

An aerial photograph of the Tower of London, showing its various towers, battlements, and surrounding grounds. The central White Tower is prominent, with its distinctive conical roof. The surrounding area includes other parts of the castle complex, green spaces, and nearby urban buildings.

THE TOWER OF LONDON

Mighty Fortress, Royal Palace, Infamous Prison

Tiernan Chapman-Apps

Before the Tower

William the Conqueror was a distant cousin of Edward the Confessor, he wanted to be the King of England. He said he had been promised the throne in 1051 and was meant to be supported by Harold the Earl of Wessex son and heir of the Earl of Godwin in 1064 who swore to uphold his right to be king. However Harold went back on his promise and was an usurper. Edward died having no children and both Harold and William wanted the throne.

William invaded the country and Harold was killed in the battle of Hastings by an arrow and then a sword of a knight

William was crowned on Christmas Day 1066

Pictures from top to bottom

William the Conqueror

Edward the Confessor

Harold the Earl of Wessex or Harold II



The building and construction

Building of the Tower of London actually began just after William the Conqueror captured the city in 1066, Immediately after his coronation (Christmas 1066), William I the Conqueror began to erect fortifications on the South East corner of the site to dominate the indigenous mercantile community and to control access to the Upper Pool of London, the major port area before the construction of docks farther downstream in the 19th century. 12 years later the building of the White Tower began to take place and other defenses were developed and made bigger during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. At the end of King Edwards reign in 1307 the Tower of London was a huge and imposing castle.

The central keep, known as the White Tower was begun about 1078 close inside the old Roman city wall and was built of limestone from Caen in Normandy. During the 12th and 13th centuries the fortifications were extended beyond the city wall, the White Tower becoming the nucleus of a series of concentric defences enclosing an inner and an outer ward.

A Concentric Castle is a Castle with two or more concentric curtain walls, such that the inner wall is higher than the outer wall. Making it so the defences of the castle are harder to infiltrate as they are defended from a height allowing the inhabitants to fire or shoot down towards the invaders.



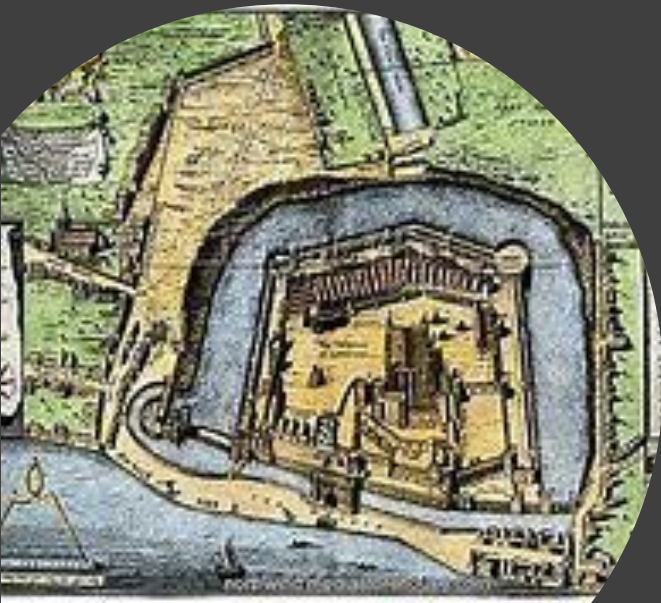
The Tower in the 1500's



The pictures to the left are a depiction as to what people claim The Tower of London looked like in the 1500's

In the medieval period of England the Tower of London was a Royal residence and a formidable symbol of England's national heritage. At this time in history Castles like this were a very popular prison as well as a prison in the medieval period. The monarch traditionally spent the night at the Tower prior to his or her coronation ceremony at Westminster Abbey. It has a lot of history kept in its walls including things that were not very nice and it has shaped a lot. In those days they didn't have running water or electricity so if you were a member of the royal family you would have slaves to do your jobs.

Edward I Longshanks was determined to finish the work his father, Henry III, had started. To finish the work he spent £21,000 to make the Tower of London the biggest Concentric Castle in the whole of England. Despite the vast expense and work taken, Edward I didn't really use the castle to live there much, The Tower of London did become one of the best prisons in England, and a safe and well kept place for the Royal Mint as well as other Priceless valuables belonging to the Royal Family.



Defences of The Tower Of London

East Battlements

The Broad Arrow Tower: from the 14th century, the Broad Arrow Tower was connected to the government responsible for royal supplies, known as the wardrobe. It was originally a guard tower in which the medieval garrison would have defended this section which is part of the inner curtain wall.

Fighting Platform: This is where the garrison would have assembled if they were attacked.

Martin Tower: from 1669 until 1841 the Crown Jewels were kept here

The Constable Tower:

South Battlements

The Salt Tower: This Tower originally looked over the Thames, in times of trouble, archers on the ground floor would protect the tower by shooting through the 5 arrow loops, also on the walls of the Salt Tower there is graffiti from prisoners held there over 500 years ago

Saint Thomas Tower: This room was built and used by Edward I in the late 1270s to meet important guests

Lanthorn Tower: this holds objects which date back to the reign's of Henry III and Edward I

Wakefield Tower: built by Henry III in approx 1230's and probably used as his council chamber

North Battlements

Bowyer Tower: This is where the royal bowmakers once worked.

Flint Tower: The second Tower defence on the first fortification of tower, built between 1238-72





The Moat

The moat was originally dug as a defence ditch by Henry III and was first filled with water by Edward I in the 13th century via the connection to the Thames.

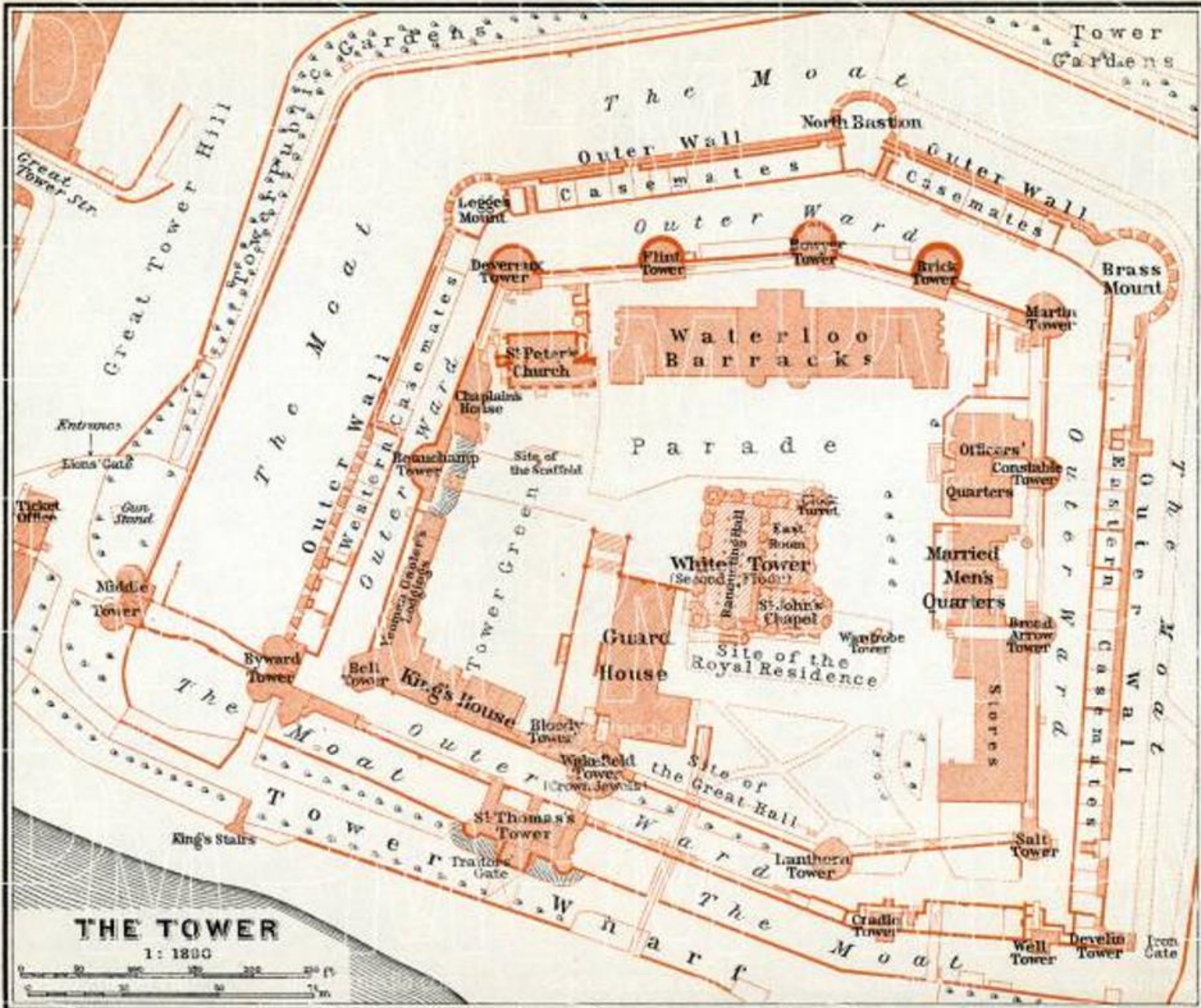
Peasants Revolt 1381

This was a major uprising or rebellion across England in 1381. This was led by several people the most notable of these men was Wat Tyler, they managed to attack and gain entry to the Tower of London and Executed many royal officials.



The Tower of London is and was protected by enormous walls, initially it was designed to protect against Danish attacks, it wasn't built as a royal residence. It was a stronghold to protect the royal family in times of civil disorder or war. It housed many timber buildings inside which over the course of the years have changed and developed into the formidable Tower we now have. Some of the walls and ramparts are fifteen feet thick and ninety feet high. With a huge moat this made the Tower one of the most protected and defensive Castles ever built.

It is known that the oldest part of the Castle, the White Tower, was begun after 1077 and completed by 1097. The notice 'Begun circa 1080', formerly displayed outside the Tower, was removed and 1078 has been accepted as its beginning.



This is a map of the Tower with key parts marked out (e.g. The Towers, Main Castle and other important things)

Height: 88.58Ft (Architectural)

Address: North Bank, London

It was Opened in 1078



Past Royal Residents



Though the main Royal residence of the medieval Kings of England was always their palace at Westminster, the Tower of London was, from the time of its construction by William I an alternative Royal residence and particularly a refuge for them in times of crisis.

Many of the past residents made changes to the Tower, by adding parts and changing things. Henry III (1216-72) and Edward I (1272-1307) were two of the Kings to do this, between them they added walls which were called defenses and lots of smaller towers, they also enlarged the Moat.

Other famous residents of the castle have been Henry VIII (1491-1547). Henry VIII was the King who decreed that the Yeoman Warders would become permanent residents and guards of the Tower of London, they are still there to this day

Henry VIII also allowed Anne Boelyn to stay in the Castle the night before their wedding at Westminster Abbey, he also imprisoned her there before he had her executed, on the Tower Green for adultery.

Many other famous medieval Kings and Queens also lived at the palace, they had beautiful apartments at the Tower and they also had the luxury of being able to worship in the Chapel Royal

Other residents of the Tower though not kept in luxurious surroundings were Lady Jane Grey who was executed in 1554 aged just 17, Catherine Howard, Sir Walter Raleigh, and Guy Fawkes. More recently in the last 100 years the infamous London brothers the Kray Twins were kept there.

The pictures to the left depict the following kings from top to bottom

Henry III

Henry VIII

Edward I

There have been many residents of the Tower who have suffered death within the walls. During the Wars of the Roses King Henry VI (R 1422-1461 and R1470-1471) was murdered there in 1471. It has been said that the King was murdered whilst praying in the King's private chapel in the Wakefield Chapel. Reports on his death and the location of his murder differ though although after his body was exhumed in 1910 the forensic report suggests the King died due to extreme violence.

Two residents who died within the walls of the Tower are the children of Edward IV, 12 year old Prince Edward V and his brother 10 year old Prince Richard of Shrewsbury. The two Princes vanished within the Tower in 1483, they had originally been brought to the Tower after the death of their father King Edward IV, on the orders of their uncle Richard the Duke of Gloucester, when he claimed the royal throne for himself they were stripped of their titles and declared illegitimate. After this they were moved to the Garden Tower (now known as the bloody tower) and became prisoners of the crown. They both disappeared mid 1483 and were never seen again. Two skeletons were found in 1674 during renovations and they were re-examined in 1933 proved to be the skeletons of two boys aged 12 and 10. the same ages as the boys who disappeared. It is widely believed that they were murdered by or under orders of their uncle Richard III.

Lady Jane Grey was Queen to prisoner in just under a week, after the death of her cousin Edward VI who died without a male heir. She was crowned in July 1553. Lady Jane Grey was a protestant who was overthrown by Mary Tudor (Bloody Mary) on July 19 1553.

The pictures to the right are

Henry IV

Lady Jane Grey

Prince Edward and Prince Richard



Timeline of the Tower of London

1078 - Construction of the White Tower begins. Geoffrey de Mandeville is named the first Constable of the Tower.

1080 - The Chapel of St. John is consecrated

1100 - The very first prisoner in the Tower, Ranulf Flambard, Bishop of Durham, escapes by climbing down a rope.

1140 - The Tower is first used as a royal residence

1221 - Building of the Wakefield Tower

1241 - The White Tower is whitewashed

1264 - The Royal Menagerie begun

1297 - John Baliol, King of Scotland, imprisoned in the Tower.

1300 - The Beauchamp Tower built.

1322 - The Ceremony of the Keys begun.

1381 - Peasant's Revolt. The Tower is stormed by an angry mob.

1450 - Rebels under Jack Cade attack the Tower

1471 - King Henry VI dies mysteriously, probably murdered, in the Tower.

1483 - Disappearance of the Princes in the Tower.

1512 - St. Peter ad Vincula destroyed by fire.

1520 - St. Peter ad Vincula completely rebuilt.

1530 - Building of Queen's House

1532 - Rebuilding of St. Thomas Tower

1536 - Anne Boleyn beheaded on Tower Green

1554 - Lady Jane Grey executed.

1597 - Catholic priest John Gerard escapes after being tortured severely.

1613 - Death of Sir Thomas Overbury, probably by poison

1649-1660 - Cromwell's rule sees the Crown Jewels melted down and sold. Many pieces were later recovered by the crown.

1660 - The Tower ceased regular use as a prison. Defences were improved, and the garrison was used to keep the peace in London. Most of the Tower now administered by the Office of Ordnance.

1660 - First sightseers admitted to the Tower. It has never been the same since!
1671 - Colonel Thomas Blood attempts to steal the Crown Jewels from the Martin Tower. Blood is captured but mysteriously pardoned by the king.

1663 - 1664 - New Armouries built

1674 - Discovery of bones thought to be those of the 'Princes in the Tower' during renovation work

1688 - The building of the Grand Storehouse as a store for armaments

1689 - The notorious Judge Jeffreys dies in the Tower

1804 - The royal menagerie opened to the public for the first time.

1834-1835 - The Royal Menagerie moved from the Lion Tower to form the London Zoo. Most of the Lion Tower demolished

1842-1862 - Waterloo Barracks built, along with the Royal Fusilier's Museum

1843 - The moat is drained and filled

1848 - The Tower is refortified as a precaution in light of revolutionary ideas sweeping Europe

1851 - Architect Anthony Salvin brought in to restore the Tower

1914-1916 - during WWI a total of 11 German prisoners were shot as spies in the Tower

1939-1945 - Severe bomb damage to many parts of the tower during WWII

1952 - The Krays held in the tower for 4 days, making them among the very last prisoners to be held here

1994 - The Crown Jewels were moved to a new location in the Jewel House

The Crown Jewels

The Crown Jewels are the ceremonial treasures which have been acquired by English kings and queens, mostly since the 1600's, these have been protected at the Tower

The collection includes not only the regalia used at Coronations, but also Crowns acquired by various monarchs, Church and Banqueting plate's, orders, insignia, robes, a unique collection of medals and Royal christening fonts. Edward the Confessor (reigned 1042-66), deposited his Royal ornaments for safe keeping in Westminster Abbey, may have been the first monarch to assemble a regalia. These have been replaced or altered over the succeeding centuries. The Crown Jewels suffered their most disastrous fate following the execution of Charles I in the seventeenth century. In 1649 Cromwell ordered that the Royal regalia 'be totally broken' as being symbolic of the 'detestable rule of kings'. The regalia's precious stones were sold separately and the precious metal sent to the Mint to be coined, although other pieces (such as the Coronation Spoon dating from the twelfth century and later returned to Charles II) were sold intact.

The Coronation Chair (dating from 1300) remained intact as it was used in 1653 at Westminster Hall when Cromwell was installed as Lord Protector.

However, detailed records of the old regalia survived, and replacements for the lost regalia were made at a cost of nearly £12,185 for Charles II's coronation in 1661.

The Crown Jewels are still kept at the Tower of London and are thought to be one of the most visited objects in the world. They are guarded by Sentries at the Tower of London and are changed every two hours, the building where they are stored is protected by bombproof glass and watched now by more than 100 CCTV cameras.





The Tower as a Prison

The Tower of London was used as a prison from the 12th to the 20th century. Inside of its walls many famous people served their sentences, some rightfully and some imprisoned because of their political and religious beliefs. These days people describe the Tower of London's Prison as a place of death and torture, however only seven people were executed in the prisons before the start of the Second World War. Almost all the prisoners that were kept present in the Tower of London waited for the death sentence but not executed at the tower but in the nearby Tower Hill to the north of the castle (the records kept show that Over 100 people were executed there in the space of 400 years).

The Tower Of London is known to be one of the most complex buildings across the United Kingdom. The prisons were a place where people were tortured and executed, The peak usage of this structure as a prison happened in 16th and 17th century, when many prominent figures fell from the courts grace and found themselves imprisoned in the tower. One of the most notable executions was that of Guy Fawkes who was brought to the Tower after his plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament, because they wanted to kill James I. He was tortured with his friends who helped him and they were all hung drawn and tortured. The body parts were then taken and hung around London so other people would be scared and not do it.

They also used the rack to torture people which pulled their joints apart. This was the one they used the most to hurt people.

As centuries went on Kings and Queens used the Tower for a different reason but it would always come back to being used as a prison. During the time of First and Second World War, Tower was again repurposed to be prison and 12 men were executed for espionage.

The Last Prisoner kept In The Tower Of London Was Josef Jakobs, Josef Jakobs was a German spy who was caught parachuting into the United Kingdom during WW2. He was convicted of espionage under treachery act 1940, he was shot by a military firing squad, he was not hanged because he was captured as an enemy combatant



Guy Fawkes



Josef Jakobs





The Zoo at the Tower

The first record of an animal thought to be a Polar Bear, being kept in the tower is in 1210 during King Johns reign. The monarch would receive the animals as gifts from other powerful rulers at the time, often to impress others or to show the wealth and strength of the ruler. The exotic animals were sent to London from all over the world and kept in the Tower of London as a symbol of power as well as for the curiosity and entertainment of the court.

King Henry III was given three Leopards by a Roman Emporor called Frederick II, then came Lions and an African Elephant in 1255. Sadly lots of the animals died as people didn't know how to look after them and they didn't have enough space either. They even killed soldiers and visitors.

In 1835 the animal attraction was closed down and the animals sent to the new London Zoo in Regents Park

Ravens of the Tower

The picture on the right was taken on a visit to the Tower of London in 2019.

The Ravens are believed to protect the Tower and the Crown. There are at least 6 Ravens kept at the Tower at all times, they have their wings clipped to ensure they don't fly away. They are looked after by a Ravenmaster of the Yeoman Warders who ensures that they are ok.

There is a superstition that says, 'if the Tower of London Ravens are lost or fly away, the Crown will fall and Britain with it'





The Tower, is a Royal Fortress and a famous London landmark. Its buildings and grounds served historically as a Royal Palace, a political prison, a place of execution, an arsenal, a Royal Mint, a menagerie, and a Public Records Office. It is located on the North Bank of the River Thames, in the extreme western portion of the borough of Tower Hamlets, on the border with the central City of London. the Tower now attracts over three million visitors a year. Here, the Ceremony of the Keys and other traditions live on, as do the ghost stories and terrible tales of torture and execution . But the Tower also has a richer and more complex history, having been home to a wide array of institutions including the Royal Mint, the Royal Armouries and even a zoo

The Tower as it now stands is a wonderful reminder of the rich history of England, of Kings and Queens over hundreds of years who have shaped our country. Much of the space around the Tower of London and within its walls formed with the double line of the open stone walls was taken up by lots of other buildings which were used as a variety of Offices to the Crown. The Tower acts as a protector of the Crown Jewels, home of the Yeomen Warders and its legendary guardians, the pampered Royal Ravens, As the most secure castle in the land, the Tower guarded royal possessions and even the royal family in times of war and rebellion. But for 500 years monarchs also used the Tower as a surprisingly luxurious palace. Throughout history, the Tower has also been a visible symbol of awe and fear. Kings and queens imprisoned their rivals and enemies within its walls. The stories of prisoners, rich and poor, still haunt the Tower

What can we learn?

When you look at the Tower of London you see it has a large moat and then two walls set apart from one another. The castle is a concentric castle which means it is surrounded by walls called curtains that protect the people inside. Because of the way the tower is built it meant that anyone who attacked it were at a disadvantage. People attacking the castle had no defences or protection but the people defending it had huge walls and they were shooting at them maybe with arrows from the upper ground.

It has also taught us that the thickness of the walls meant that people couldn't easily break through the walls as they were too thick. William the Conqueror had employed a man to build the castle and they didn't use wood but stone which made the castle really hard to burn, as wood would have burnt really quickly.

If you did manage to get past the 2 curtain walls and the archers you would have had to get past the open courtyard, it was then you would have to get in through the only way into the white tower the wooden stairs which is heavily guarded and on the bottom there are no windows and the first set of windows are about 14 feet high so you would have had to climb up which would have been hard because it was smooth stone.

What you can learn from this is the more defences you have the better and in those days because it looked like a massive fortress people were scared of a big building like this and got less attacks and it made the king/queen look like they were strong.





This Picture was taken inside the Tower with some of the Actors and Actresses who dress up in medieval clothes and Act out scenes. They were really nice



A picture of my sister Aria and myself with one of the Royal Beefeater's in 2019

The pictures on the following page were all taken during my visit to the Tower of London in 2019. They show a guard outside Jewel House in the Tower of London, Me and my sister in one of the animal cages and some pictures of the buildings there. We had a fantastic day and I learnt a lot. And I touched history.....

