

ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

KS2

ACTIVITY TRAIL

Framlingham Castle

This resource has been designed to help teachers plan a visit to Framlingham Castle, which gives insight into how our national story was shaped by the changing control of a castle between kings, earls and others. Use the Teachers' Guide and Teachers' Answer Sheet before, during and after your visit to help pupils get the most out of the Activity Trail.



INCLUDED:

- Teachers' Guide
- Teachers' Answer Sheet
- Pupils' Activity Trail

Get in touch with our Education Bookings Team:

☎ 0370 333 0606

✉ bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk

📄 <https://bookings.english-heritage.org.uk/education/>

Don't forget to download our **Hazard Information Sheets** to help with planning.

Share your visit with us [@EHEducation](https://twitter.com/EHEducation)

Step into England's story

TEACHERS' GUIDE

LEARNING OVERVIEW

Curriculum Links

- History
- Geography
- Art
- English

Learning Objectives

WHAT:

Learn how to spot key defensive features of a castle, understand why it was built in its particular location, and what life was like here at Framlingham Castle.

HOW:

By exploring Framlingham Castle and applying skills of observation, enquiry and imagination.

OUTCOME:

Pupils will understand the functions of key castle features, and the key people and stories that have made Framlingham Castle so important in our national story.

Time to complete

About 5 to 10 minutes per activity, 6 locations.

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

The Activity Trail provides suggestions for things to find, points to discuss and questions to answer, with space to draw and write. The answers to the questions are provided in the Teachers' Answer Sheet on pages 4 and 5.

PRIOR LEARNING

We recommend you do the following before you visit:

- Check that pupils know key words such as: curtain wall, windlass, crenellation, coat-of-arms, portcullis, poaching, besieged, mere.
- Discuss why castles were built – as a residence, for defence, as an administrative centre, a symbol of power, a prison.
- Check pupils' chronological understanding and use the timeline in the Activity Trail to look at key periods of the castle's history.

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

- Complete pages 1 and 2 of the Activity Trail to introduce Framlingham Castle.

POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

- Extend the heraldry activity in Activity 1 by asking pupils to design their own coat-of-arms based on their initials.
- Use completed drawings of the Tudor chimney brickwork patterns from Activity 5 to inspire pupils to make other designs for Tudor chimneys using cut-out paper brick shapes.
- Ask pupils to pick a key story and associated character from Framlingham Castle's history and write about that event from their character's perspective.

TEACHERS' GUIDE

LEARNING OVERVIEW

BEFORE YOUR VISIT (continued)

- Visit nearby Orford Castle (approximately 12 miles from Framlingham Castle) - this is a good companion site for studying castles in the area. It was a royal castle built to curb the ambitions of the Bigods and its massive keep makes a strong contrast to the structure of Framlingham Castle. If you choose to visit Orford Castle, booking is essential.
- Visit St Michael's Church, Framlingham, which houses the tombs of several figures connected with Framlingham Castle including Thomas Howard.

PREPARATION AND RESOURCES

You will find the KS2 Activity Trail at the back of this pack. Please print it and complete the pre-visit activities with your class before visiting the site.

In order to create an A5 booklet, you'll need to do the following in your print settings:

1. Select size A4 and choose the landscape orientation.
2. Select a page range of range of 7-12 (to avoid printing multiple Teachers' Guides).
3. Select 'Print on both sides of the paper' and 'Flip on **short** edge'.

After printing, arrange printed sheets in page order and fold into a booklet.

The activities can be done in any order but large groups must be split into smaller sub-groups due to space limitations, and to allow free movement around the castle and exhibition in the Workhouse building. Each group will require an adult group leader to stay with them at all times.

HELPFUL HINTS

Please help pupils to understand the context of each activity by reading the information in the yellow bubbles on each page of the trail.

The answers to the trail questions are provided in the Teachers' Answer Sheet on pages 4 and 5.

Please ask pupils to bring a pencil with them. If you have clipboards at school, we recommend bringing these to encourage pupils not to lean on surfaces within the castle.

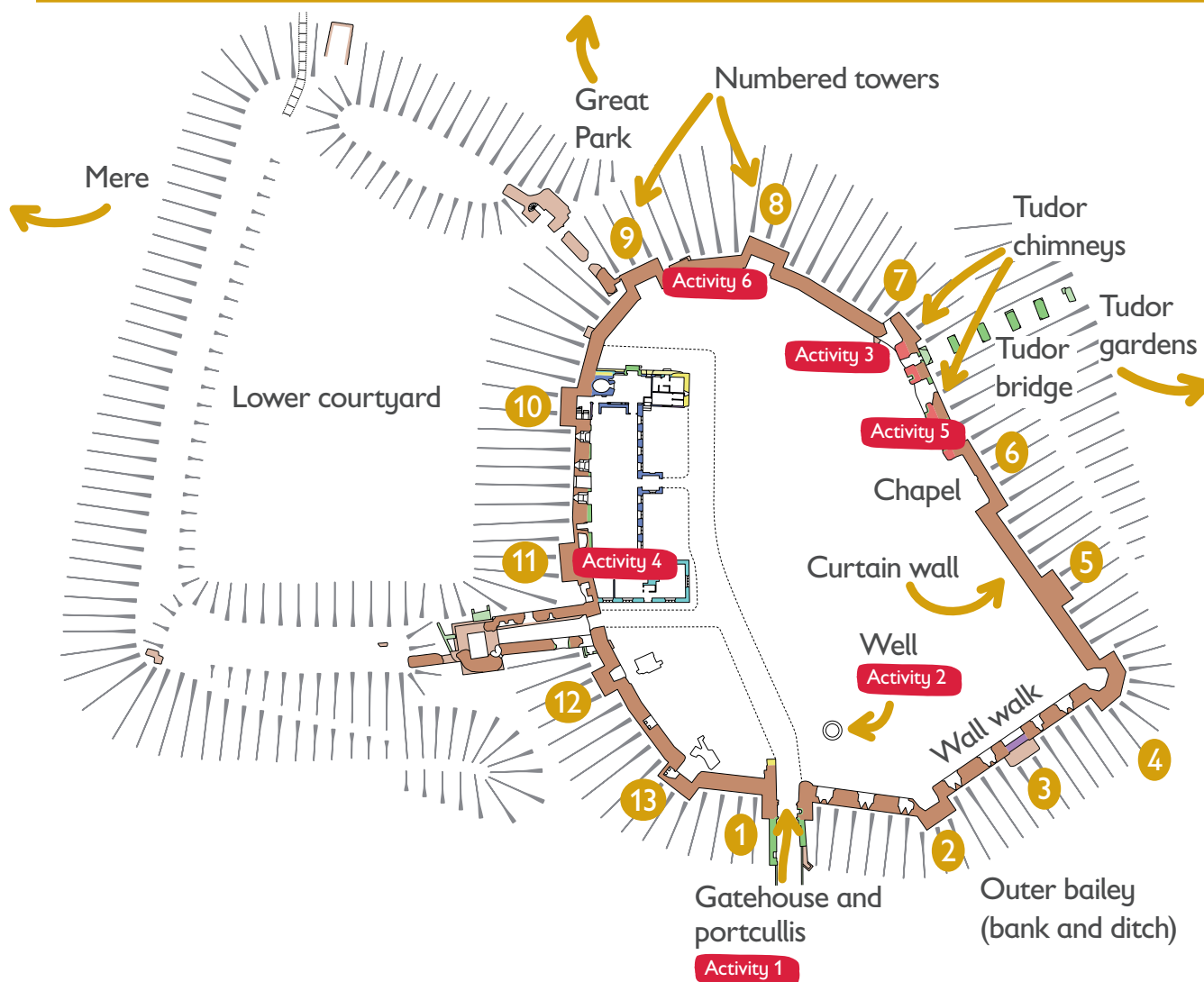
At the castle, don't forget to explore the exhibition about the history of Framlingham Castle. It can be found above the cafe and shop in the Workhouse building.

ACCESSIBILITY

All ground floor areas within the castle walls have level compacted gravel surfaces. The exhibition has lift access (within the Workhouse building). Steep spiral stairs lead to the upper floors and wall walk. For further information, please visit the 'Access' section on the Framlingham Castle page of the English Heritage website.

CASTLE ACTIVITIES PLAN

This plan identifies the location of each activity, and key features of the castle. You can do the activities in any order.



ACTIVITY LOCATION KEY

Activity 1 In front of the entrance gatehouse, looking up at the coat-of-arms.

Activity 2 By the well, just inside the castle walls.

Activity 3 At the base of tower 7, diagonally opposite the well.

For the wall walk, enter the cafe and shop (in the Workhouse building), climb the stairs to the exhibition space above, walk through the exhibition rooms, climb the steep spiral staircase, exit left onto the wall.

Activity 4 As you exit left onto the wall, stop at the first viewpoint looking out across the mere.

Activity 5 Walk anti-clockwise around the wall walk to the brick chimneys (opposite side of the castle to the mere). Stop by an interpretation board called 'Fashionable Tudor designs enhance the castle'.

Activity 6 Continue to walk anti-clockwise between towers 8 and 9, overlooking the parkland. Stop by an interpretation board called 'Privacy and privilege in the park'.

TEACHERS' ANSWER SHEET

CLASSROOM

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

Q: In 1154, how many castles did King Henry II own in Norfolk and Suffolk? How many castles did the Bigods own?

A: The Bigods had five castles, and Henry II had four. Henry built Orford Castle later in the 1160s to curb the ambitions of the Bigods.

ACTIVITY 1

AT THE CASTLE

Q: How might you feel after spotting the Howard family's coat-of-arms above the gatehouse?

A: It would depend on your rank. If you were a noble of equal rank, you might be impressed. If you were of lower rank, you would probably feel intimidated, nervous and worried about their power.

ACTIVITY 2

AT THE CASTLE

Q: How did the castle servants fill buckets from the well?

A: With a windlass – an apparatus for moving heavy weights using a winch.

ACTIVITY 3

AT THE CASTLE

Q: Does the curtain wall make you feel protected or trapped?

A: If the castle was in a strong defensive position, you might feel protected. If the castle was surrounded and ways of escape blocked, you could feel trapped.

Q: How many towers are there?

A: 13 – refer to the Castle Activities Plan on page 4 to identify them all.

Q: Pretend you're in charge of defending the castle from King John. What instructions would you give your men?

A: Key areas of defence would be manning the wall walk with soldiers armed with longbows and crossbows, closing the main gate and securing it with a draw bar, and guarding the well.

ACTIVITY 4

AT THE CASTLE

Q: Up on the wall walk, at what distance could Roger Bigod see his enemies?

A: From the woods about 4 miles away. Roger's soldiers would be trained to spot enemies hiding in the woods.

You would need binoculars to see Orford Castle 12 miles away, but Roger's soldiers may have seen the enemy approaching at speed on horseback in the distance.

Norwich Castle, a royal stronghold, is 40 miles away and too far from Framlingham Castle for Roger to see his enemies approaching.

ACTIVITY 5

AT THE CASTLE

Q: When did Mary Tudor inherit Framlingham Castle?

A: 1552.

Q: Pretend you are Mary Tudor. How will you inspire your troops to fight for you?

A: As King Henry VIII's eldest daughter, you would declare your right to be queen by inheriting the crown on the death of your younger brother Edward VI. He was unmarried with no children, so you would be next in line to the throne. Your supporters near Framlingham Castle are mainly catholic so you want to convince them that England should be ruled by a catholic queen. What might you promise your troops in return for their bravery and service - wealth, power, protection, peace, freedom, food?

ACTIVITY 6

AT THE CASTLE

Q: Wild boar, deer, foxes – which of these animals did they hunt?

A: Deer and wild boar. Hunting was the most popular pastime for royalty and the nobility in both medieval and Tudor times. But they did not hunt foxes, which were considered vermin.

WELL DONE!

Congratulations on completing the trail.

We hope you enjoyed exploring Framlingham Castle.

WHAT NEXT?

Back at school, you could:

- Write a letter to English Heritage about your visit to Framlingham Castle
 - Create a piece of art or write a poem inspired by your trip
- Film a short documentary or create a comic strip about Framlingham Castle
 - Share photos of your visit with us on Twitter [@EHEducation](https://twitter.com/EHEducation)



NAME:

CLASS:

SCHOOL:

THE BIGODS


Framlingham Castle was built about 1000 years ago by Roger Bigod I. The Bigods were earls of Norfolk and Suffolk – super-rich, powerful and RUTHLESS! Sometimes they supported the king and sometimes they turned against him. Treachery!


A Find and circle the Bigods on the timeline below.

Those Bigods are too powerful. I call the shots, not them!



B This map shows the castles in Norfolk and Suffolk in 1154, when Henry II became king.

 These castles belong to the Bigods.

 These castles belonged to King Henry II.



Look at the map to count:

How many did King Henry own?

How many did the Bigods own?

DID YOU KNOW?

Henry II built Orford Castle nearby in the 1160s, to keep an eye on the Bigods.

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN?

1154

Henry II became king

1199

King John became king

1216

Roger Bigod II quarrelled with King John

1297

Roger Bigod IV refused to fight for Edward I

1397

Framlingham passed to the Mowbray family

1100

1101

Roger Bigod I built a castle at Framlingham

1200

1173

Hugh Bigod I rebelled against Henry II

1216

Henry III became king

1272

Edward I became king

1300

1312

Framlingham passed to the Brotherton family

14

ACTIVITY 6 – THE GREAT PARK

All the owners of Framlingham and their guests loved hunting in the Great Park surrounding the castle. The animals they killed provided the castle kitchens with meat. You can see the hunting park from the wall walk.

A Which of these animals did they hunt?

Wild boar?

Deer?

Foxes?

Get your group leader to find this activity location on their map



This illustration of medieval hunting was made between 1387-1391. © Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris

DID YOU KNOW?

Poaching in the Great Park was strictly forbidden. If you were caught you could be put in prison, fined or even hanged!

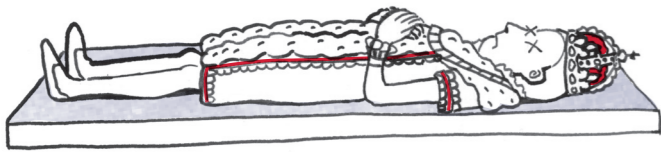
B When would you have liked to live at Framlingham Castle, and why? Write your reason below your choice.

In the Middle Ages fighting for the Bigods.

In Tudor times supporting Mary to become queen.

Today, helping English Heritage look after the castle.

And finally...



I AM THE
RIGHTFUL
QUEEN!



When Edward VI died in 1553, he wanted Lady Jane Grey to rule next, because she was a Protestant like him. But Henry VIII's eldest daughter Mary Tudor, who was a Catholic, said she should be queen.

Mary discovered that the powerful Duke of Northumberland was planning to capture her. Mary fled to Framlingham, her strongest castle. Local people, who were mostly Catholics, gathered to support her.

D Pretend you are Mary Tudor. Write a speech to inspire your troops to fight for you.



Handwriting practice area with six horizontal dashed lines for writing a speech.

Mary wins! The duke and his troops are outnumbered and surrender.



DID YOU KNOW?

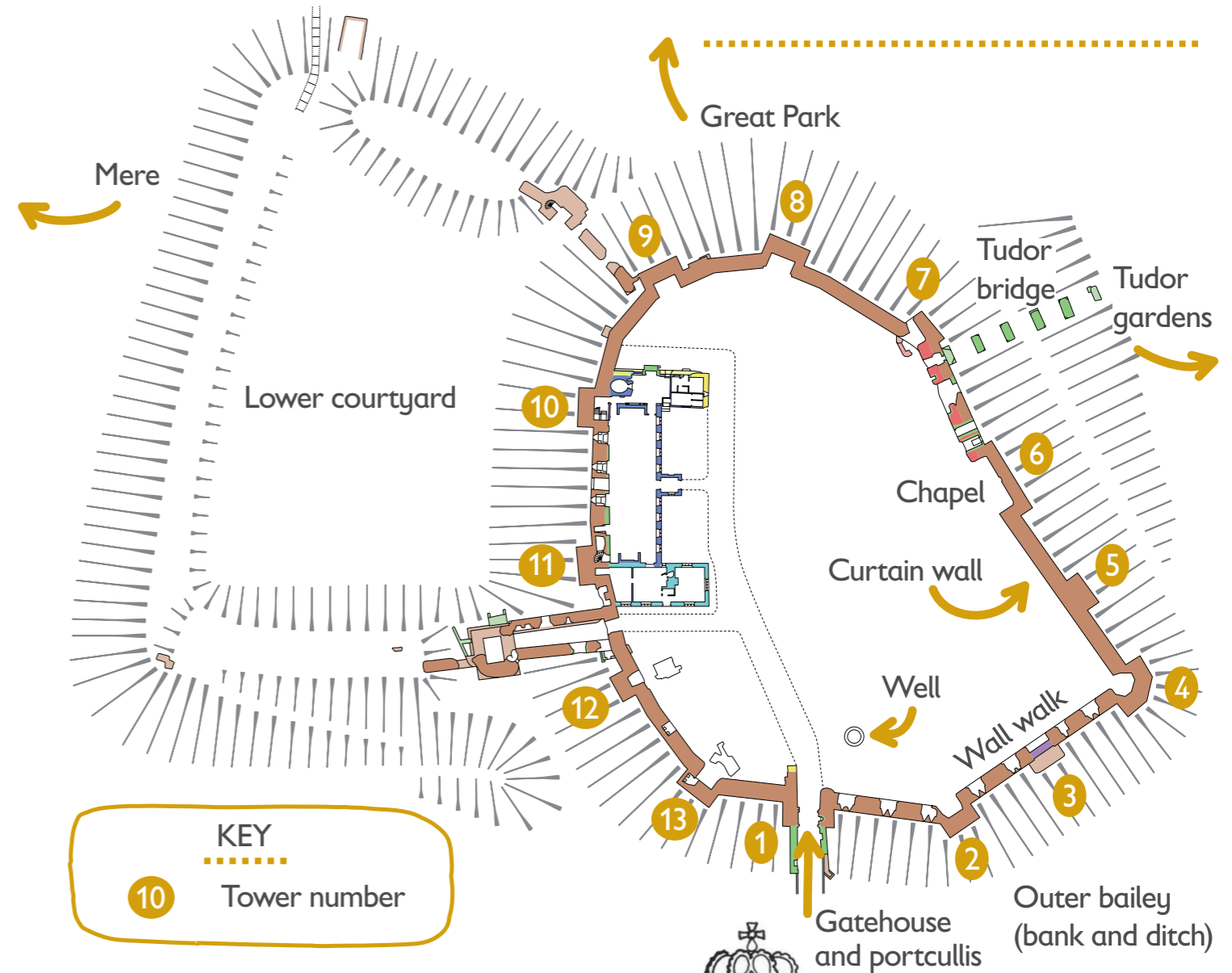
Mary Tudor rode to London to be crowned queen. There she signed Lady Jane Grey's death warrant. Jane was queen for just nine days before she was beheaded at the Tower of London.

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

DEFENDING THE CASTLE

This is a plan of Framlingham Castle. The castle was very well defended.

List three things you can find on the plan that would help to protect people inside the castle from an enemy attack.



KEY
 10 Tower number

1476 Framlingham passed to the Howard family	1547 Edward VI became king	1553 Mary Tudor was declared queen	1664 Framlingham became a home for local poor people
1509 Henry VIII became king	1552 Mary Tudor inherited Framlingham	1600 Framlingham Castle was used as a prison	

ACTIVITY 1 – GATEHOUSE

Find the gatehouse. The first stone gatehouse was built more than 800 years ago by the Bigods. It was protected by a drawbridge and a portcullis (a gate that could be raised and lowered from above).



The gatehouse at Framlingham Castle, with the Howard family coat-of-arms above it.

Get your group leader to find this activity location on their map

- A** Spot the slots for the portcullis just inside the inner arch. Draw in the portcullis.



THE HOWARDS

- B** The gatehouse you see today was altered in Tudor times by the Howard family. Find and circle the Howards on the timeline on pages 1 and 2.

Thomas Howard II was a cunning politician. He made sure his two nieces, Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard, caught Henry VIII's attention. Anne and Catherine became Henry's second and fifth wives. But Henry had them both beheaded!



ACTIVITY 5 – BRIDGE AND CHIMNEYS

In Tudor times, Framlingham Castle was altered to make it more comfortable. Find the remains of a bridge which would have led from the castle into what used to be a garden with perhaps fountains, herbs, fruit trees and flowers.

- A** Thomas Howard walked around his garden to help him feel calm and rested. List two things you like to do to relax:

Get your group leader to find this activity location on their map

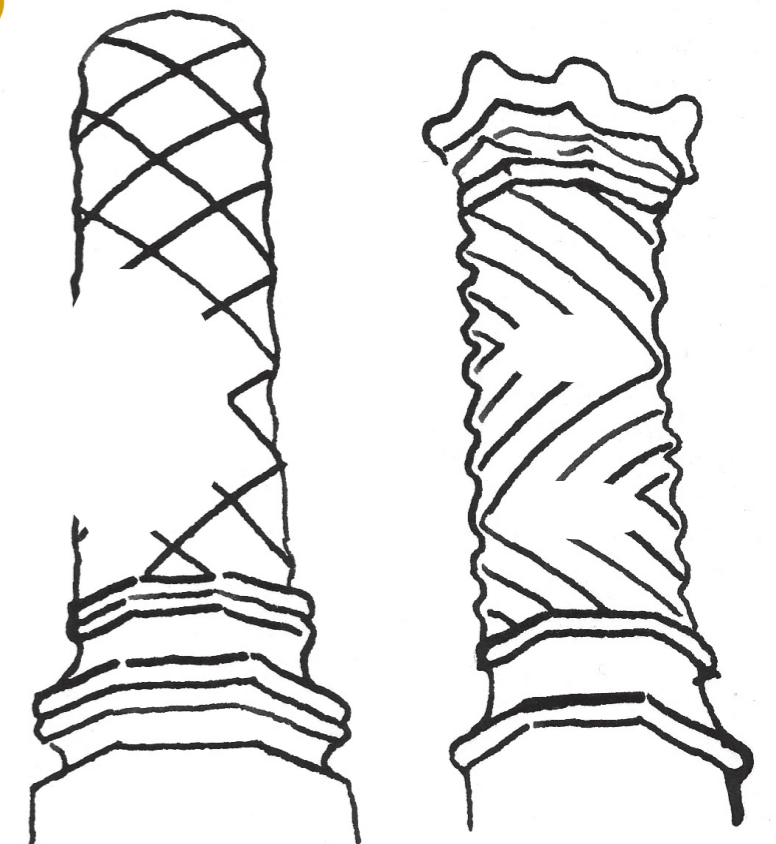
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TUDOR CHIMNEYS

- B** Some parts of the castle were rebuilt in expensive and fashionable brick, including the chimneys.

Imagine the craftsmen are halfway through building these chimneys. Can you complete the chimney patterns for them?



MARY TUDOR

- C** Look at the timeline on pages 1 and 2. When did Mary Tudor inherit Framlingham?

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ACTIVITY 4 – VIEW FROM THE WALL

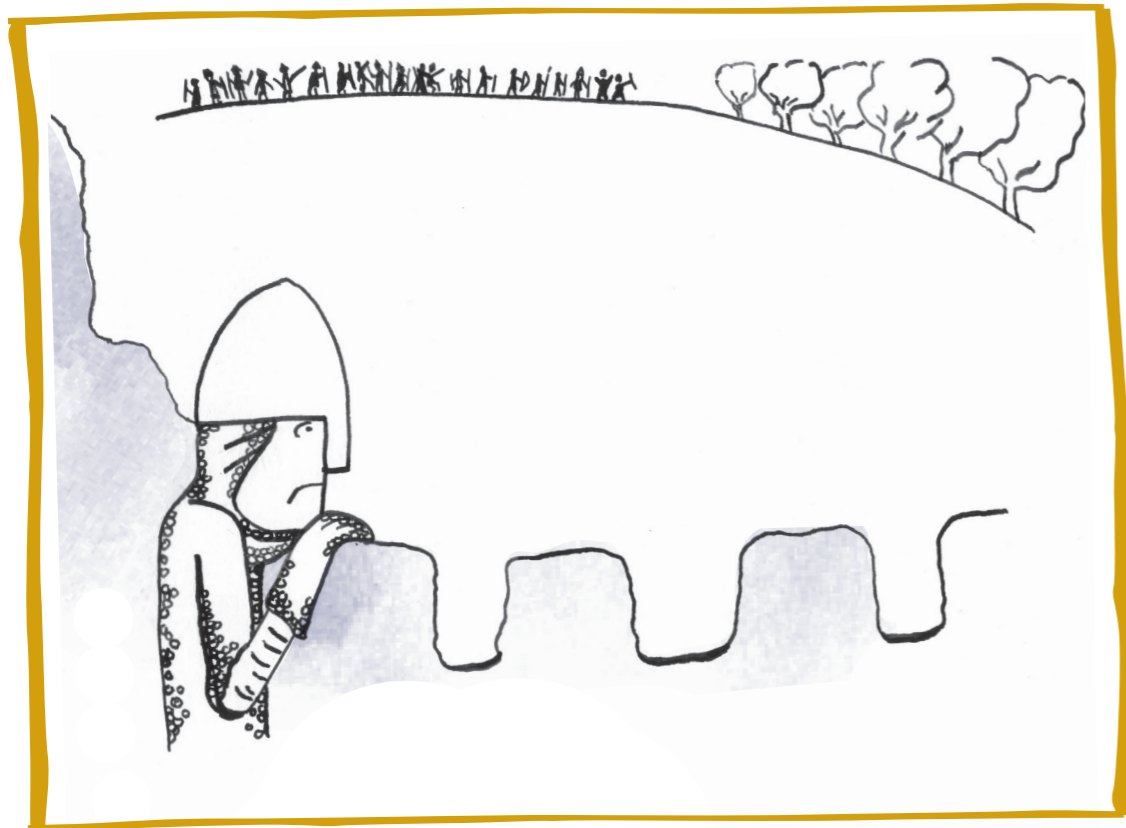
When Roger Bigod I built the first castle at Framlingham he chose the highest ground for miles around.

Get your group leader to find this activity location on their map

A Up on the wall walk, at what distance could Roger Bigod see his enemies?

Tick one of the three answers below:

- From the woods about 4 miles away.
- From Orford Castle about 12 miles away.
- From Norwich Castle about 40 miles away.



B **Look** over the wall and **draw** the mere (lake) in the space above. The mere made the castle harder to attack from this side.

C Look for the Howard coat-of-arms above the gatehouse. **Join up the dots** to show the beasts that support the shield.



DID YOU KNOW?
 Coats-of-arms were very important in Tudor times. They were designed to show that you were rich and powerful - especially if you had royal relations!

Thomas Howard II's son, Henry, altered his coat-of-arms to include a cross, Edward the Confessor's special sign. By using this sign, Henry Howard claimed he was part of the royal family, so Henry VIII had him executed!

D How might you feel after spotting the Howard family's coat-of-arms above the gatehouse?

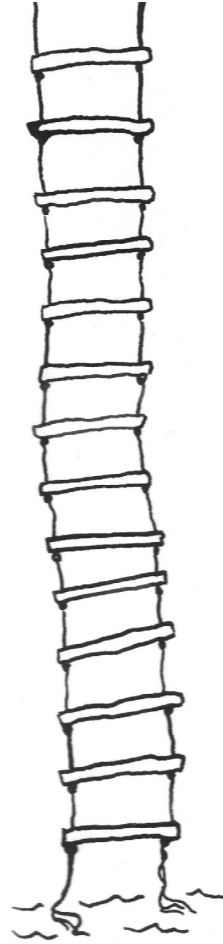
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ACTIVITY 2 – WELL

Find the well, which provided the castle with fresh water. If attackers destroyed it or poisoned the water, everyone would die! The Bigods made sure it was built inside the castle to keep it safe.

Get your group leader to find this activity location on their map

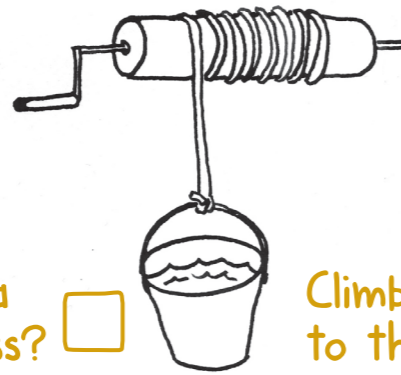


A How did the castle servants fill buckets from the well?

With a pump?



Using a windlass?



Climbing down to the bottom?

ACTIVITY 3 – THE CASTLE DEFENCES

Roger Bigod II strengthened the defences of the castle with a stone curtain wall and a walkway around the top.

A Look at the thick stone walls around you. Imagine enemies are approaching. Does the curtain wall make you feel protected or trapped?

Get your group leader to find this activity location on their map

B Look up and around you to spot these things:

How many towers are there?

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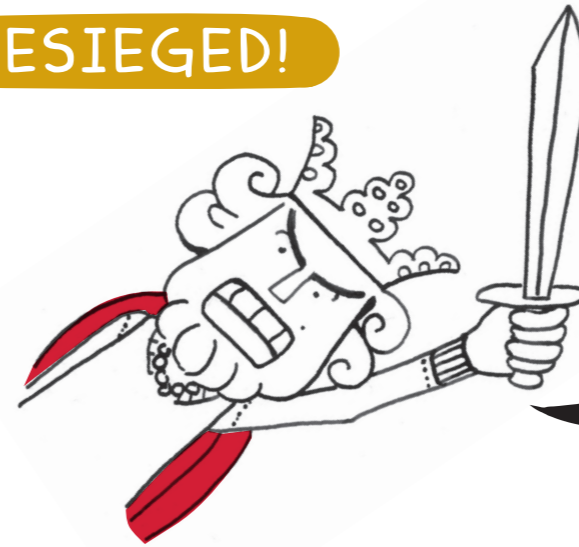
Crenellations to protect soldiers from enemy arrows.



Narrow slits to aim arrows through (arrow loops).



BESIEGED!



In 1216, Roger Bigod II quarrelled with King John. The king decided to storm Framlingham Castle when Roger was away. Sneaky!

C Pretend you're in charge of defending the castle from King John. You have 26 knights, 20 soldiers, 7 crossbowmen, 1 priest and 3 servants. Write your instructions below.

Right! This is what we are going to do....

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DID YOU KNOW?

Roger's men were armed with longbows and crossbows. Longbows shot further but crossbows were more accurate. Crossbowmen were paid more than longbowmen.