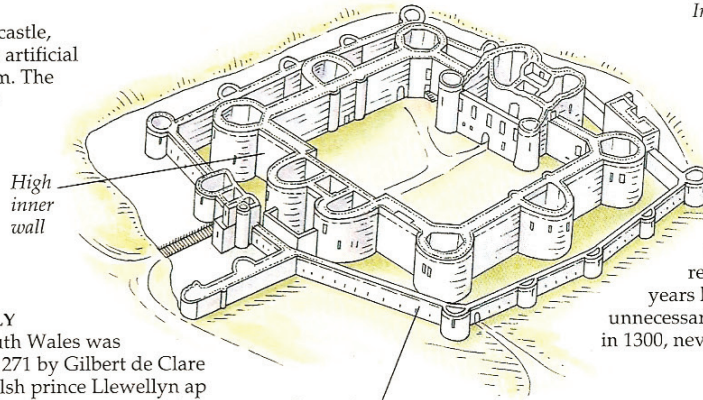


LET THERE BE LIGHT
 This is not an arrow loop but a window in Caerphilly castle, large enough to allow light and air through to the rooms inside. Even so, windows might have iron grilles to keep out intruders. Glass was rare, and shutters were used in bad weather.



WATER DEFENSES

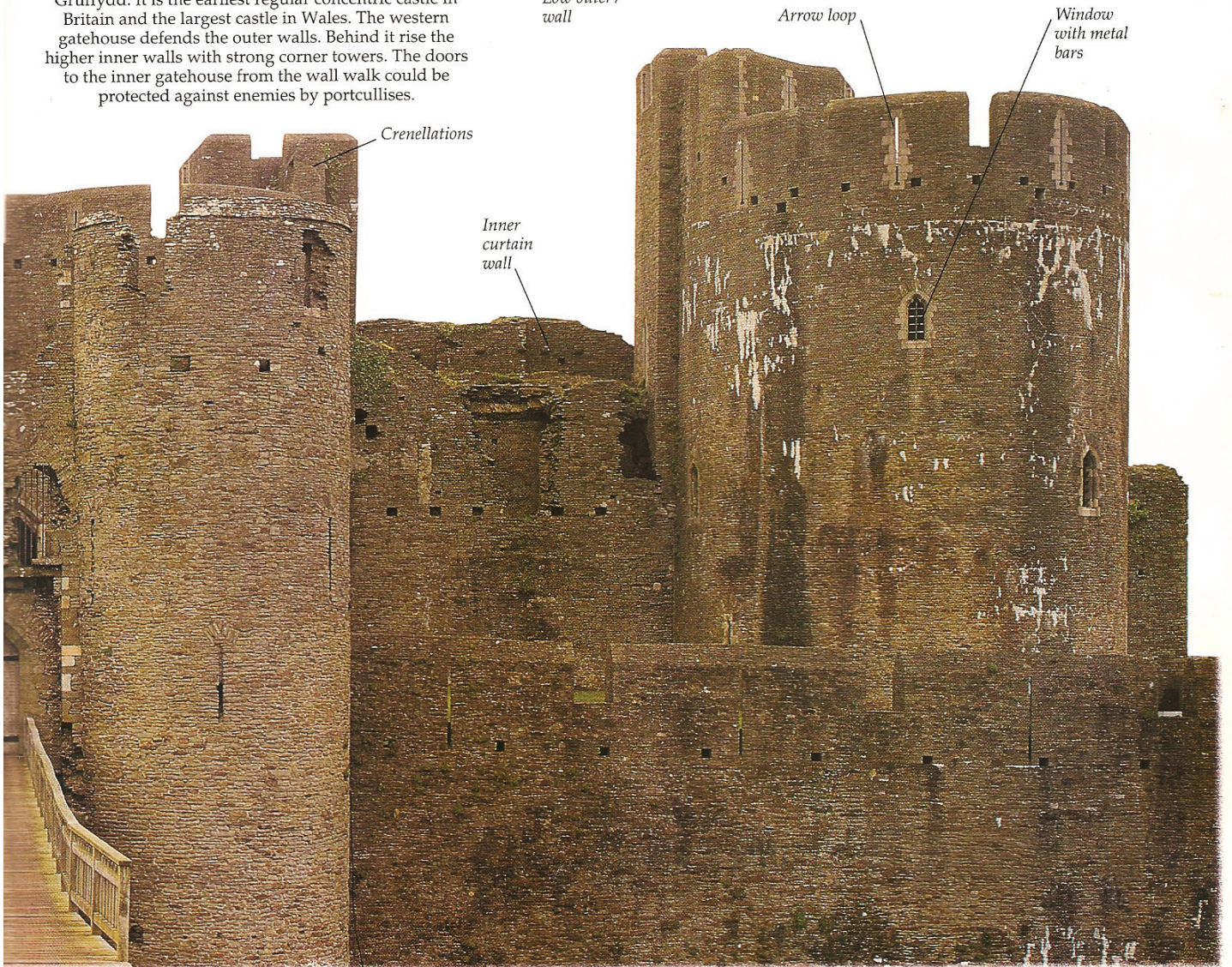
Probably inspired by Kenilworth castle, England, Caerphilly sits in a huge artificial lake, formed by damming a stream. The lake prevented attempts to tunnel under the walls and forced siege machines to keep their distance.



EDWARDIAN CASTLE
 Edward I of England built many huge castles in North Wales to try and control the hostile Welsh. Beaumaris, built on the island of Anglesey, was the last. Planned during a revolt in 1294, which was put down two years later, the concentric defenses became unnecessary and building stopped in 1300, never to be completed.

CAERPHILLY

Caerphilly castle in South Wales was built mainly between 1268 and 1271 by Gilbert de Clare during his struggles with the Welsh prince Llewellyn ap Gruffydd. It is the earliest regular concentric castle in Britain and the largest castle in Wales. The western gatehouse defends the outer walls. Behind it rise the higher inner walls with strong corner towers. The doors to the inner gatehouse from the wall walk could be protected against enemies by portcullises.



s of the Middle Ages

of years, knights were the most powerful soldiers
re most important people in Europe. They were
it for about 500 years in the Middle Ages (also
ieval period), from 1000 to the 1500s. Society
Ages was like a pyramid. Each knight served a
who, in turn, held his estates by giving loyalty
ce of his knights to the king. The first knights
liers on horseback who served local lords. But
o often had a lot of land but not much money—
to keep the knights properly equipped. So they
hts land instead of supporting them. The knights
ords, and the people on their land paid rent
or them.

Pyramid

in medieval Europe lived by a
ngement known as the feudal
; was at the top, the barons and
ow, and the farmers and serfs
ll were connected by a complex
and obligations, some of
ated here.



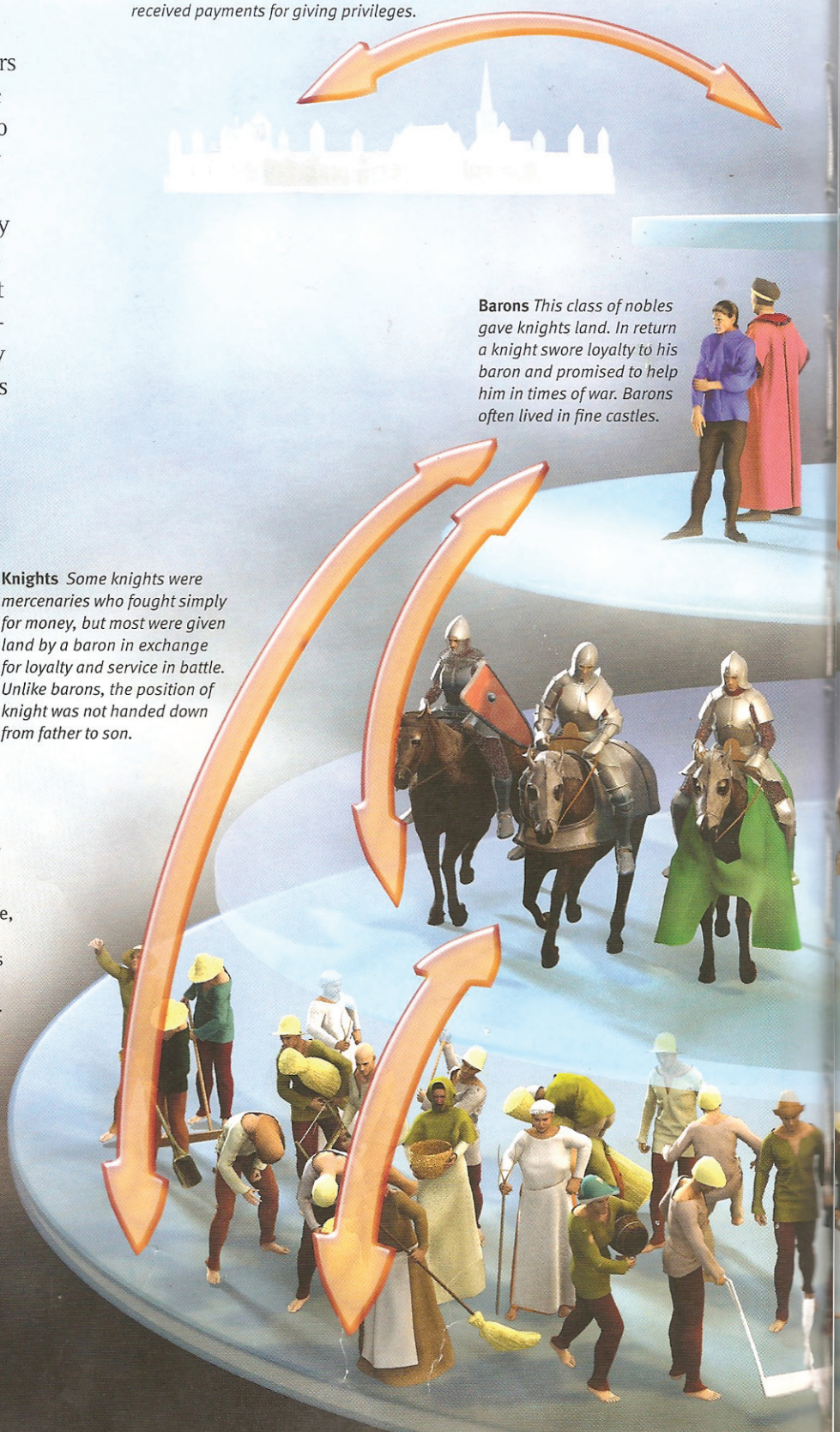
The knight in shining armor.

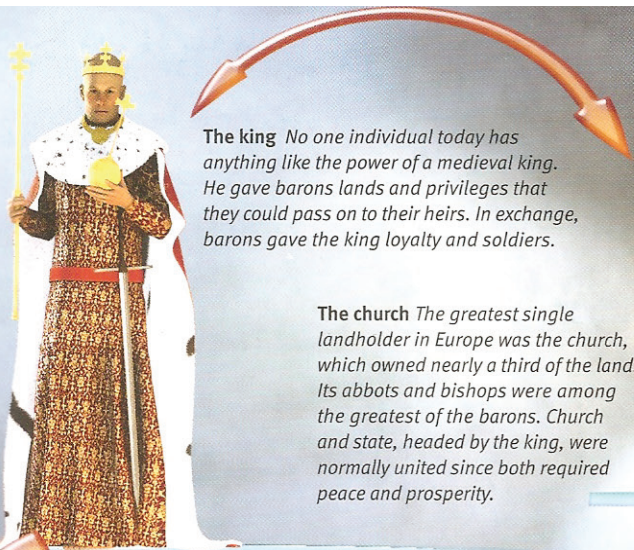
We often think of knights as romantic, adventurous figures always ready to ride to the rescue, and that is exactly how knights liked to think of themselves. This English drawing from the 1300s shows a knight slaying a dragon.

Cities and towns Urban society was a miniature copy of the world outside the city walls: the mayor governed, with a council of rich traders (like barons), and the workmen and craftsmen paid them rents. Kings generally did not interfere, but they received payments for giving privileges.

Barons This class of nobles gave knights land. In return a knight swore loyalty to his baron and promised to help him in times of war. Barons often lived in fine castles.

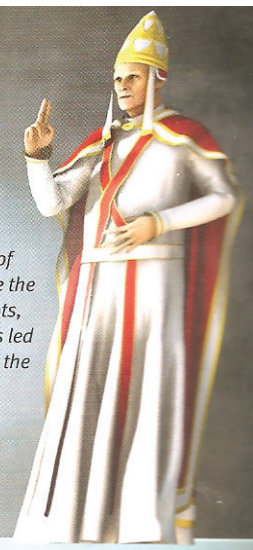
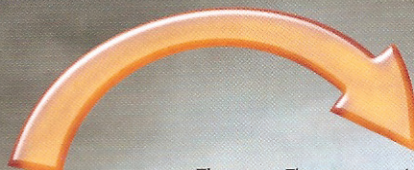
Knights Some knights were mercenaries who fought simply for money, but most were given land by a baron in exchange for loyalty and service in battle. Unlike barons, the position of knight was not handed down from father to son.



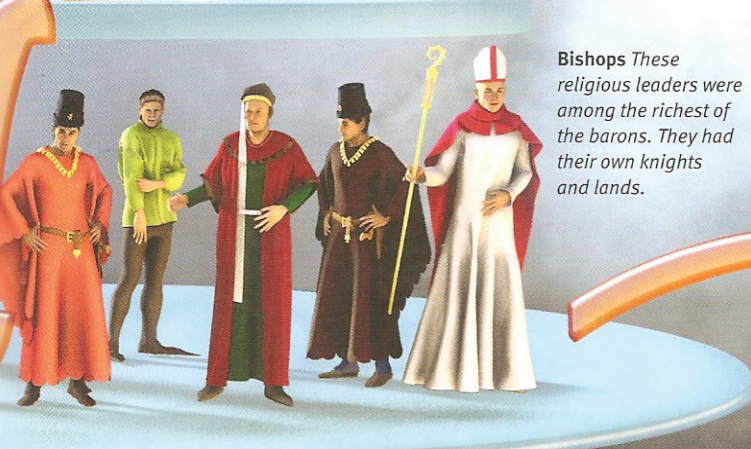


The king No one individual today has anything like the power of a medieval king. He gave barons lands and privileges that they could pass on to their heirs. In exchange, barons gave the king loyalty and soldiers.

The church The greatest single landholder in Europe was the church, which owned nearly a third of the land. Its abbots and bishops were among the greatest of the barons. Church and state, headed by the king, were normally united since both required peace and prosperity.



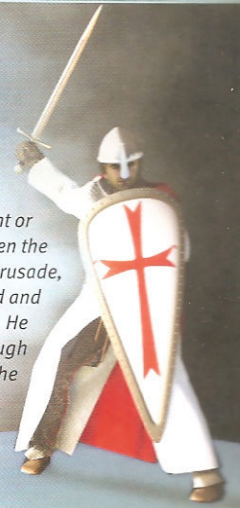
The pope The pope was head of the church, and had to approve the appointment of bishops, abbots, and even kings. This sometimes led to bitter disputes, especially in the election of bishops.



Bishops These religious leaders were among the richest of the barons. They had their own knights and lands.

Tithe A tax of a tenth of food produced was owed by farmers each year to the church. The church used this wealth to pay salaries and maintain its buildings.

Crusaders When a knight or baron, or sometimes even the king, decided to go on crusade, his lands were protected and his rents were kept safe. He expected salvation through his action, especially if he died in the Holy Land.



Farmers, laborers, and serfs Most people lived and worked on land owned by knights and barons. In exchange they gave their labor and paid rent in cash or some of the food they produced. The majority were tied to the land and could not move away.



CHAPTER 2

Life in the Castle

An Early Feudal Castle

In the Dark Ages, the Roman fortifications were dismantled and their stones used for building houses and churches. When castles begin to appear again during the 9th and 10th centuries, they are constructed from wood.

The castle pictured here is typical of the earliest Norman fortifications. As the Normans conquer lands in northern France, England, and Italy, they need strongholds that can be erected quickly and defended against the hostile natives. Many of these wooden structures take the form known as the motte-and-bailey castle.

The motte, or mound, is surrounded by a fortified enclosure called a bailey. The bailey is protected by a ditch, the earth from which is thrown up to form a steep-sided bank. This raises the height an attacker must climb to reach the timber palisade that runs along the top of the bank. This “ring-work”—the term usually applied to a castle’s outer defenses—is formed from stout tree trunks rammed into the earth and fixed together.

The Norman-style castle

A wooden platform runs along inside the palisade to form a walkway, and the space below is sometimes filled in with earth to thicken the base of the palisade. Inside the ring-work stands the motte, usually about 15–30 feet high, sometimes surrounded by a second ring-work. The top of the mound is flattened and on its summit stands a tall wooden tower, called a keep or *donjon*.

Where the palisade is pierced by a gate, a second area of enclosed ground forms the bailey. Another ditch and palisade surrounds the bailey, and the two fortifications are connected by a wooden walkway or ramp.

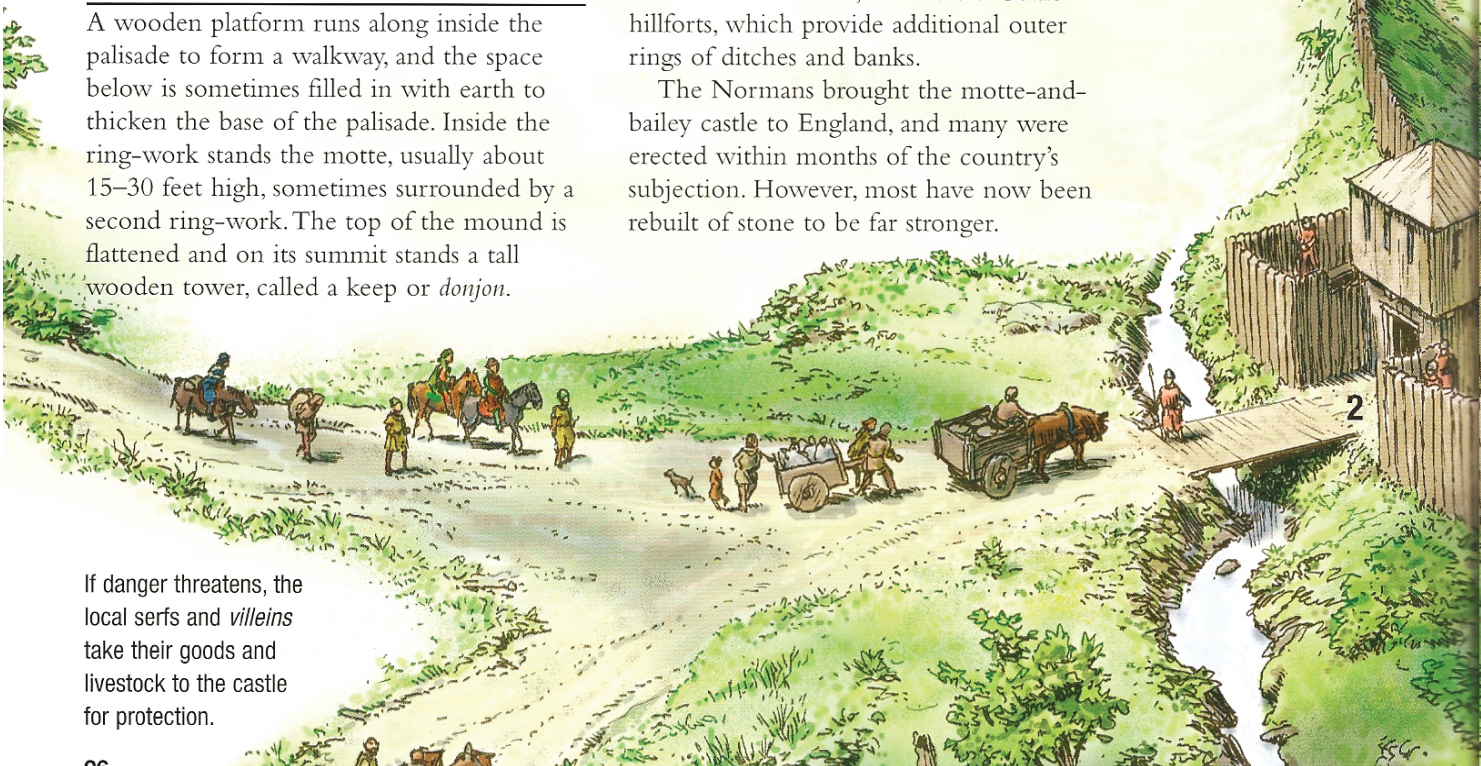
The bailey contains a kitchen, barns, stores, stables, animal pens for livestock, workshops for carpenters and smiths, a chapel and a well, as well as domestic quarters for the lord’s retainers and servants.

Using the lie of the land

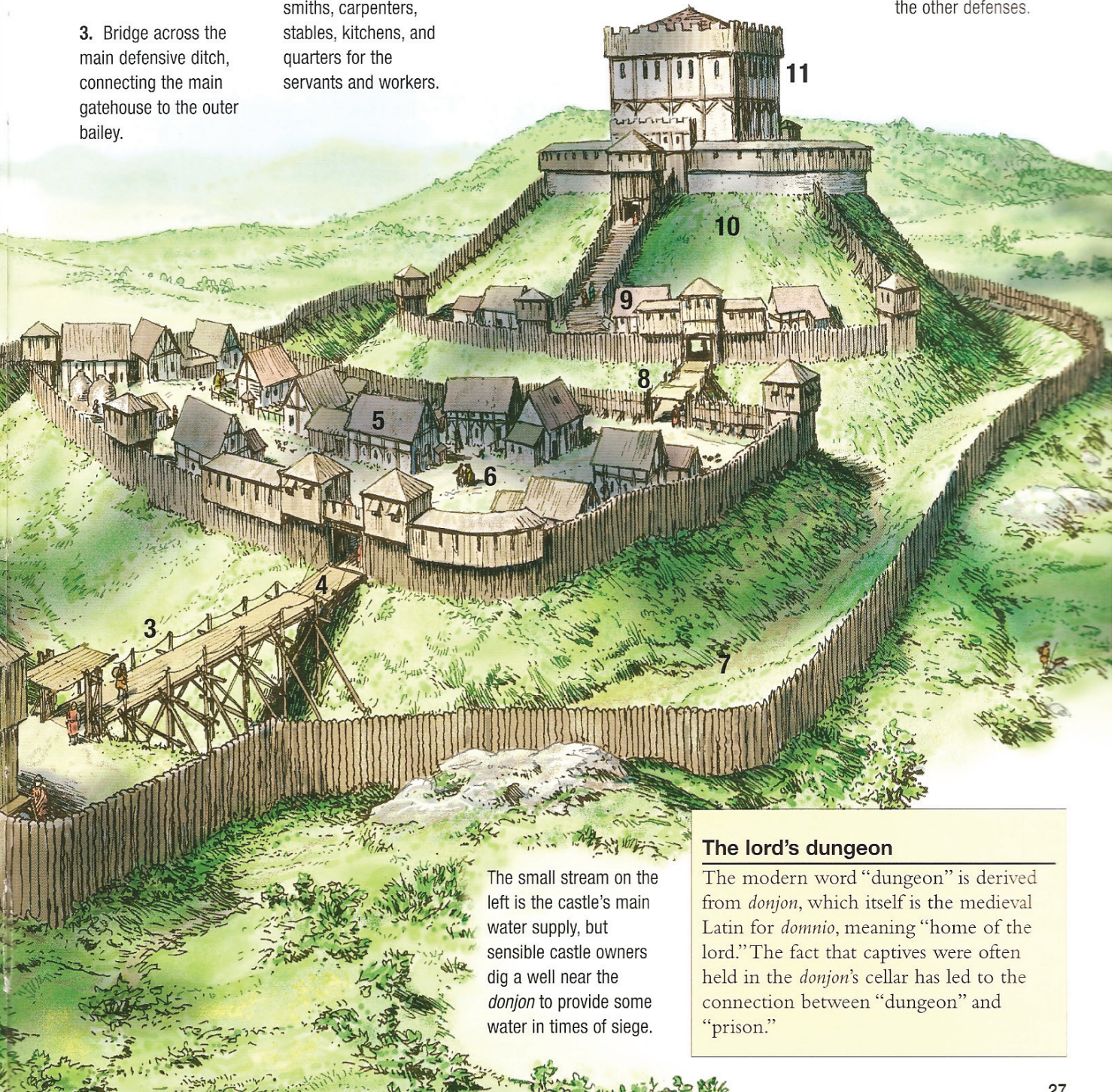
The exact layout of these motte-and-bailey castles varies considerably, depending on the features of the local terrain. For instance, an existing hill or rise in the ground might be used for the motte, otherwise it must be man-made. Some early castles have even been constructed inside the remains of pre-medieval earthworks, such as old Celtic hillforts, which provide additional outer rings of ditches and banks.

The Normans brought the motte-and-bailey castle to England, and many were erected within months of the country’s subjection. However, most have now been rebuilt of stone to be far stronger.

If danger threatens, the local serfs and *villeins* take their goods and livestock to the castle for protection.



1. Wooden palisade standing on top of a rampart made from earth dug out of the ditch.
2. The castle's main gateway, with defensive extensions of the palisade on either side.
3. Bridge across the main defensive ditch, connecting the main gatehouse to the outer bailey.
4. The drawbridge can be raised to prevent attackers from reaching the secondary gatehouse in the palisade surrounding the outer bailey.
5. Outer bailey, with its several buildings for smiths, carpenters, stables, kitchens, and quarters for the servants and workers.
6. Outer bailey well, usually used only in times of siege.
7. The main ditch completely surrounds the entire castle inside the palisade.
8. Walkway over the cross-ditch, connecting the outer bailey to the inner bailey, with its own gatehouse.
9. Inner bailey, with lord's stables and armed retainers' quarters.
10. Raised motte.
11. The wooden *donjon* or castle keep stands on top of the motte. It only has small windows on the upper floor to make it easier to defend against attackers who might break through all the other defenses.



The small stream on the left is the castle's main water supply, but sensible castle owners dig a well near the *donjon* to provide some water in times of siege.

The lord's dungeon

The modern word "dungeon" is derived from *donjon*, which itself is the medieval Latin for *domnio*, meaning "home of the lord." The fact that captives were often held in the *donjon's* cellar has led to the connection between "dungeon" and "prison."

Need for castles

ere the fortified homes of lords in feudal societies. they were built to secure possession of conquered but for centuries they served to maintain the power in times of peace as well as war. During the ages, alliances could change quickly, and the castle a place of refuge for a lord and his supporters if he needed. A castle was also the base for the lord's own campaigns. In times of peace, the castle was a center of administration and industry, and an intimidating symbol of power and wealth to the lord's many tenants.

An ideal castle

Given a free hand on a flat site, castle builders favored a symmetrical design and defense in depth, so that each part of the castle overlooked the area farther out. This way, archers could be stationed at several levels, each firing at the enemy outside. The result was the concentric castle, which provided massive strength but limited accommodation inside.

A DRAWBRIDGE WORKS

spot in a castle was the entrance, normally protected by a drawbridge. This could be raised or lowered by guards in a room above.

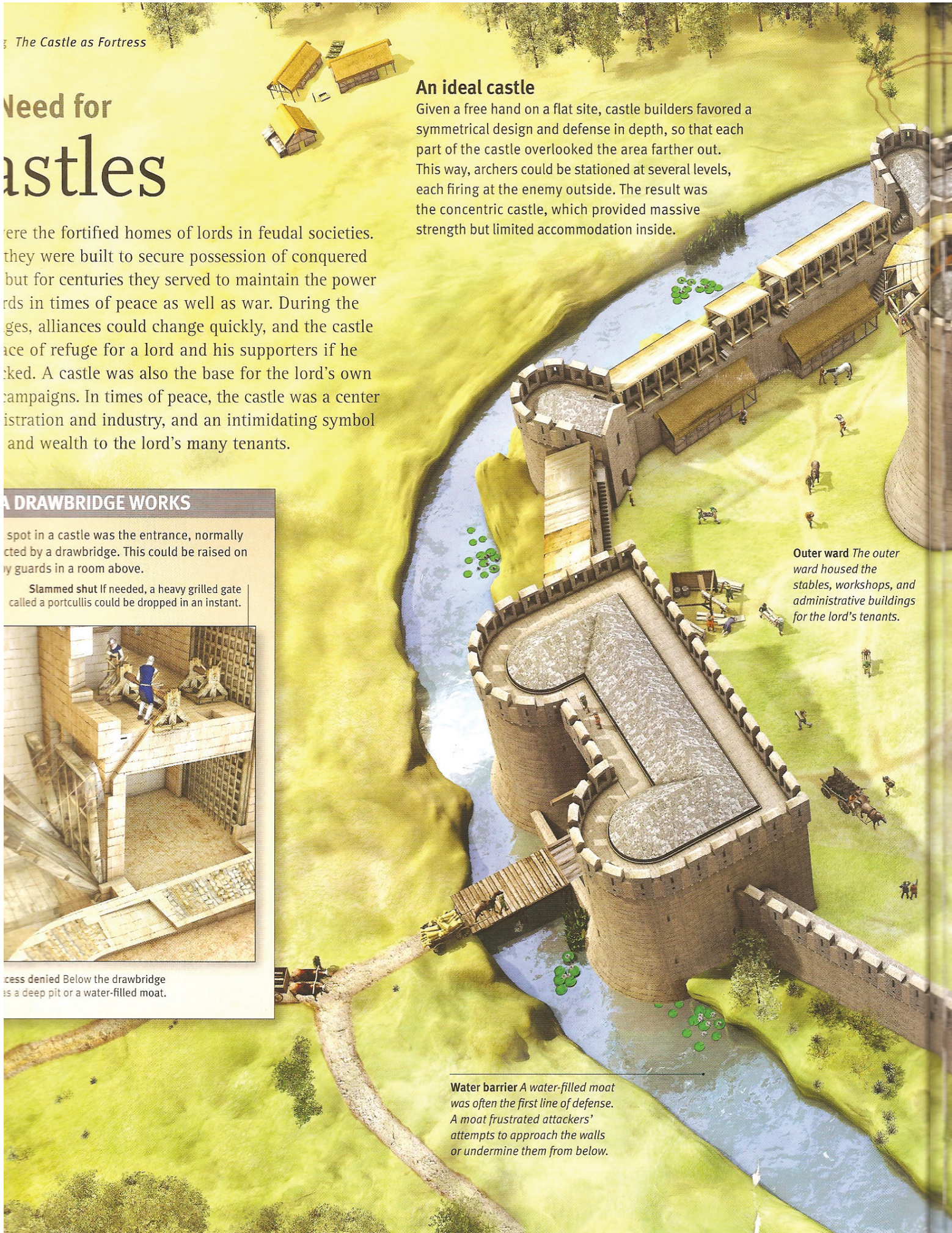
Slammed shut If needed, a heavy grilled gate called a portcullis could be dropped in an instant.



Access denied Below the drawbridge is a deep pit or a water-filled moat.

Outer ward The outer ward housed the stables, workshops, and administrative buildings for the lord's tenants.

Water barrier A water-filled moat was often the first line of defense. A moat frustrated attackers' attempts to approach the walls or undermine them from below.



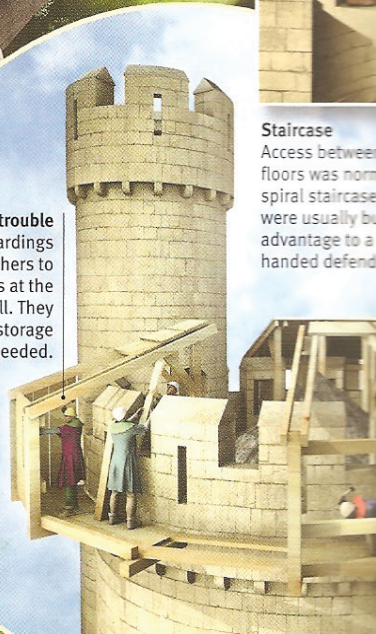


Bird's-eye view
Archers used turrets to get a commanding view of the entire castle and the country beyond.



Staircase
Access between floors was normally via spiral staircase. They were usually built in a way that allowed for a one-handed defense.

Preparing for trouble
Wooden hoardings allowed archers to fire at enemies at the base of the wall. They were kept in storage until needed.



Drum tower
Massive cylindrical towers provided defense and useful rooms inside for accommodation.

Outer wall The outer wall was about 30 feet (9 m) high and was overlooked by the towers and the wall of the inner courtyard.

Inner ward The inner ward was the central part of the castle, containing the hall, chamber, chapel, and kitchen for the lord.

The Tower of London, England Castle to Kings

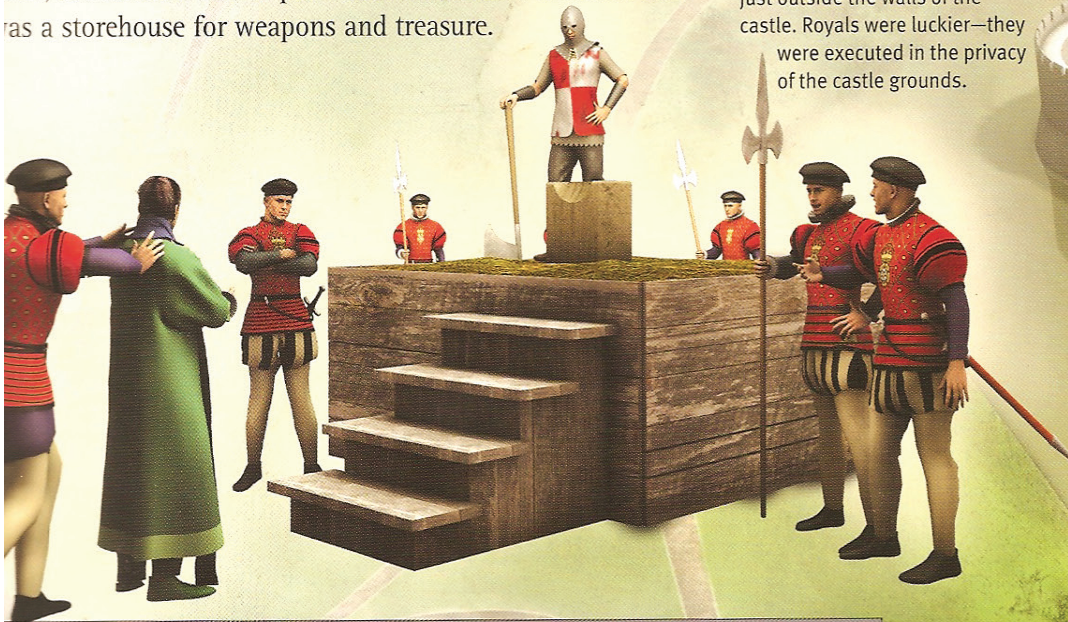
In 1066, the Norman French conquered England. The Norman king, William the Conqueror, chose London as his capital. To control the city, he decided to build a great tower in the corner of the old Roman walls. This became known as the White Tower, for the color of its stone. Over the next three centuries, a huge castle complex, called the Tower of London, was constructed around the White Tower, protected by walls and a moat. Originally, this castle was the center of royal power and a refuge for the royal family in times of disorder. Later, it became a feared prison for enemies of the state and was a storehouse for weapons and treasure.

Capital castle

This is a bird's-eye view of the Tower of London in about 1600. At this time, the castle complex included the royal apartments, a church and burial ground, the royal mint, a storage place for gunpowder, and the royal arsenal—a mass of storerooms and workshops where cannons were made.

Losing your head

Execution by beheading was normally reserved for nobles convicted of treason. Beheadings usually took place at Tower Hill, just outside the walls of the castle. Royals were luckier—they were executed in the privacy of the castle grounds.



THE TOWER TODAY

The Tower of London is still a royal fortress, with a garrison and an arsenal. Thousands of people visit each year to see one of the most historic spots in England.

Tower treasures The Crown Jewels and other treasures, including royal armor, are kept inside the Tower, in a strongroom built for the purpose.

Beefeaters A garrison of Yeoman Warders (popularly known as “Beefeaters”) guard the Tower and guide visitors. They are all retired soldiers.



THE TOWER OF LONDON: THE FACTS

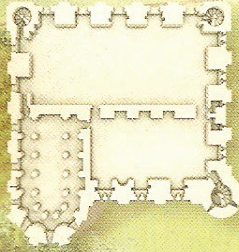
WHEN IT WAS BUILT: C. 1100

WHERE IT WAS BUILT: London, England

WHO BUILT IT: William the Conqueror

MATERIALS: Limestone

SIZE: White Tower: 107 by 118 feet (33 x 36 m);
castle complex: 18 acres (7.3 ha)



Traitors Gate Prisoners committed to the Tower of London were taken by boat down the Thames River and through this gate.

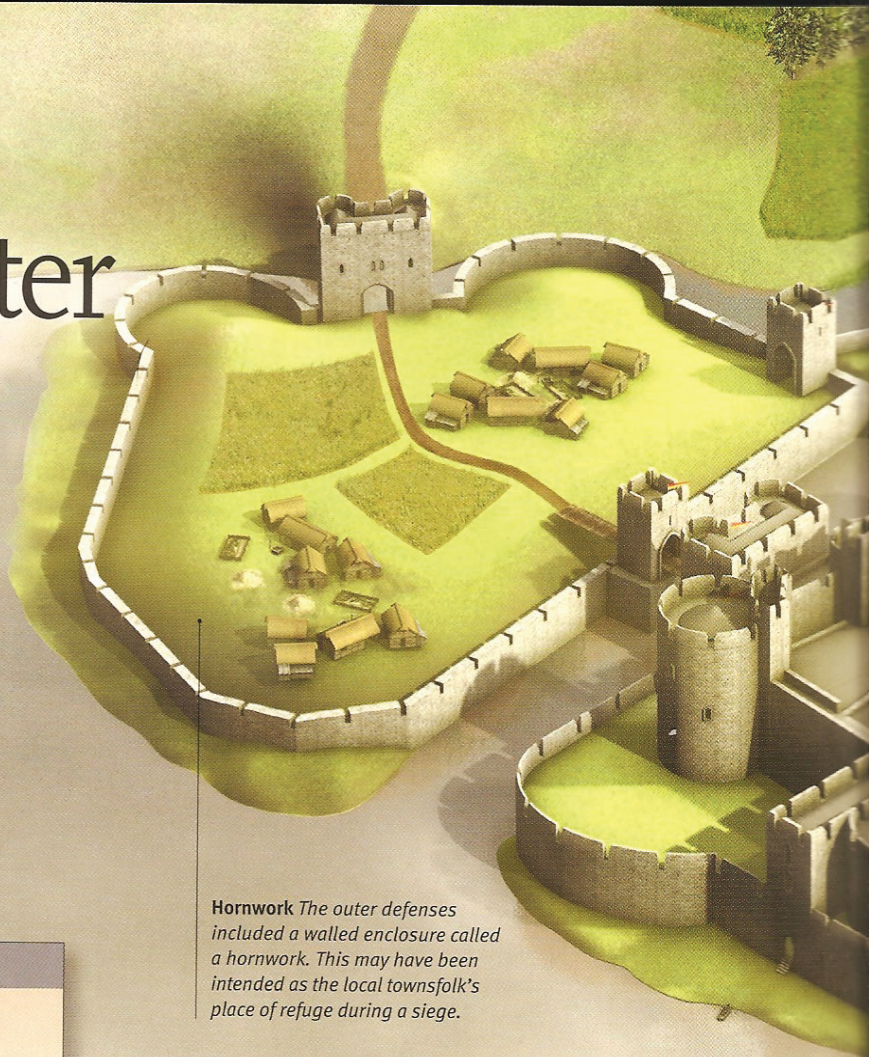


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Caerphilly, Wales

Shielded by Water

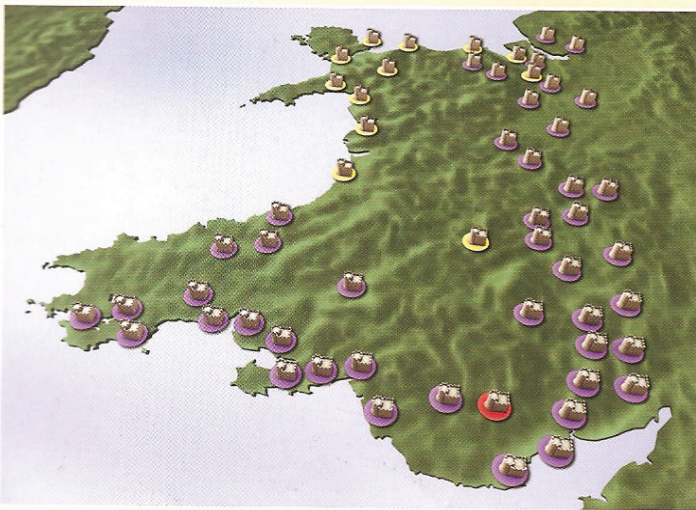
Wales is often called “the land of castles.” Centuries of struggle for control of this corner of Britain have left a legacy of hundreds of castles, some of which represent the pinnacle of castle design. In 1266 Gilbert de Clare, one of the greatest nobles in England, seized territory from Llewelyn the Last, “Last” because he was the last prince of an independent Wales. Gilbert began to build a vast new castle at Caerphilly to control his estates. Llewelyn attacked but was driven off, and the castle was completed soon after. Caerphilly soon lost its importance as a fortress, though it remained an administrative center, and was attacked during the civil wars of the 1320s and 1640s.



Hornwork The outer defenses included a walled enclosure called a hornwork. This may have been intended as the local townsfolk's place of refuge during a siege.

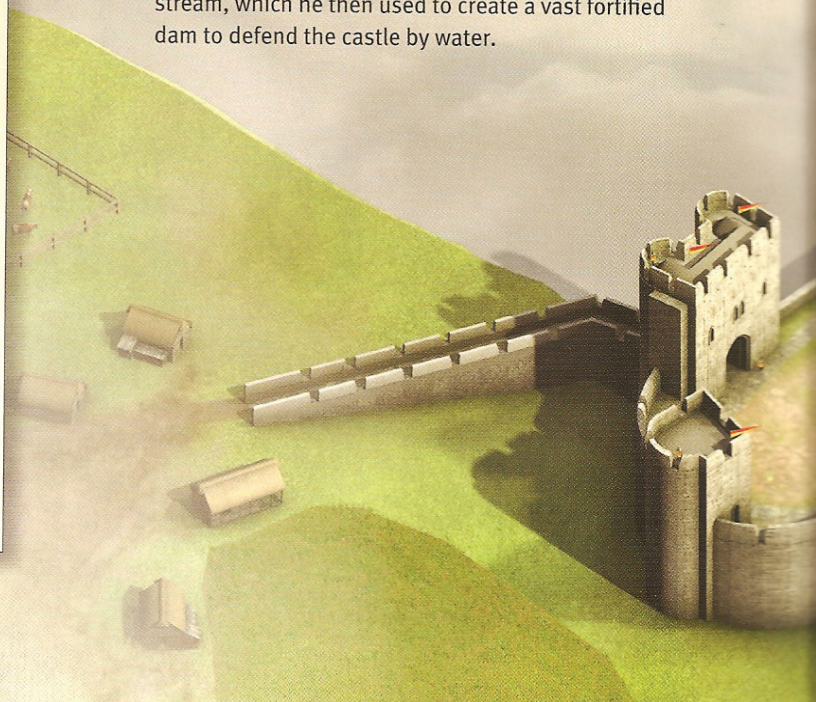
THE CONQUEST OF WALES

Not long after the Normans conquered England in 1066, they began to conquer the territory of the Welsh. To secure these lands, the Norman lords built many castles (which are marked in purple below). Caerphilly (in red) is the greatest of these castles. Later, the native Welsh of the north fought back. In response, King Edward I of England launched two invasions, building his own castles as he went and rebuilding Welsh castles to ensure the conquest (the yellow castles on the map). By 1300 all of Wales was captured and occupied by the Norman English.



Island fortress

Gilbert de Clare had witnessed the six-month siege of Kenilworth Castle, England, in 1265–6, and was impressed at how well the water defenses had worked there. For his own castle he selected a site by a stream, which he then used to create a vast fortified dam to defend the castle by water.



CAERPHILLY: THE FACTS

WHEN IT WAS BUILT: 1268–1271

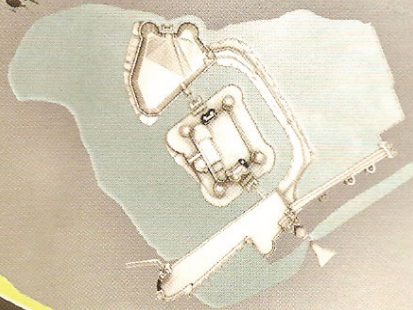
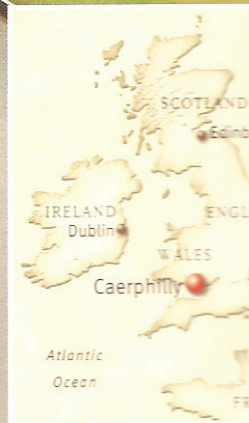
WHERE IT WAS BUILT: Caerphilly, south Wales

WHO BUILT IT: Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford and Lord of Glamorgan

MATERIALS: Limestone

SIZE: Castle complex: 30 acres (12 ha)

Last refuge *The east gatehouse was the nucleus of the castle. It could be defended even if the rest of the castle was lost.*



Waterworks *Like modern reservoirs the dam walls had sluice gates to regulate the level of the lake, and sumps to prevent the lake from flooding over the dam.*

Building the wall

The Caerphilly dam structure alone is as large as many castles and has its own gatehouses and towers. It consists of a massive earth bank with stone facing walls.



The Early Medieval Village

At the heart of every fief is the village—a community where the *villeins* live. It is usually situated close by the local knight's castle, to offer service and receive his protection.

Ludford is a fictitious but authentic early medieval village. There are various reasons for its siting, but the most important is that the castle guards a ford, which crosses the river at the highest point barges can reach from the nearby sea. The road here is an old Roman route, and much trade is carried along it. The knight can increase his wealth by charging a toll on all merchants traveling north or south on the road.

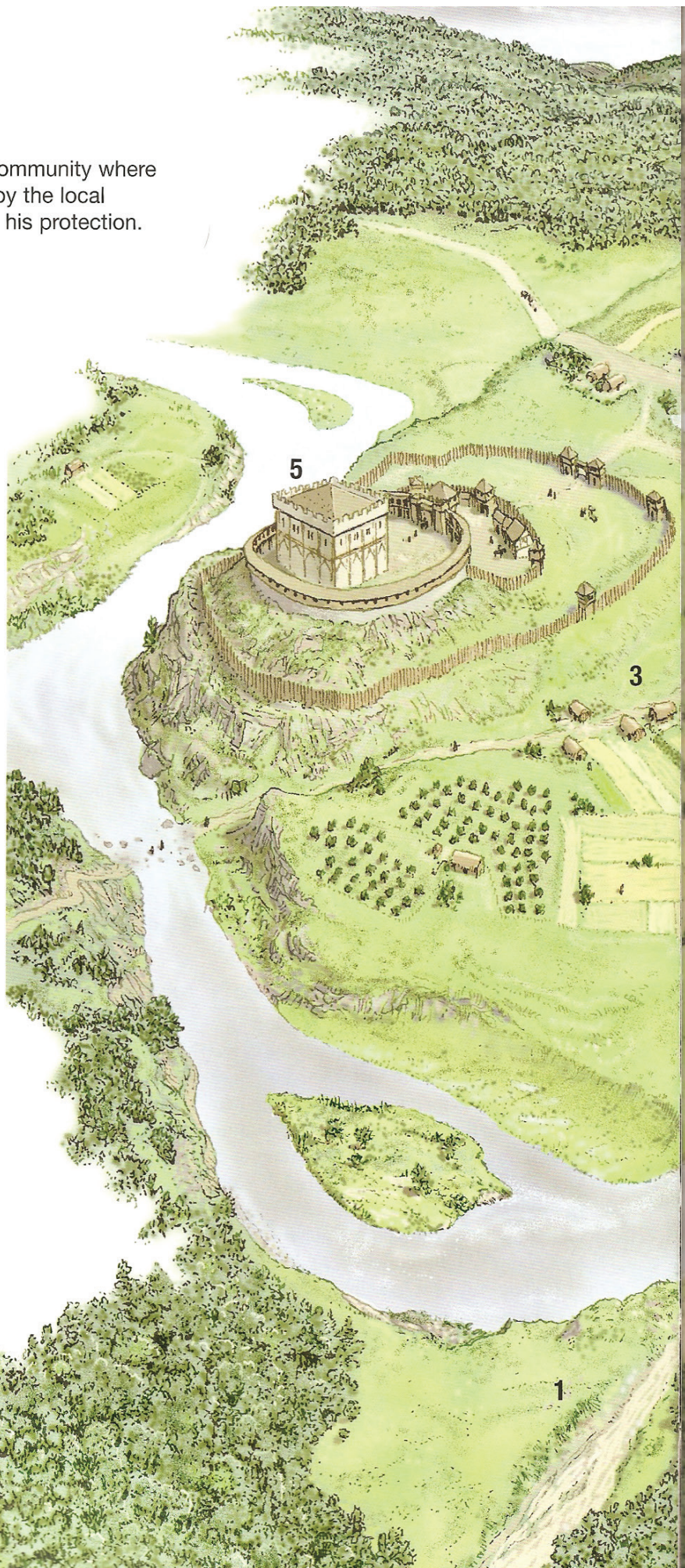
Ludford's lord is Sir Edmund, a knight of some eminence, and his manor (see "Lord of the manor") boasts a castle of a type called *motte and bailey* (see pages 26–27), a simple affair built on the low rising hill beyond the village. The land around the river crossing was cleared long ago during Roman times and provides plenty of fertile ground for farming.

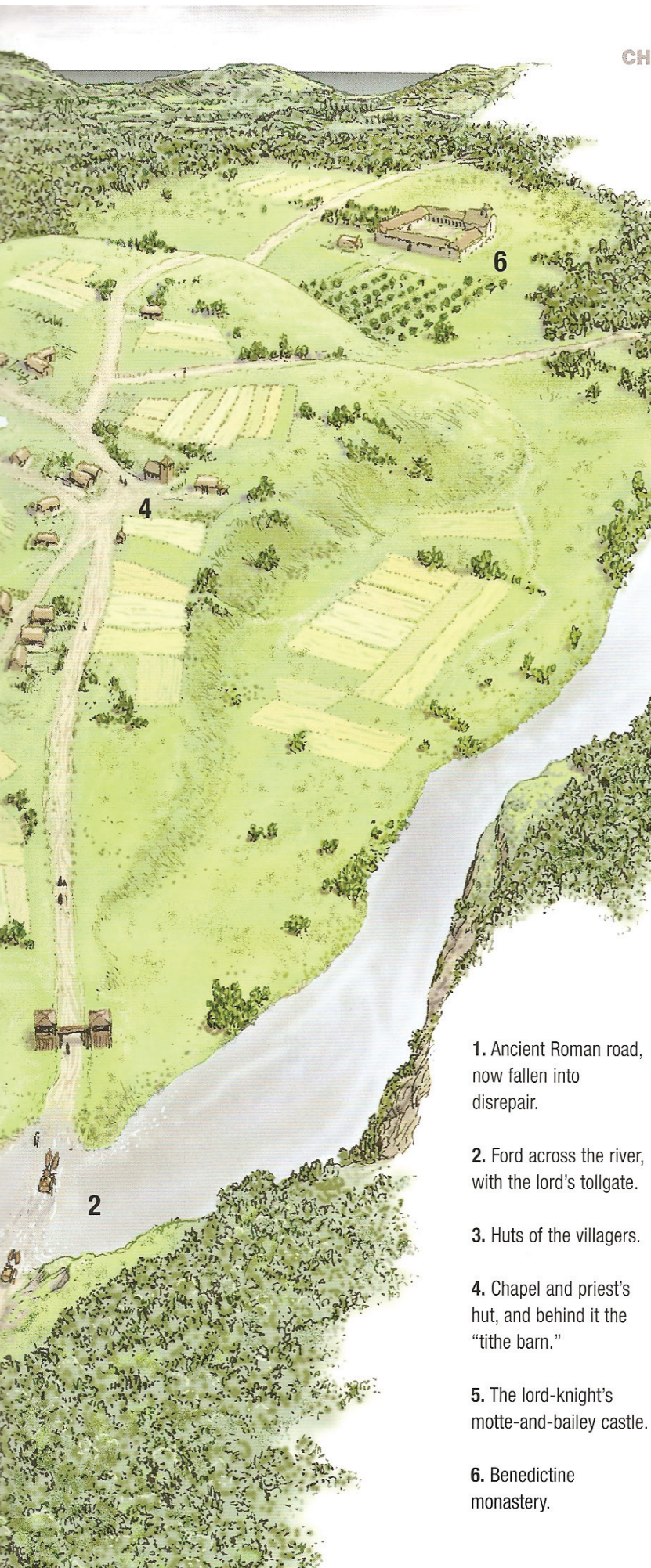
Everyone is a farmer

Ludford's population is less than a hundred men, women, and children. Almost all of them work in the fields, although some women and a few men are also employed in the castle, doing menial jobs in the stables and kitchen.

Some of the population are peasant farmers, who rent their land from either the local priest or from Sir Edmund, the rest are his *serfs*.

Children are also expected to toil in the fields, with the youngest looking after the pigs and poultry. There is no school, since no one needs to be able to read, write, or count any more than a handful of farm animals.





1. Ancient Roman road, now fallen into disrepair.
2. Ford across the river, with the lord's tollgate.
3. Huts of the villagers.
4. Chapel and priest's hut, and behind it the "tithe barn."
5. The lord-knight's motte-and-bailey castle.
6. Benedictine monastery.

Religious observance

Ludford has a small church and a priest who lives in a hut beside it. He also acts as chaplain to the castle, and survives on the rent from peasants living on the nearby church lands, tithes from the villagers, as well as a small stipend (salary) from the knight.

However, the monastery at some distance from the village also provides religious counsel. Its monks share the knight's revenue from tolls and exact tithes (see pages 48–49) on the villagers in return for providing medical care.

Beyond the outskirts of the village, the dark forest closes in, isolating Ludford from its nearest neighbors miles away.

The peasant's hut

At this stage of its development, Ludford consists of about 30 families living in rough huts. These are typically of one or two rooms (see page 20), constructed of simple timber frames filled in with dried turf or "wattle and daub"—a screen of small branches covered in a mud made from soil and cow dung, whitewashed after drying out. The floor is just stamped-down dirt. A portion of the house is divided off as a "byre" to stable the livestock in winter.

The roof is a thatch of straw or river rushes. There are neither chimneys nor real windows. Smoke from the hearth escapes through a hole in the roof. Furnishings are few—simple stools, a trestle table, and beds on the floor made from rushes, straw, or leaves.

Lord of the manor

From the Latin *manere* (to remain, or dwell), manor is the term that describes a feudal lord's estate. A manor consists of a fortified manor house (or castle), one or more villages, and up to several thousand acres of land divided into meadow, pasture, cultivated fields, and forest.

The farm land is divided into three—about half for the lord of the manor, about a third for the church, and the remainder for the peasants and serfs. Peasants who rent land, called a croft, pay for it by giving at least half of every week to work for the lord and the church.

CHAPTER 4

Life in a Medieval Town

The Growth of Towns

Before the Black Death, most towns had been little more than marketplaces for the selling of local produce. But a series of social revolutions has changed all that.

The small village of Ludford as seen on pages 16–17 has changed beyond recognition. Much of the surrounding forest has vanished, a stone bridge has replaced the ford, and a large stone castle now stands in place of the old wooden motte and bailey.

Many houses of various sizes surround the castle and the chapel, which is now a bishop's cathedral. Due to the many wars of the earlier medieval period, the center of Ludford is protected by a defensive wall, although many houses and peasant huts huddle outside. How did this transformation take place?

Wool brings a new prosperity

There are several reasons for Ludford's expansion. Some growth had occurred during the 12th and 13th centuries, but in part the Black Death had a hand. In its wake, many survivors living in the depopulated countryside migrated to the nearest urban centers for protection and to find work and food. The great landowners have taken advantage of the fall in rural population by enclosing great areas of arable fields to pasture for cattle and sheep grazing.

Wool is in huge demand all over Europe, and fortunes are to be made from its sale, especially to the Flemish cloth-makers of northern Belgium and France. In turn, this has pushed even more peasants off their lands to find a living in the towns and cities.

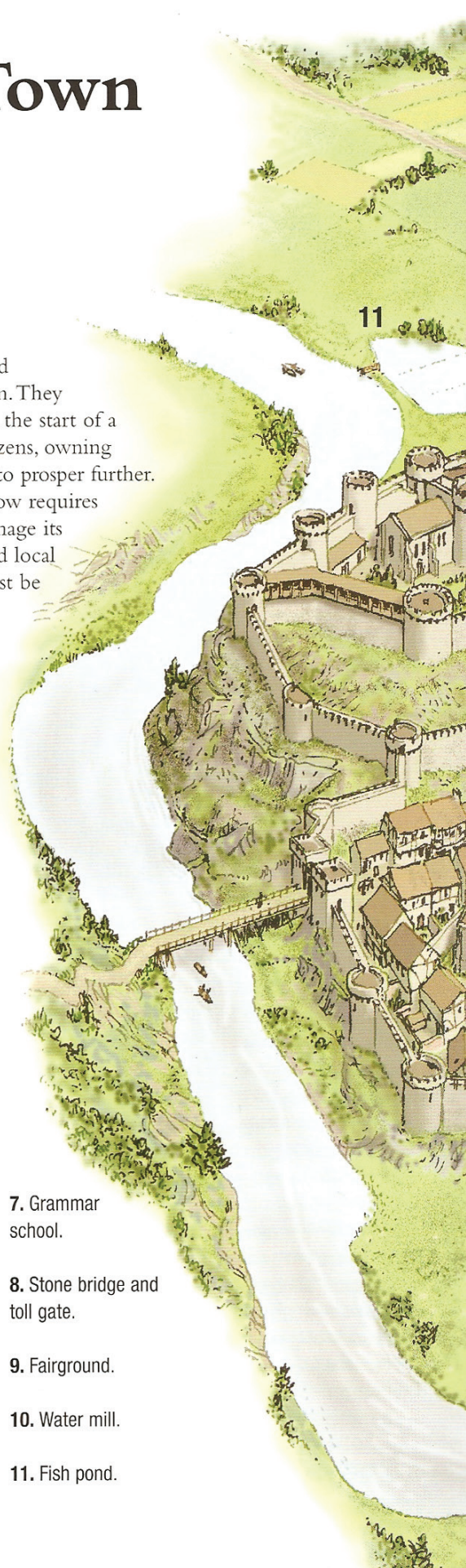
With more people coming to live in the town, like many others Ludford has had to expand its accommodation and services, which means more bureaucrats to administer civil matters. In turn, the administrators want servants, better houses, finer clothes, and more furniture and luxuries to show off their status, which means more craftsmen to make them. Artisans need bigger and better

equipped workshops and apprentices to help them. They are the town's burghers, the start of a new middle class of citizens, owning property and ambitious to prosper further.

The cathedral, too, now requires numerous clerics to manage its affairs in the diocese and local parishes. These men must be well educated, so the cathedral has added a school and a university, which is welcomed by the town's burghers.

Another class of worker has sprung up. With its valuable wool trade, the river is now busy with barges transporting the woolen bales down river to the mouth, where a port has been built. Ludford is growing larger every day.

1. The abbey.
2. Parish churches.
3. The cathedral.
4. The market hall in the main square.
5. The Tabard, town inn.
6. The lord-knight's castle.
7. Grammar school.
8. Stone bridge and toll gate.
9. Fairground.
10. Water mill.
11. Fish pond.





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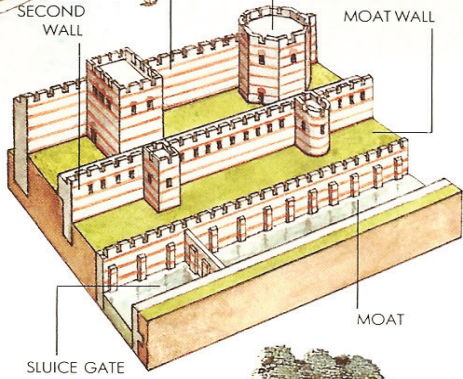
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This plan of Constantinople shows the main churches and other important buildings. The city had excellent defenses. The wall was over 12 miles in length and there was a total of 50 fortified gates.



Right. This plan of a section of the defensive walls shows how difficult the wall would have been to cross for invading armies. A moat was backed up by three successive layers of walls, and lookout towers peppered the highest, main walls.



Below. This picture shows the city walls of Byzantium, built by Theodosius in the fifth century AD, as they look today.



THE MISSIONARIES To the Catholic Church, the conversion of the *heathen* was a high priority. After the Arian *heretics* had been won over, the next targets were the tribes outside the old Roman frontiers. The monks went out on dangerous missions. St Gall, an Irishman, was one of the first, and with Frankish monks he founded monasteries in Bavaria, in south Germany.

In the AD 680s an English monk, Willibrod, converted the Frisians of Holland. It was one of his followers, Boniface, who was the most famous monk of all. From AD 719 to 741 he travelled through Germany, baptizing pagans by the thousands, closing their shrines and felling

their sacred trees. He brought his new converts into the Catholic Church, recognizing the Pope as its head. It was because of men like Boniface and Gregory that the power of the Popes took hold. From then on the Pope was to be the spiritual leader of the western world.

THE EASTERN CHURCH Constantinople sent out its missionaries too, into Asia and eastern Europe. Most famous were Cyril and his brother Methodius, who converted the Bulgarians in AD 860-5. The Bulgarians were an illiterate tribe as savage as Attila's Huns. As well as religion, Cyril gave them letters, the *Cyrillic alphabet*, which is still used in Bulgaria and Russia today.

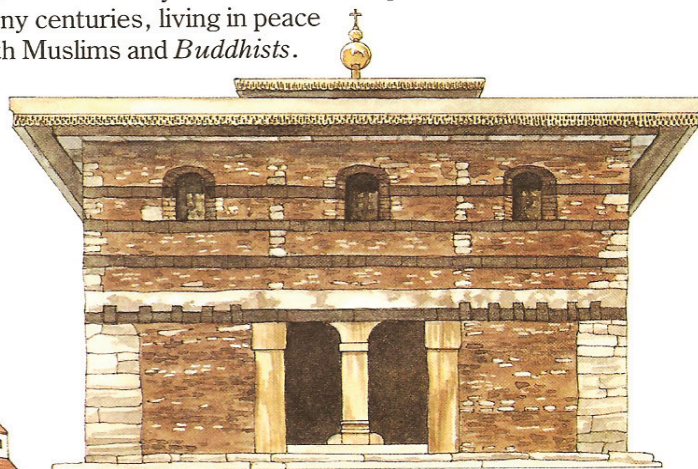
BEYOND CONSTANTINOPLE In the world even further east, in the centuries after Christ's crucifixion, Christianity had spread south and east. In Egypt the *Coptic* church ruled, and further south the kingdom of Ethiopia was Christian too. From Syria to Persia, and even further afield, almost as far as Mongolia, there were *Nestorian* Christians. These were followers of Nestorius, who had been expelled from Constantinople as a heretic. They survived in the depths of Asia for many centuries, living in peace with Muslims and *Buddhists*.



Above. To the early Christians, conversion of the 'heathens' was a high priority. First they would send missionaries out to

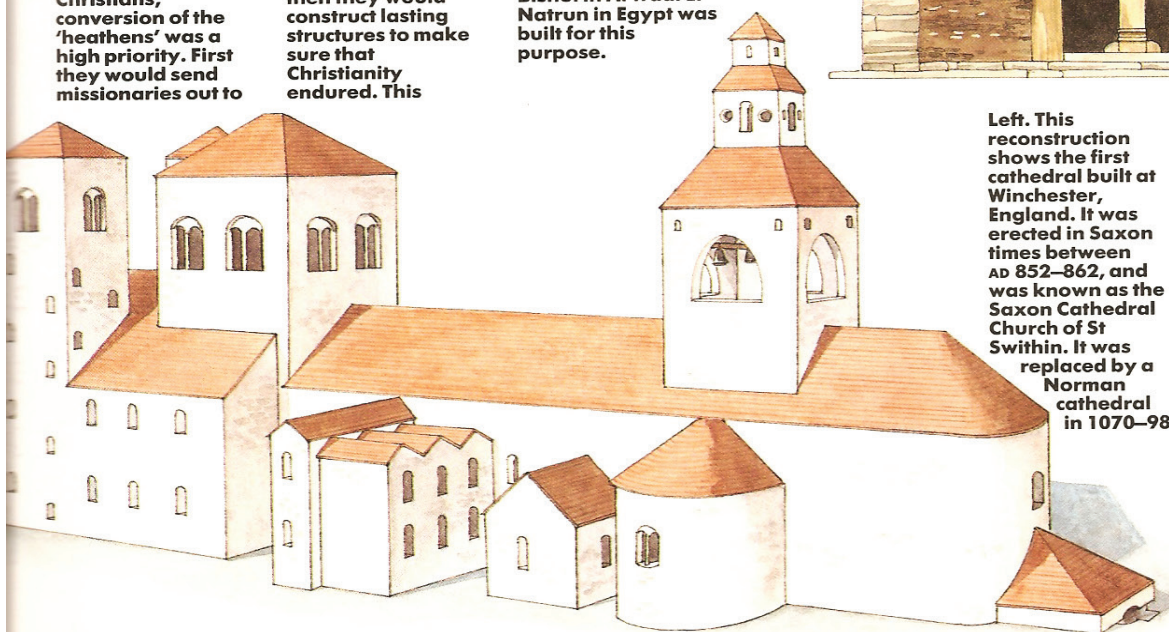
convert the people, then they would construct lasting structures to make sure that Christianity endured. This

monastery of St Bishoi in Al Wadi El Natrun in Egypt was built for this purpose.



Left. This reconstruction shows the first cathedral built at Winchester, England. It was erected in Saxon times between AD 852-862, and was known as the Saxon Cathedral Church of St Swithin. It was replaced by a Norman cathedral in 1070-98.

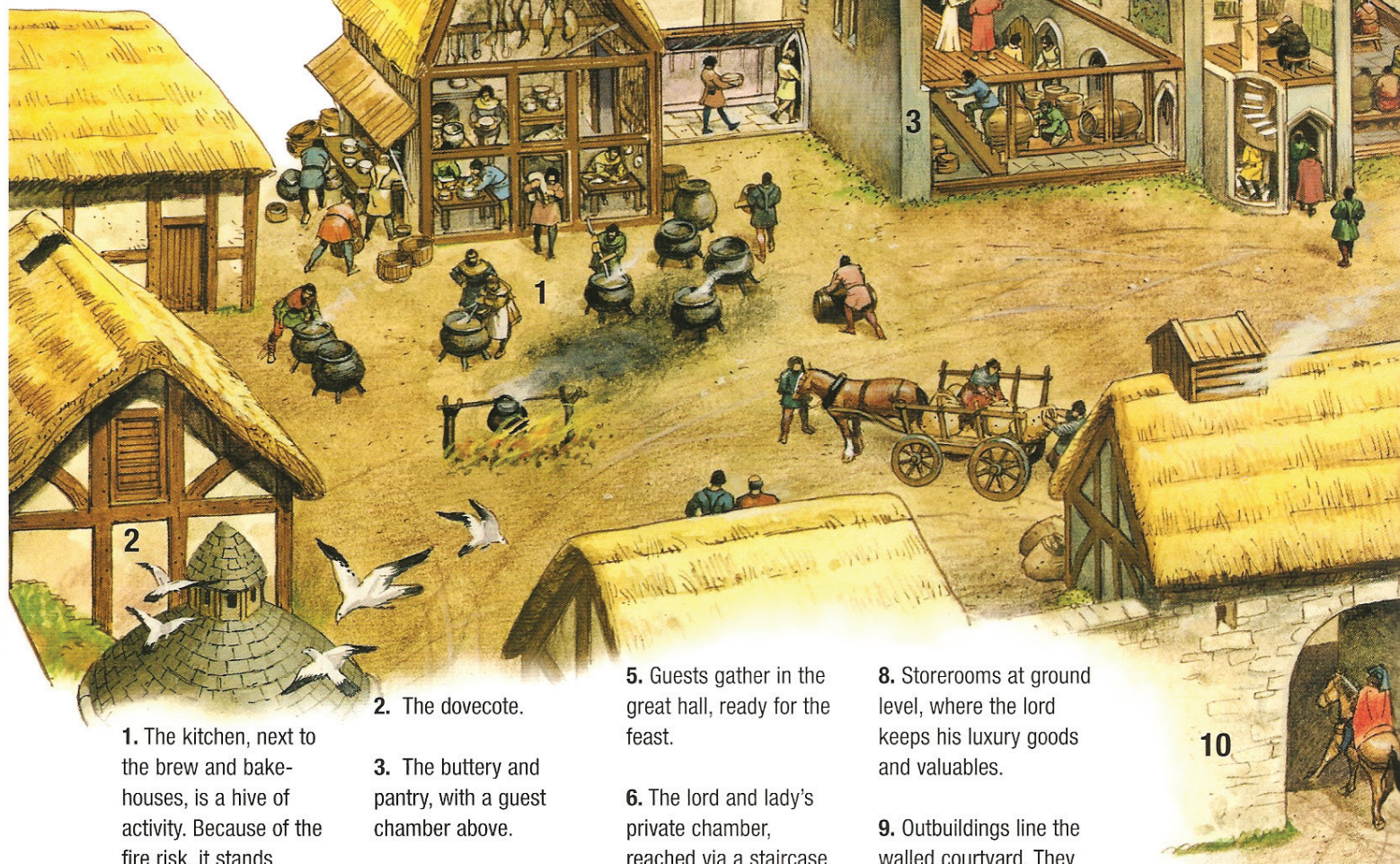
Above. This timber and drystone-walled Christian church at Debre Damo in Ethiopia was built in the fifth century AD. One of the Syrian saints suppressed a snake cult to found a monastery which adjoined the church. Debre Damo became a great center for Christian learning in Africa until its influence diminished in the thirteenth century.



The Manor House

While the most powerful lords live in large castles—either older ones or newly constructed ones, built with the king's permission—the lesser nobility prefers the extra comfort afforded by a manor house.

Manor houses vary in size, reflecting the lord's wealth and status. They often comprise several buildings and are mainly self-sufficient, with serfs growing the lord's food and keeping his livestock in the grounds surrounding the house. Because the times are uncertain, the manor house is often fortified, and while the defenses will not keep out an army, they are sufficient to give the lord, his family, and servants protection against bandits and smaller raiding groups.



1. The kitchen, next to the brew and bake-houses, is a hive of activity. Because of the fire risk, it stands separate and is linked to the main building by a passage way.

2. The dovecote.

3. The buttery and pantry, with a guest chamber above.

4. The chaplain has his own room above the entrance to the hall.

5. Guests gather in the great hall, ready for the feast.

6. The lord and lady's private chamber, reached via a staircase from the hall.

7. The private chapel.

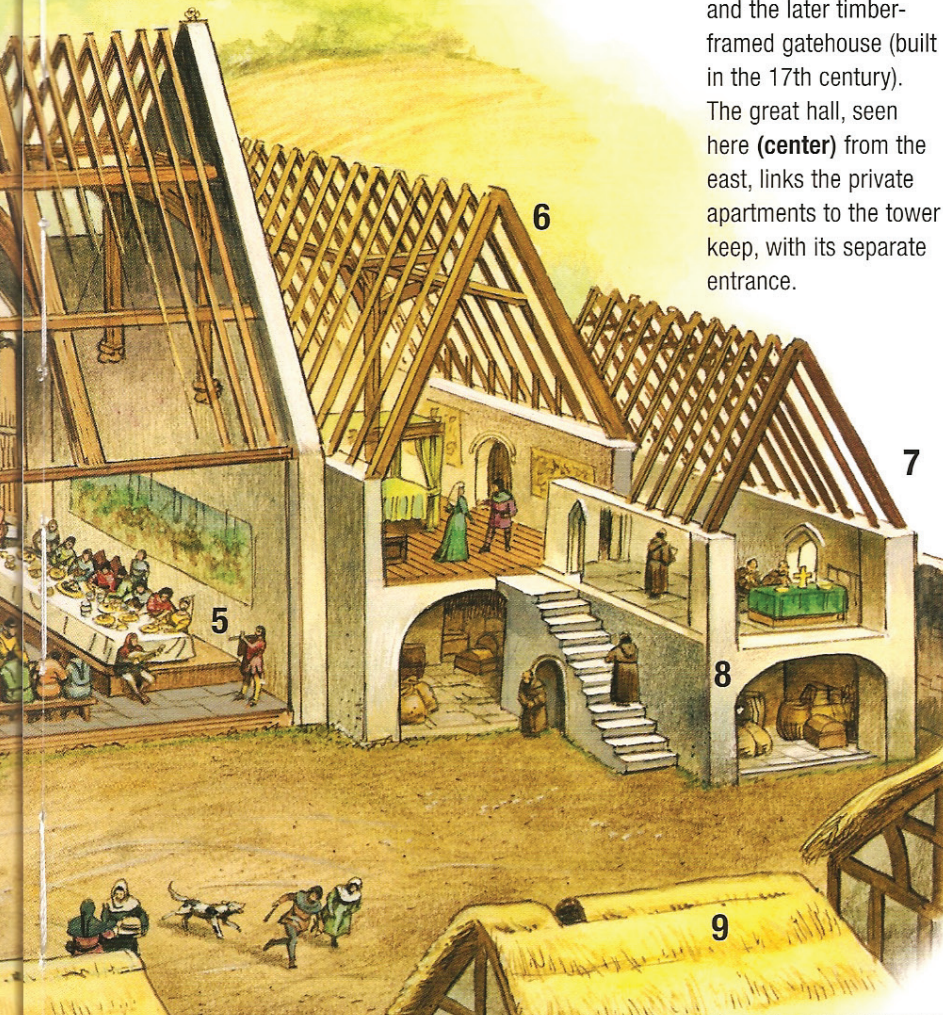
8. Storerooms at ground level, where the lord keeps his luxury goods and valuables.

9. Outbuildings line the walled courtyard. They provide room for stores, arms, servants, and dogs.

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10. The fortified manor's gatehouse.

Top: Stokesay's north end, with the lord's private apartments on top, surrounding wall, and the later timber-framed gatehouse (built in the 17th century). The great hall, seen here (**center**) from the east, links the private apartments to the tower keep, with its separate entrance.



Stokesay Castle

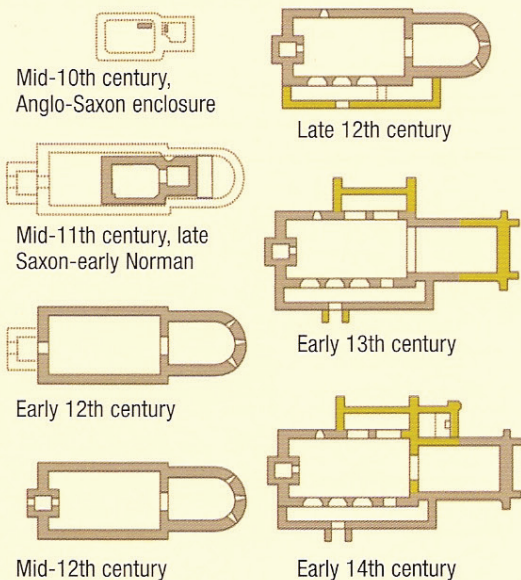
Despite its name, Stokesay in England is a fortified manor house—a fine example of the more luxurious living available to the lord of a manor than a drafty castle can offer. Its owner—a leading wool merchant—is a wealthy man. He built Stokesay to impress his business partners as much with the elegance of his house as with its strength.

At the southern end there is a three-story tower topped by battlements—a place of security for the family to retire in case of



Development of the manor house

These plans show the same building at different periods. The house starts small, but expands to become a comfortable home for the lord of the manor. In the earliest days, windows are few, and small to make them easily defended. As the times become more peaceful, the walls are pierced by more and larger windows.



hostilities. The lord's private apartments are situated at the northern end, and include a large solar (see page 33) with unusually large windows. These are set up high to make it difficult for an attacker to reach, and are protected by arrow slits beneath. The windows let in plenty of light while not harming the house's defensive capabilities.

In between is a great hall for entertaining, with heavy wooden shutters to secure them in case of attack. Stokesay also has a defensive outer wall running in a semi-circle from the north end to the tower, with a gatehouse in its center. Beyond the wall, a wet moat is supplied from a pond.

The Town Inn

The lowly village tavern, little more than a shack, is transformed in a large town into a magnificent center of middle class society—a place of companionship, gossip, and relaxation.

Ludford's main inn, the Tabard, is more than a drinking shop. It serves as a center of communication in many senses. Arranged around three sides of a large courtyard, the inn boasts stables with ostlers to look after travelers' horses, a large hall for customers, a well-equipped kitchen, and several guestrooms on the upper floor.

The inn also acts as a sort of post office, as people passing through leave verbal or written messages for other travelers or for townspeople, which the innkeeper will pass on when they appear.

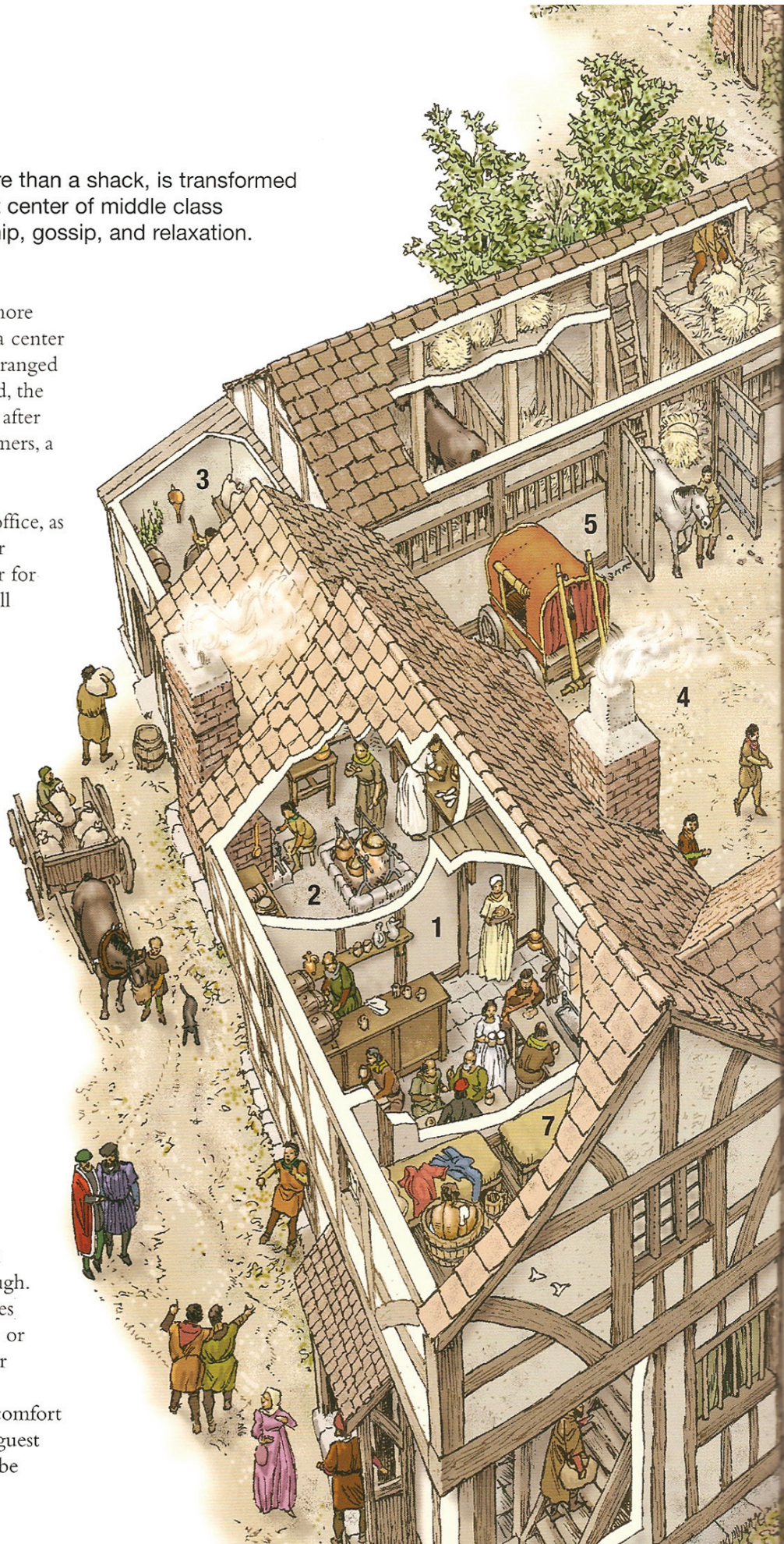
For the local merchants, craftsmen, and yeomen, the Tabard is a meeting house where news and gossip is exchanged in a less formal atmosphere than the guildhalls. Here, gentlemen can relax over a pint of ale or a glass of wine, or perhaps a tasty meat stew, and debate town politics, the antics of the royal court, complain about poor town council decisions, and generally put the world to rights.

Slight slumber comforts

Although the upper floor only has six bedrooms, on a busy night as many as 20 or more guests might be accommodated, piling them in four to a room to squabble over the cramped beds and their straw mattresses.

Sleep is difficult because of the constant roar of the inn's customers below, who are generally only thrown out when the innkeeper has had enough. Below in the yard, the clatter of hooves disturbs the night as latecomers arrive or early risers canter off to continue their journey.

However, a singular and welcome comfort is that for a small price, an overnight guest can arrange for a tub of hot water to be brought so that he might take a bath.



Taking to the boards

Every so often, the inn's courtyard becomes home to a troupe of traveling actors, who set up a shaky stage of wooden boards at one end and charge an entry fee for the playgoers. Since the innkeeper takes a hefty cut of the "gate" and benefits from the increased patronage the play brings in and their demands for liquid refreshment, acting companies are always welcomed.

The demon drink

Drinking, however, is the main activity at the Tabard. The inn has its own ale brewery out at the back, beyond the kitchen, but such is the quantity quaffed every day, that most of the ale is bought in.

Like every town, Ludford has brewers all up and down most streets. Many of these are women—brewing is one of the female population's largest trades. Ale is as necessary to life as bread, but where flour-grinding and bread-baking are strictly guarded monopolies, brewing is freely permitted everywhere.

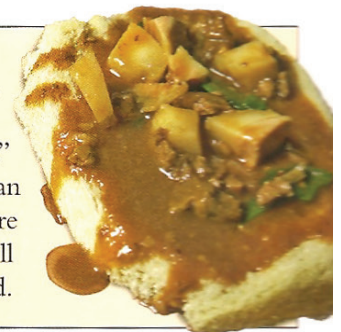
Drinking bouts often end in unfortunate accidents as a result of intoxication. So we learn that one gentleman coming home at about midnight "drunk and disgustingly over-fed," fell and struck his head fatally on a stone "breaking the whole of his head." One man fell into a well in the marketplace and was "drowned," like another who, while relieving himself in a pond, fell in.

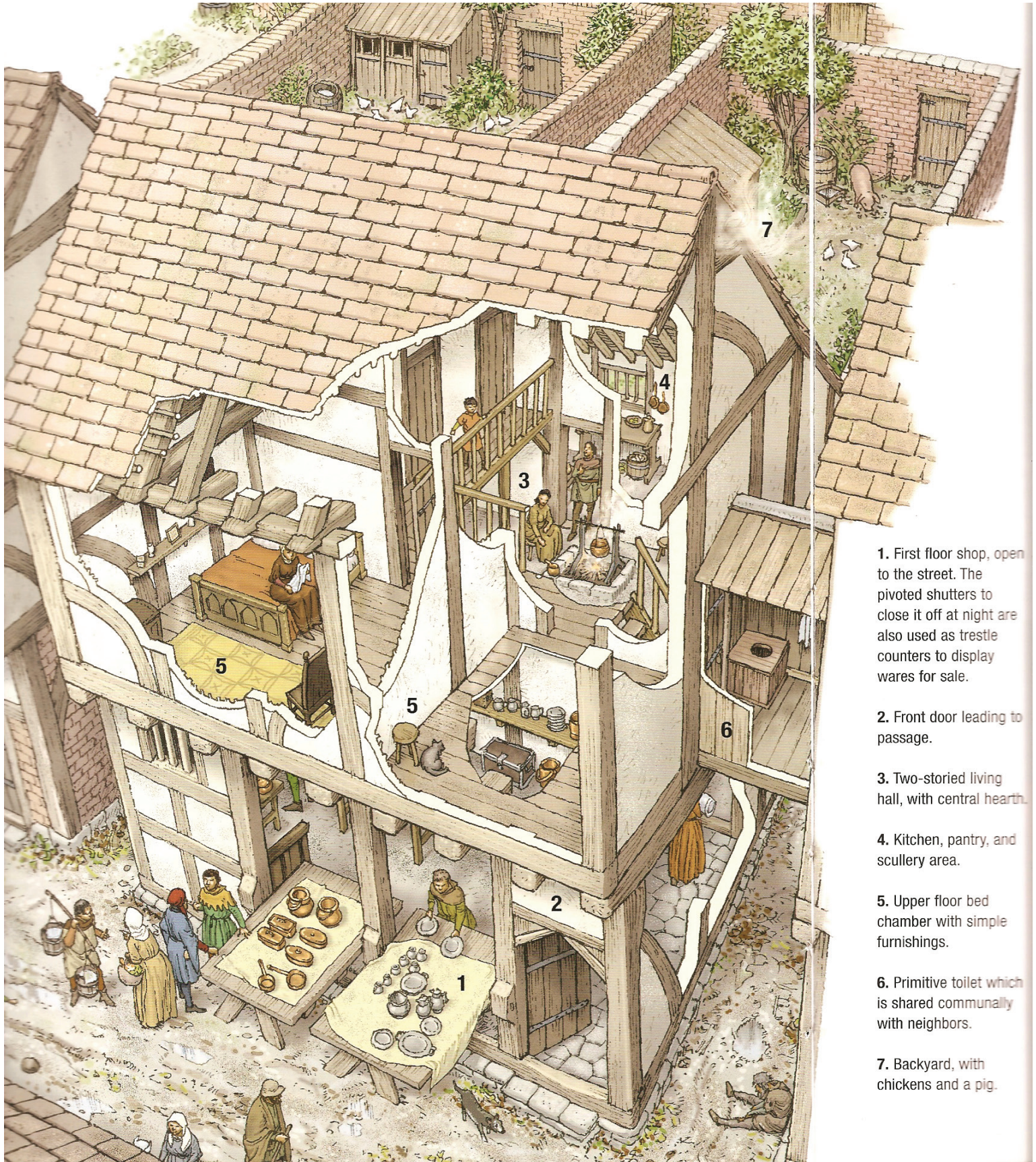
Men are not the only victims of their overindulgence, proved by the sad story of the mother whose child slipped from her drunken hands into a pan of scalding hot milk on the hearth.

On the other hand, an unknown monk has this to say on the question of drink: "He who drinks ale sleeps well. He who sleeps well cannot sin. He who does not sin goes to Heaven. Amen."

1. The main public room for drinking and eating.
2. The busy kitchen.
3. The inn's brewery.
4. Courtyard.
5. Stables for travelers' horses.
6. Traveling actors get ready to stage a play.
7. Guest rooms are cramped.

Food, especially a common stew, is served on a slab of stale bread called a trencher, from the French *trencher*, meaning "to cut." When the meal is finished, the trencher can also be eaten, if you are desperate, but there are plenty of poor people outside who will welcome the sauce-soaked chunk of bread.





1. First floor shop, open to the street. The pivoted shutters to close it off at night are also used as trestle counters to display wares for sale.

2. Front door leading to passage.

3. Two-storied living hall, with central hearth.

4. Kitchen, pantry, and scullery area.

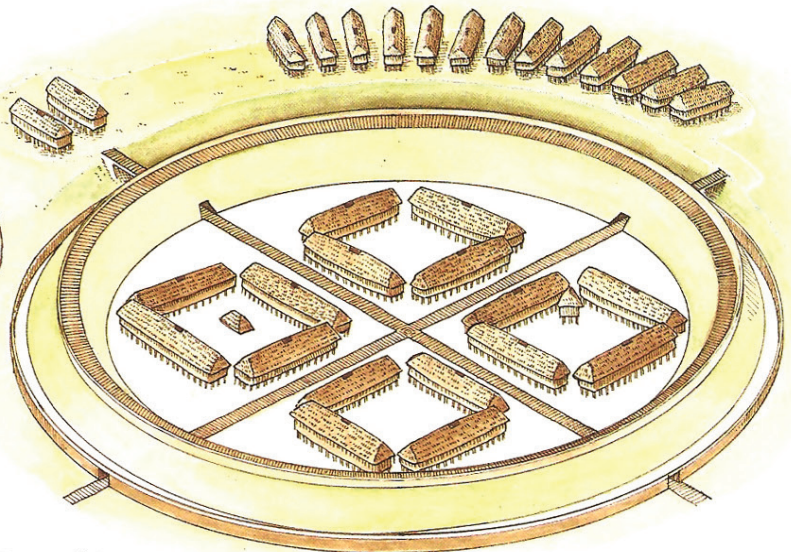
5. Upper floor bed chamber with simple furnishings.

6. Primitive toilet which is shared communally with neighbors.

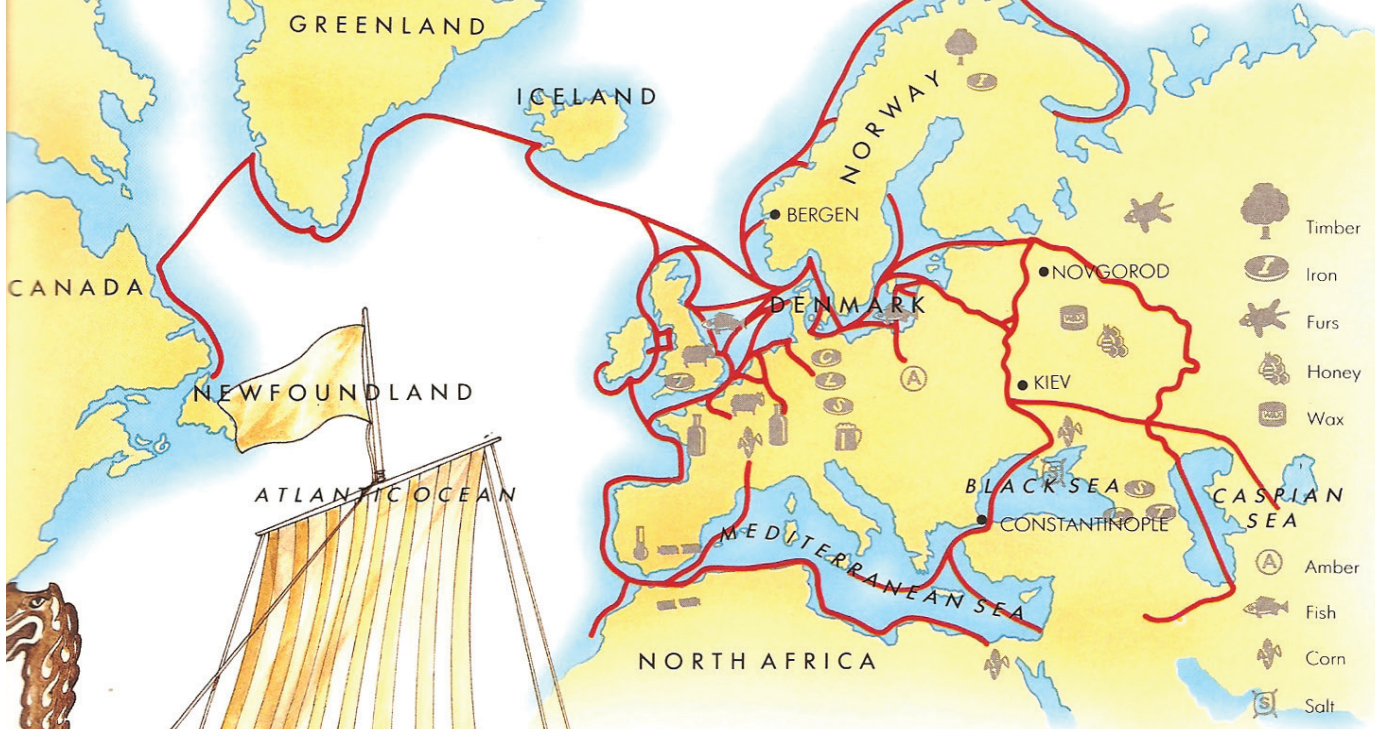
7. Backyard, with chickens and a pig.

Far right. The Vikings built fine defensive fortifications. Four fortifications such as this have been excavated in Denmark. They may have been used as either training bases or as places of refuge for soldiers.

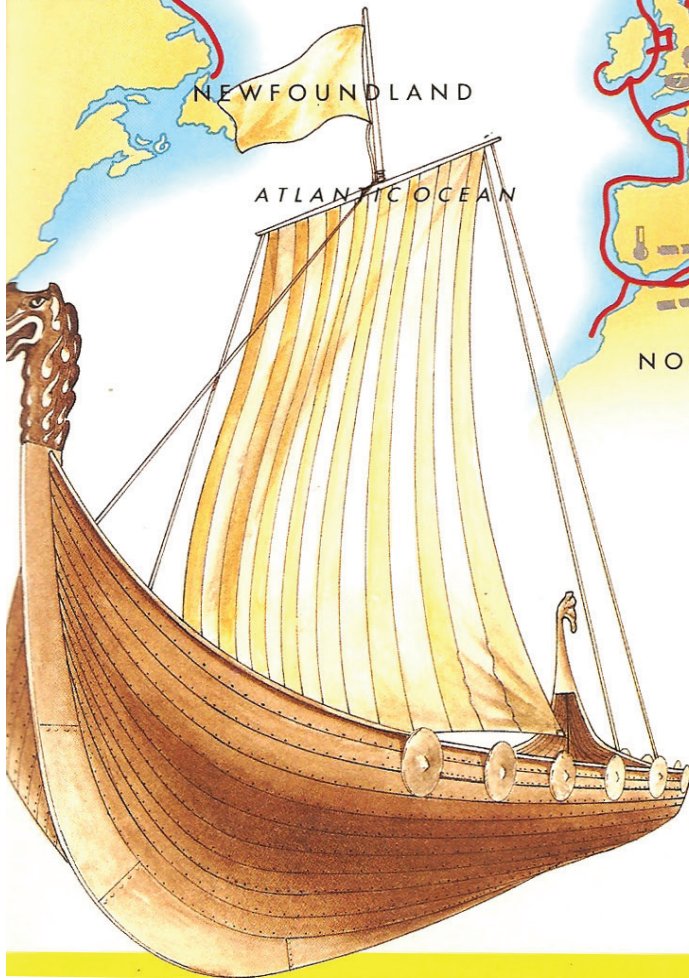
Right. A typical Viking warrior. Their main weapons were the longsword and the axe. Though the Vikings wore mail-shirts, some warriors, known as berserks, would fight bare-chested. Berserk' is the origin of the word berserk.'



Viking Trade and Travel Routes



- Timber
- Iron
- Furs
- Honey
- Wax
- Amber
- Fish
- Corn
- Salt
- Silver
- Copper
- Tin
- Sugar
- Mercury
- Lead
- Beer
- Wool
- Wine



Left. This is a reconstruction of the Viking longship found at Gokstad. The longship was a canoe-like warship which was long and thin and sat low in the water. The ships had one large square sail which was sometimes striped. Each ship also had a set of oars, and was rowed along in calm weather.

Above. This map shows the great distances the Vikings traveled. No one can be sure of the routes they took, but the places they visited are known from objects that have been found. The Vikings were expert navigators. Many settlers crossed the Atlantic in search of new lands.

This is a compilation of pages from various books, for the sole purpose of research.