



Year Three History Knowledge Organiser: Why were Northumbrian castles designed as they were?



Key Vocabulary

Barbican	Castle gatehouse
Keep	A castle's main defensive building.
Crenulations	Defensive feature atop castle walls.
Arrow Loops	Narrow windows used by archers.
Bailey	Outdoor area behind castle walls.
Postern	Small gate in castle wall.
Siege	Surrounding a castle to stop supplies getting in.
Reivers	Family groups living in the borders.
Pele Tower	Fortified tower used by reivers.
Bastle	Fortified farmhouse used by reivers.

Topic Overview

- To learn about how local borders have changed over the centuries, and that what we consider to be 'North East England' has not always been known in that way.
- To consider the role of architecture in making castles effective in their role of protecting an international border, and understanding that architectural trends changed over time.
- To visit Warkworth Castle as a primary source.
- To learn about the Border Reivers and their lifestyle, identifying traditional reiver surnames and how stories of them are told in ballads.

Learning Outcomes

- To know that Northumbrian castles were used to defend the border.
- To understand that castle architecture focused chiefly, but not exclusively, on making the castle as defensible as possible.
- To understand the tactics of siege warfare.
- To know that castles became less effective as technology and weaponry advanced.

