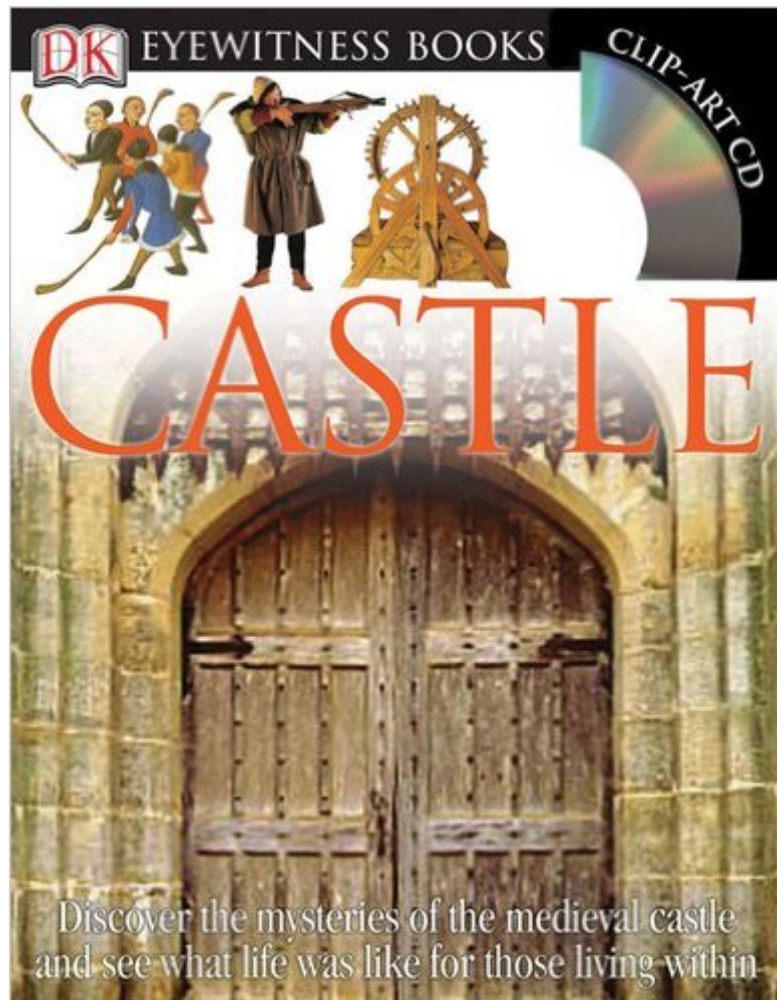


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# Castle (DK Eyewitness Books)



## Synopsis

Full-color photos. Take a look behind the walls of these fascinating fortresses and learn how they were built to house hundreds of people and animals; how a young boy rose from lowly page to noble knight; and what life was like for the castle residents.

## Book Information

Series: DK Eyewitness Books

Hardcover: 72 pages

Publisher: DK Children; Har/Cdr/Ps edition (June 30, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0756637694

ISBN-13: 978-0756637699

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.5 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (19 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #73,850 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Architecture](#) #28 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Medieval](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Like all the Eyewitness books, the quantity of information in Castle is both its strong point and weak point. We are taken to castles through time as well as in different cultures, and both the architectural and sociological aspects are examined. However, many of the facts and pictures included on a given page seem rather random and do not fit into a coherent general presentation. Castle is good fun if one remembers to read the main sections and the details when they're specifically interesting, but to just enjoy the pictures for some of the minutia.

DK Publishing is known for their wonderful photographs and beautifully illustrated books.

Unfortunately this is not one of them. They built 3d computer models of castles and used images of that to illustrate most of the book. Though illustrative it feels artificial and inauthentic. I wish there were more photos of real castles. If they are going to use a 3d model then they should include a disk with interactive views of that model.

Like Eyewitness Books? This is another nice entry in their series for younger readers. What is a castle? The book describes it thus: "A castle was the fortified private residence of a lord." The lord could be a king or a baron or some lesser noble. It was designed as both a residence AND a stronghold. The book begins by noting that such structures have had a long history (one ancestor goes back to Mycenae in about 1250 B.C.). The volume moves on to consider the first castles (appearing in the 9th and 10th centuries A.D.). There is discussion of different approaches to building a castle--such as the use of concentric rings to harden the castle against attack. There are also discussions of different styles in castles--from the Loire region in France to Spanish castles, to German castles (take a trip along the Rhine River, and you will see numerous examples) to Japan. There is discussion of how those who wanted to capture a castle would strategize and how castles were structured to defend against such attacks. The volume considers the different functions of a castle--from defense to kitchens and eating to entertainment. The volume concludes with a discussion of the decline of castles. All in all, a useful volume in the Eyewitness Books portfolio. Young readers, many of whom are enchanted by castles, are likely to find this a fun read--and a source of knowledge.

It covers a wide range of items involving life in a castle, but because of its scattered approach, the information tends to get watered down. I picked it up specifically to learn about the structure and construction of castles and while this information was present, it wasn't as detailed as I would have liked.

Through the pages of this specific Eyewitness book you will discover the mysteries of the medieval castle and what life was like for those living within its walls. In this book, you will discover the exciting world of the medieval castle, from the dramatic methods used to defend and attack castles to what life was really like for the people living inside its mighty battlements. More specifically you will learn about what is a castle, what the first castles looked like, the great tower, concentric castles, castles on the Loire, castles in Germany, the chapel, laying a siege, men and missiles, tricks of defense, the garrison, the castle as prison, crusader castles, castles in Japan, the great hall, the kitchen, at the table, the entertainers, women and children, the lord, fabrics and textiles, in the fields, animals in the castle, the castle builders, the woodworkers, metalwork, castles in decline and much more. The pages are packed with photographs and illustrations about castles and life in a castle. You will witness how people dressed during the Middle Ages, how the food was prepared,

how the builders would think of defending the castle when building it and how castles differ from one country to another. Castles were predominant during the Middle Ages and that's why so many exist still today in Europe. These structures were part of life during the Middle Ages and I think it is also essential to the study of history during the Medieval era to look at how castles were essential for cities. This book gives a pretty good idea of life in a castle for kids who are studying the Middle Ages.

I know these types of books are meant for kids, but adults can enjoy and learn from them as well. This book illustrates and describes different types of castles and the importance of different aspects of castle structure and life. A great addition to any collection.

Eyewitness books give readers complete information in short 'blurbs' and captioned pictures. These books are always the first to be checked out in our school library...our students LOVE THEM...and parents, you will too!

I bought this book for my non-reading special needs adult son. He loves looking at all of the detailed pictures!

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