

WILLIAM AND ISABEL BUILT OTHERS CASTLES IN IRELAND

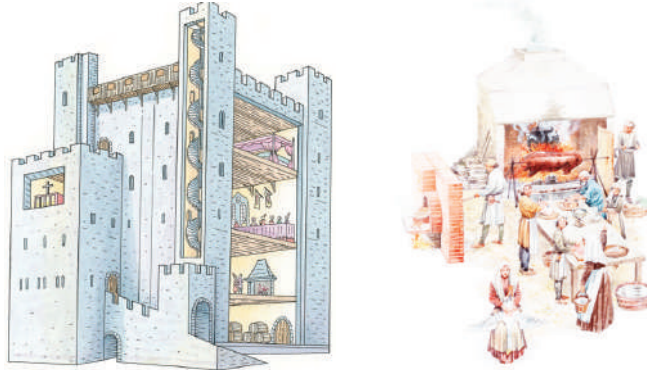
Can you spot the similarities with Kilkenny, Carlow and Ferns Castle?



When you compare them they are very similar in design, four round towers in a square formation enclosing a central courtyard.

IF YOU LIVED IN A CASTLE

If you lived in a castle you probably had a bed to sleep in and a roof to keep off the rain. You would normally have enough food to eat. Unfortunately the castle would often be attacked and need defending.



This is a cross-section of castle. Can you spot the spiral staircase?

This is a castle kitchen. Can you name anything they are cooking?

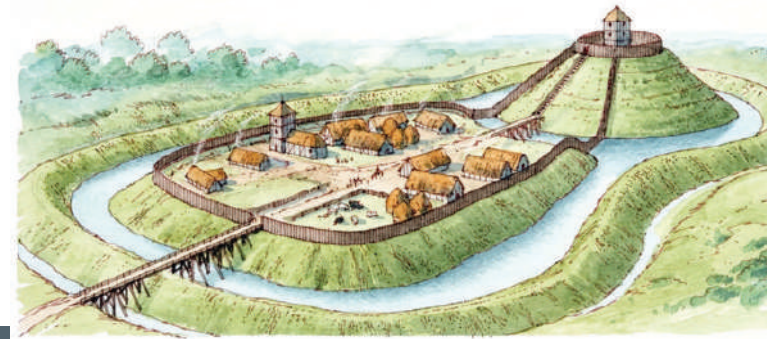
If you lived in a village near a castle you probably lived in a house that was owned by the lord. The house had one room for eating, cooking and sleeping. You kept your animals inside your house during the night. You had to pay taxes to the lord and if an army came to attack the castle they would generally burn the village down.

These villagers are bringing their goods to sell at market. They are going into the castle grounds, through the gate. Can you spot the guards?



CASTLES

Today we will be finding out about castles built by the Normans



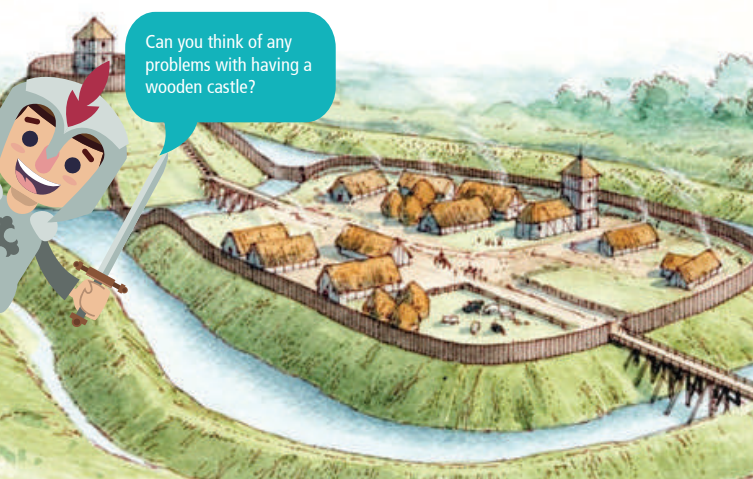
THE NORMANS BUILT TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF CASTLES



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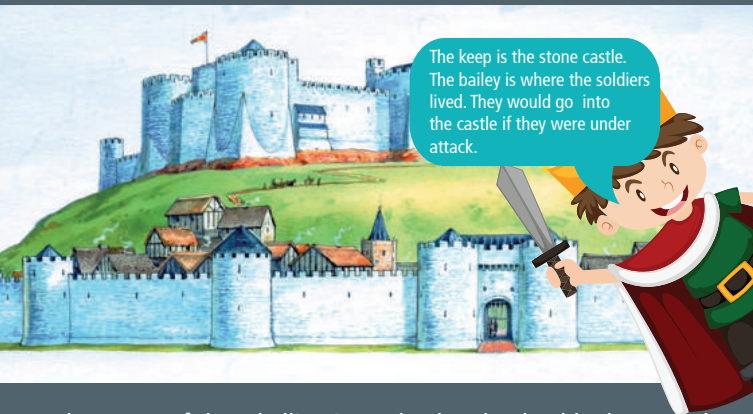
Óifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

Kilkenny



The Normans built wooden castles first because they were quick to build. This type of castle is a **motte and bailey**. The wooden fort was built on a motte. A motte is a mound. The army lived in the bailey.

The wood would rot when it got wet. This meant the castle had to be rebuilt and repaired. Wood can also catch fire so it was vulnerable to attack.



When most of the rebelling in England and Ireland had stopped, the Normans began building stone castles. They are called **stone keep castles**.

These stone castles took much longer to build than the wooden castles. The walls were five metres thick!

WHO IS THIS? WHAT DID HE DO?

He is William Marshal. He was a famous Norman Knight and a friend of the king of England, Henry II. He was given lots of land in Ireland and Britain.

William married Strongbow's daughter Isabel and became Lord of Leinster and Earl of Pembroke. He became one of the most powerful men in Britain and Ireland.

He built stone castles throughout Ireland and Britain. Including Kilkenny Castle!

KILKENNY CASTLE IN MEDIEVAL TIMES

This is a reconstruction of how Kilkenny Castle might have appeared in Medieval times.

Medieval Castle—artist's impression

Image: © Daniel Tietzsch-Tyler.

FACTS ABOUT KILKENNY CASTLE

Kilkenny Castle was built first as motte & bailey castle by Strongbow

Kilkenny Castle was a keepless castle.

William Marshal built the stone castle using Kilkenny Limestone

Kilkenny Castle had 4 towers, 3 still stand today

In 1395, King Richard 11, spent the month of April in Kilkenny Castle.

If you come to visit Kilkenny Castle, you can see our medieval foundations and the base of our west tower with its arrow loops and wicker ceiling.