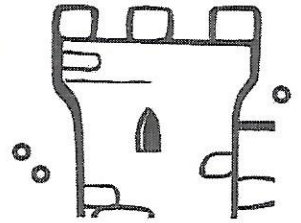


Castles and Knights

- Answer the questions immediately after reading each paragraph.

Castles in the Middle Ages were fortified villages, governed by a lord who lived there with his family. Little by little the castle's defences were strengthened. Double and triple surrounding walls were invented, with narrow, vertical openings called arrow loops or loopholes from which arrows were shot or projectiles thrown at assailants.

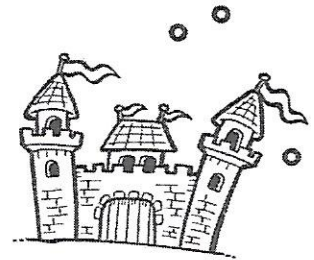


- ① Name two inventions that strengthened the defence of castles.

- ② In the next sentence, one word is wrong. Underline it and write above it the correct word.

Narrow, horizontal loopholes were used for throwing projectiles.

From the 13th century on, castles were like administrative centres where the lord rendered decisions concerning his community. At that time, the castle had three parts. There was the castle wall, with its towers and moats, the dungeon with its armoury, and finally the lord's residence.



- ③ Name the three parts of a 13th century castle.

- ④ Did the lord have to travel far to render decisions concerning his community? Explain.



Castles and Knights (Continued)

Knights lived in the lord's castle. The young squire was named a knight during the dubbing ceremony, where he promised faithfulness, loyalty and succour toward his lord. The first knights wore a sort of vest made of metal known as a coat of mail. Their helmet had a visor, and their gloves were called gauntlets.



- 5 On what parts of the body were the helmet, the gauntlets and the coat of mail worn?

- 6 With the help of your dictionary, find the meaning of the word "visor".

The knight's armour also had metal shoes called solerets. His chest was protected by a plastron, and his thighs by cuissards. Knights often participated in tournaments. At first, these tournaments were mainly for training purposes. Later on, they were transformed into shows attended by the king and his court.



- 7 Here are three parts of the knight's armour: soleret, plastron and cuissard. Show the body part that each one protects: thigh, chest or foot.

- 8 Do you think that the winner of a tournament was rewarded by the king?

