

Castles in Britain

Here is some information on some of the most famous UK castles. Read the information carefully, because afterwards, we are going to ask you to find these castles on a UK map.

Dover Castle

Dover Castle is in Kent in England. It started being built almost nine hundred years ago by a king called Henry II. Other kings and important people added more parts to the castle over 800 years. As the castle was by the sea, it was an important part of protecting England from attacks from other countries.



DID YOU KNOW

There are secret tunnels underneath the castle. During the Second World War, soldiers went on secret missions in the tunnels!

Caernarfon Castle (Car-nar-von)

Caernarfon (say Car-nar-von) Castle is in the town of Caernarfon in Wales. A king called Edward I decided that the castle should be built over 700 years ago. Edward I was English but had taken over parts of Wales. The castle was to be a way of keeping control of Wales. Hundreds of years later, bits of the castle began to turn to ruins. You can visit Caernarfon Castle.



Edinburgh Castle

Edinburgh Castle is in Edinburgh, Scotland. It was built on a tall hill called Castle Rock. The first Edinburgh Castle was built almost 1000 years ago! It was an important part of Scottish defence hundreds of years ago, when Scotland and England fought wars against each other.



DID YOU KNOW

In Edinburgh Castle, there is a special stone called the Stone of Destiny. Lots of kings and queens have sat on this stone when they became king or queen and were given their crown.

Carrickfergus Castle

Carrickfergus Castle is in County Antrim, Northern Ireland. It was built over 800 years ago by a knight called John de Courcy. It is on the edge of a river called Belfast Lough. Most of the castle was surrounded by the water, which made it easier to defend from attackers. It was part of battles involving Scotland, England, Ireland and France.



DID YOU KNOW

In the First World War, Carrickfergus Castle was used as a place for soldiers to stay. In the Second World War, the castle was used as an air raid shelter. People could go to the castle to protect themselves from bombs being dropped from aeroplanes.

Alnwick Castle

Alnwick Castle is in Northumberland, England. Over 700 years ago, a man named Henry Percy bought the first building and turned it into a castle. The Percy family still live in Alnwick Castle and Ralph Percy is also called the Duke of Northumberland. Alnwick Castle played a part in some important battles including a war between two Royal families called the War of the Roses.



DID YOU KNOW

You might recognise part of Alnwick Castle – it was used to film scenes from the Harry Potter films.

Challenge

Using the map of the UK with the Cities on as help, can you label your blank map, mapping all of these castles correctly?

EXTRA Challenge

Can you research more UK Castles and map them on the blank map as well?

Warwick Castle

Leeds Castle (CAREFUL!)

Bamburgh Castle

Balmoral Castle