

The castle of the Dukes of Brittany

Nantes



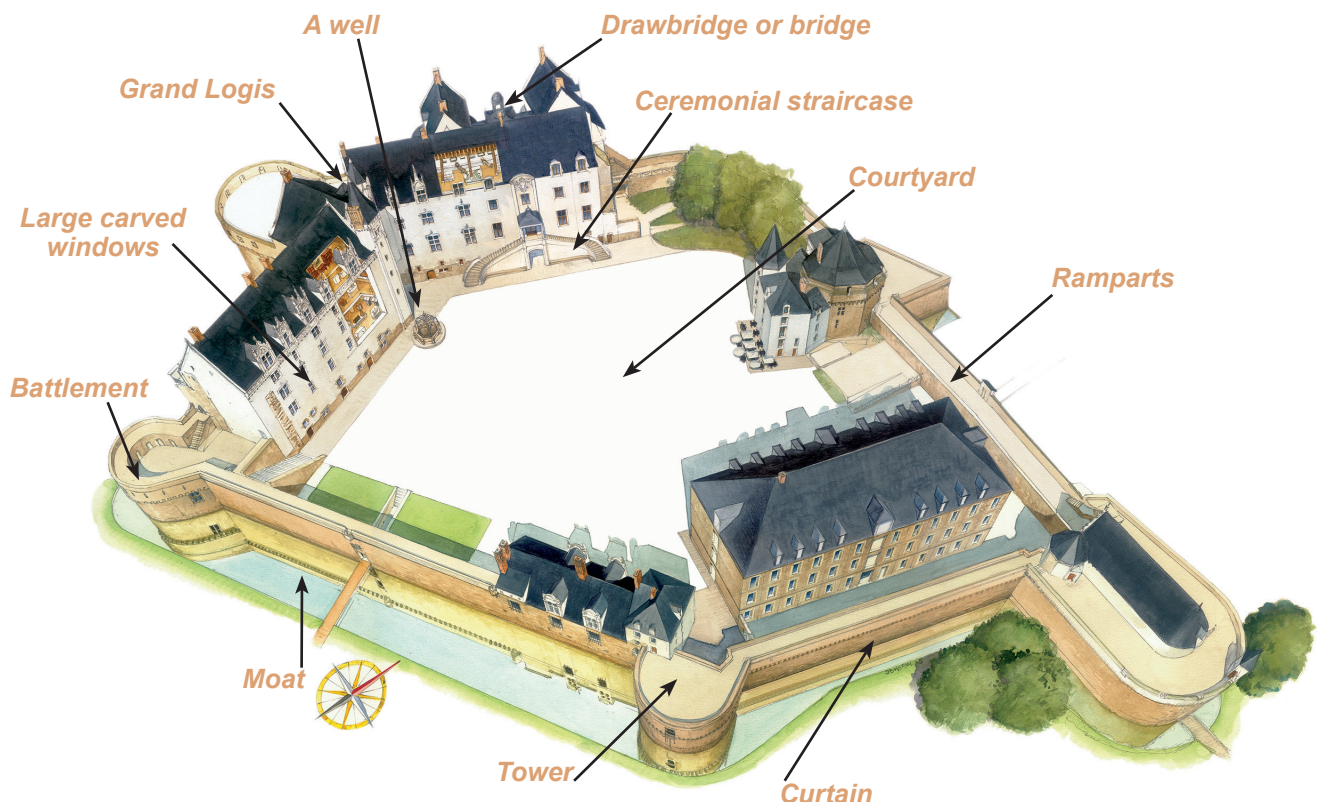
... → Step 1

→ Use the signs in the courtyard to find when the castle was built: **15th century**

... → Step 2

→ Identify the following elements:

The **moat** (or ditch) was filled with deep water to prevent enemies from coming in. The only way to cross the moat was on the **drawbridge** (raised or lowered with chains), or the **bridge** which provided a permanent access to the castle. Heavy wooden doors also protected the entrance. Around the castle are the **ramparts** to protect the people. The **curtain** is the wall surrounding the castle. It was strong enough to survive a siege. At the top of the wall you find **battlements**: they are regular gaps in the wall through which guns or arrows could be fired. **Towers** were also a part of the curtain. They allowed people to look about. The **arrow slits** are the thin vertical apertures through which archers could launch arrows. In the inner part of the castle, protected by the curtain is **the courtyard**; it is the outer space where many people could gather in case of danger. Water supply was often a problem. Water was mainly provided by **a well**. The lord, his family and his followers lived in the castle. The **Grand Logis** was home to the Duchy of Brittany's main government departments. On the first floor : the Council Hall, a space dedicated to the presentation and exercise of power. The **ceremonial staircase** is wide and ornates the major inner entrance; it is typical of Renaissance (in the Middle Ages staircases were narrow to be easy to defend). The **large carved windows** in white limestone are also typical of Renaissance.



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... → Step 3

- Which elements show the castle was a fortress to protect people?

The moat (or ditch) was filled with deep water to prevent enemies from coming in. The drawbridge (raised or lowered with chains), or the bridge which provided a permanent access to the castle. Heavy wooden doors also protected the entrance. The ramparts are to protect the people. The curtain is the wall surrounding the castle. It was strong enough to survive a siege. At the top of the wall you find battlements: they are regular gaps in the wall through which guns or arrows could be fired. Towers were also a part of the curtain. They allowed people to look about. The arrow slits are the thin vertical apertures through which archers could launch arrows. In the inner part of the castle, protected by the curtain is the courtyard; it is the outer space where many people could gather in case of danger. Water supply was often a problem. Water was mainly provided by a well.

... → Step 4

- Which elements show it was a residential palace?

The lord, his family and his followers lived in the castle. The Grand Logis was built to house the Lords and governors of Brittany. The ceremonial staircase is wide and ornates the major inner entrance; it is typical of Renaissance (in the Middle Ages staircases were narrow to be easy to defend). The large carved windows in white limestone are also typical of Renaissance.