Windsor Castle is the oldest and largest castle, that people live in, anywhere in the world. It is also the resting place of 11 former British monarchs.

Follow the trail to find out more and ask the Wardens in the Castle and Stewards in St George’s Chapel if you need help.

LEARNING ABOUT CASTLES

Windsor Castle was first built in wood and then rebuilt in stone a hundred years later. With thick walls and strong towers to keep out enemies, it has always been a safe place for kings and queens to live.

CASTLE HILL

Is The King here today?
As you walk up the hill, look at the Round Tower and see which flag is flying.

The Royal Standard means The King is here today.
The Union Flag means The King is not here today.

CASTLE HILL

Is this Castle easy to defend?
Castles long ago had lots of special features that made it difficult for people to break in.

Tick these off when you see them:

BATTLEMENTS

Arrows fired arrows through the opening then hid behind the upright section.

ARROW LOOPS

These windows kept the archers safe from enemy arrows. When you turn the corner at the top of the hill, the openings are much wider on the inside. Why is this?

TOWERS:

SQUARE
ROUND

Towers helped the guards to see the enemy below from a safe place.

Draw a picture of the guardsman here:

TOWERS: SQUARE ROUND

Built over 900 years ago for William the Conqueror, the Castle was first built in wood and then rebuilt in stone a hundred years later. With thick walls and strong towers to keep out enemies, it has always been a safe place for kings and queens to live.

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Draw a picture of the guardsman here:
Is this Castle built on a hill?
Look up at the Round Tower to find out.

A hill was excellent because the enemy would find it difficult to fight going uphill. The Round Tower is the keep of the Castle, the highest and safest place to be. The hill it stands on is the motte made from the soil that was dug out from the ditch below. The bailey is a flat area with buildings for people to live in. Windsor Castle is a motte and bailey castle, but has two baileys because the site is long and narrow. Its ditch or moat is dry because rain water drains through the chalky soil.

Tick the things below that soldiers would have thrown or fired down onto enemy attackers:
- HOT WATER
- ROCKS
- BOILING OIL
- SIZZLING PIG FAT
- FLAMING ARROWS

On leaving Middle Ward, you can visit these next areas in whatever order you wish, although you will probably visit them in the order opposite.

NORTH TERRACE

Look over the wall, but be careful. See how steep the cliff is here – much too steep to climb.

Can you see the River Thames?

It is not easy to see today because of the buildings, but when the Castle was first built soldiers could see the enemy moving along the river and prepare for their attack.

Imagine you are the enemy planning to take over the Castle long ago. Here are pieces of equipment you will need, but the descriptions have got mixed up.

Draw a line to join up each picture with the correct details.

BATTERING RAM
You will use this enormous log hanging on chains to smash through walls and doors.

TREBUCHET
(say it treb-oo-shay)
With this big catapult you will shoot huge rocks at the Castle walls.

BELFRY
Your soldiers will bring this siege tower close to the walls, climb the steps inside and storm across the platform at the top.

STATE APARTMENTS

The State Apartments are the magnificent rooms The King uses when he welcomes his guests to Windsor Castle. In St George’s Hall, look at the coats of arms of the Knights of the Garter, of which there are more than 1,000 in all. Find out more about the Garter Knights when you visit St George’s Chapel.

UNSCRAMBLE THESE LETTERS TO FIND OUT WHAT IT WAS CALLED:

QUADRANGLE

This grassy area is where kings and queens long ago held colourful festivals and tournaments. A special type of tournament involved two knights on horseback charging towards each other carrying heavy lances and trying to knock each other off their horses. This is how they practised their fighting skills.

Unscramble these letters to find out what it was called:

JINGOTSU

NORMAN GATEWAY

Stand close to the gateway, but please beware of traffic. Pretend you are in charge of guarding this gateway long ago. The King of France is in prison in the tower and his friends are trying to set him free.

Check these gate defences:
- PORTCULLIS
- MURDER HOLES
- HEAVY WOODEN DOORS

Can you see some stonework that overhangs the outside wall of the gateway? Your guards must drop boiling water and rocks through the holes onto the enemy.