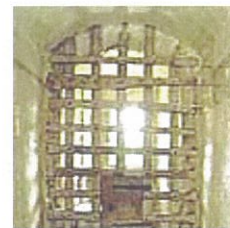


Sieges: Castles at War

A brilliant film based on sieges during the Hundred Years' War



Castle portcullis

Words to remember

dysentery	vigilant	plundered	pillaged	barbican	keep
chivalry	courtier	mercenaries	mangonel	trebuchet	Greek fire
parapet	ballista	garrison			

1. What did castles symbolise?
2. What did the knights hope to gain by risking their lives? (2)
3. Who did the fighting in most battles? (2)
4. Jean Froissant is considered by some to be the first “war correspondent”. He was born in 1337, at the start of the Hundred Years’ War. How long did this war last?
5. Which countries were involved in this war?
6. Why was the Duchy of Normandy important?
7. Why was war so common in the Middle Ages? (2)
8. Explain what the **barbican** of a castle is.
9. Explain what the **keep** of the castle is.
10. How large a **garrison** could hold a castle?
11. What was the “scorched earth” policy? What effects would this have had on the common people?
12. “One could easily make a day’s journey without ever finding a village inhabited.” — Froissant How did the advancing army of English soldiers treat the French peasants?
13. Why did the English surround the castle? (2)
14. What was given to soldiers before making an attack?
15. Why didn’t knights like sieges?
16. English archers used the longbow, which was really the Welsh longbow, invented and introduced in the early 13th century. Why was it a fearful weapon to the French? (2) What could it do? (2)
17. The French relied on the crossbow. Why was it useful in a siege?
18. What were the disadvantages of using the crossbow? (2)
19. What was the punishment for English archers if captured?
20. What was another way of getting into the castle (if you didn’t care about hygiene)?
21. How did the siege camps smell and why?
22. What was **Greek fire**?
23. Describe the mining method for attacking a castle.
24. What problems did the siege force face?
25. “Usually the people inside won.” — Dr Bull (historian) Out of the 28 sieges held during the Hundred Years’ War, how many were an unqualified success?

