**Mountfitchet Castle**

**& Norman Village of 1066**

**Fieldtrip activity ANSWER sheet Key Stage 2**

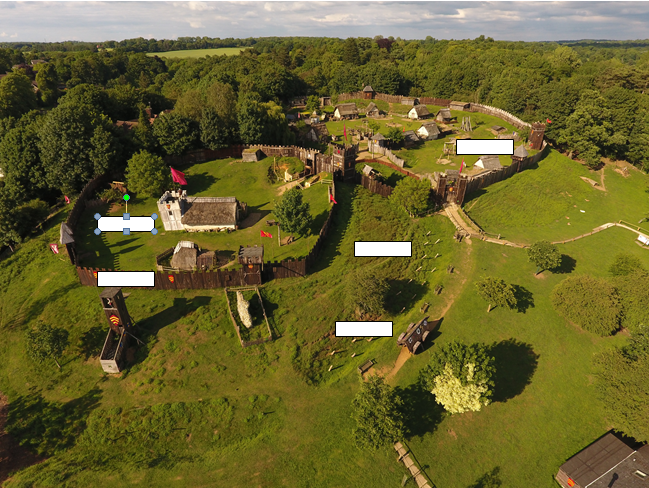
**Name: Teacher: Class:**

**Welcome to Mountfitchet Castle.**

**Match the following castle key words to their correct meaning:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Castle key word** | **Word meanings** |
| Motte | Wall made from wood surrounding castle |
| Bailey | An area enclosed by a wall |
| Palisade | Strongly protected enclosure at the heart of a medieval castle. It is protected by the outer Bailey. The most important people live here. |
| Inner Bailey | The defended outer enclosure of the castle. It protects the inner bailey. It contains all the buildings e.g. stores/church needed to supply everyone in the Motte and Bailey castle. |
| Outer Bailey | A deep wide ditch dug at the bottom of a castle to help protect it, it was often filled with water. |
| Moat | **A member of the English nobility.** The king gave land to this person. This person had to provide soldiers for the king, serve on the king's council and provide food and beds to the king and his men when they travelled through the land. |
| Baron | Mound |

Add the following labels onto the photo of Mountfitchet Castle below: **Inner bailey, outer bailey, palisade, moat and motte.**



Outer bailey

Motte

Inner bailey

Moat

Palisade

When you enter the Castle and Norman village site you must remember that you have now travelled back in time 900 years. Life was very difficult and uncomfortable, and in most cases, very short. The average life expectancy (age a person lived to) was around 40 years. **Why did people not live very long during medieval times?** *Discuss the answer with your group.* Lack of medicine/no hospitals etc.

The people who lived here 900 years ago knew nothing about all the modern day comforts and luxuries we have today e.g. central heating. Create a list below of other modern day comforts or luxuries that we have that they would not have known about in medieval times: Any relevant answer

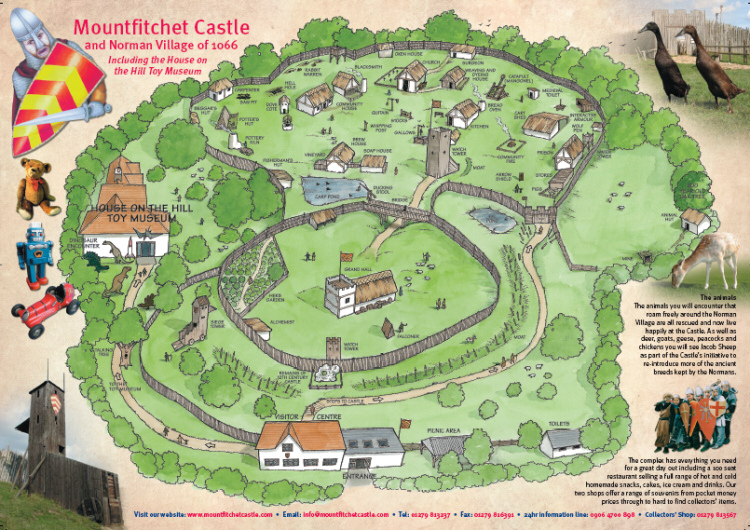
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Mountfitchet Castle map



**As you walk around the medieval village you will see many different types of animals. All of them roam freely and trust you so please be kind to them and do not betray their trust.**

**Fieldwork questions:**

**As you walk around the castle answer the following questions….**

1. What type of castle is Mountfitchet Castle? Motte and Bailey Castle
2. Main castle gate. Battles and small fights happened often in Norman times and castles such as this one were attacked often. Think about the position the castle was built in. Do you think it was built on a hill to make it difficult for raiders to attack or do you think it was to make it easier to defend, or perhaps both? Explain your answer Any valid answer.
3. What do you think the reason was for building the castle close to a river?

For water, food and travel.

1. Grand Hall. Who lived in the Grand Hall? Baron Mountfitchet (who owns the castle) and his family, servants and guards.
2. Grand Hall. Robert De Gernon, the Duke of Boulogne, built this castle when he conquered Stansted in what year? 1066
3. Why do you think early Norman castles were made of wood?

Easy to find, lots of it and cheap

1. Wood was a very important material to the Normans. Based on what you see as you walk around here at Mountfitchet Castle, make a list of the many uses the Normans had for wood: Lots of things could be put down here e.g. palisade, chicken houses, building etc.
2. Church. What was a very important role that the priest had within the castle’s community? The priest was the only member of the community who could read and write (the only literate member of the community) so very useful for everyone and worked closely with the Baron because of this.
3. Community House. The community house is a typical family home in the castle community. How many families lived in the castle walls? 11
4. Community House. Roughly how many people were in each family? Therefore, how many lived in this community house? 20
5. Community House. How often did people bath in the summer and the winter? Once a month in the summer. They did not bath in the winter.
6. Community House. What did people cover themselves in to keep warm? Goose fat
7. Large chicken house on stilts. Where did chickens originally come from? Asia
8. Small chicken house on stilts. Most of the chicken houses were built on stilts, why were they built this way? To stop rats and foxes eating the chickens and their eggs.
9. Alchemist. What did the Alchemist make to help the villagers? Medicine
10. Surgeon. What sort of operations did the surgeon do? Amputations
11. Surgeon. Why did many of the surgeon’s patients die? Due to shock and infections e.g. gangrene
12. Prison. What would happen to you if you were caught hunting the Baron’s deer? They cut your hand off
13. Brew House. There were 2 main types of drinks produced, what were they? Wine and beer
14. Why do you think people drank so little water in medieval times? It was not clean so it was dangerous and people caught diseases from water which could kill them.
15. Stocks. What sort of crime did someone do to end up being be put in the stocks? Small crimes
16. Stocks. What would happen to the person in the stocks? They would have rotten fruit and eggs thrown at them for days by the locals.
17. Ducking stool. What was the ducking stool used for? To torture people, mainly women.
18. Herb garden. Read the herb signs. What was lavender used for? To treat head pain and also to perfume the Baron’s bedroom.
19. Catapult. Sketch the catapult. What was this used for? At times of battle it was used to throw objects very long distances to outside the castle to try and protect it.
20. What have you found out today which has surprised you? Why? Any valid answer
21. If you had a choice, would you rather live as you do today or as a Norman lord or lady in medieval times? Why? Any valid answer

**Medieval word match! Old verses New**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Medieval word** | **Current day word** |
| Bodkin | Attack |
| Destrier | Chemist |
| Peasant | Candlestick |
| Sconce | Worker |
| Infantry | Lavatory |
| Manacle | Knight Horse |
| Garderobe | Oven |
| Garrison | Handcuffs |
| Sentry | Arrowhead |
| Alchemist | Army |
| Kiln | Guard |
| Siege | Soldiers |

**Thank you for visiting Mountfitchet Castle.**