

English

Thursday 25th and
Friday 26th June

'So do you want to build a castle?'

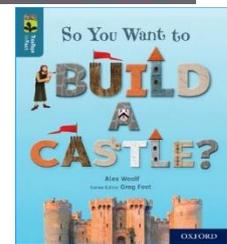
<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

My class login

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Read pages 26-29.

The siege of Castle Gaillard is described and presented in the form of a comic strip.

What key features can you pick out from this comic strip?
How is it presented that is engaging for the reader?



Throughout this week you have learnt about the defence features of a castle and how to keep the enemy out.

Task - Using the structure of the comic strip on the pages that you have read, you are to produce a short narrative in the form of a comic about YOUR castle being seized by enemy (using the ideas gathered this week). You can use similar events from 'The siege of Castle Gaillard' if this helps.

Key features/skills of a comic strip:

- Chronological order of key events of short narrative (in sections)
- Captions > short sentences describing what is happening in each section
- Dialogue. Speech bubbles stating what is said (precise language, could include humour)
- Pictures > this helps with the clarity of the story
- Appropriate language choices - linked to style of a comic and relevant to your story
- Onomatopoeia - words that sound like they are said (Bang! Drip! Fizz!)

Use the comic strip template (attached is the additional document).

This task is to be completed over two days.

If you complete the comic strip based on the events of YOUR castle, you can **challenge yourself** and read pages 36-39 'The seize of Dover Castle' and present the key events of this historical moment as a comic strip - this will require to pick out the key events and present this in a way that the reader will be able to follow.

The Siege of Dover Castle, 1216-17

The year after King John's troops had captured Rochester Castle from them, the rebel barons offered to help the French prince, Louis, become King of England instead. However, many English nobles remained loyal to King John, including Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent, the commander of Dover Castle.

Dover Castle is one of my all-time favourites. The biggest castle in England, its defences are truly spectacular: a square keep with two curtain walls and a gatehouse on the northern side, plus a wooden barbican surrounded by a ditch and a stockade of thick oak posts. In 1216-17, the defences were tested as never before in two sieges by Prince Louis of France.

I have uncovered the diaries of two soldiers: one of them in Louis's besieging army, and the other fighting for Hubert de Burgh to defend Dover Castle. Let's see how the castle's defences held up.

20th June 1216
We landed in Kent in May, and it has been success after success for the French army. The cowardly 'King' John fled as soon as we arrived, and we marched towards London where the English barons proclaimed Louis as King. The royal castles of Canterbury, Rochester and Winchester have all given in to us - however, one castle still resists: Dover Castle is still loyal to the false King John. We are marching there now - I can hardly wait. It will be another shining victory for our army, and then Louis will truly be King of all England.

8th July 1216
These are worrying times for me and my fellow soldiers in the garrison at Dover Castle. Ever since the **pretender** Louis landed on English soil, we've been gathering supplies and preparing for a siege. Knowing that the French will have to take this fortress before their victory is complete.

2nd July 1216
Just a few days ago, we stood on the battlements and watched as Louis's army marched into view. His blue and gold banners streaming in the sea breeze. We were filled with trepidation - but then they did nothing except parade back and forth in front of the castle! Eventually our commander, Hubert de Burgh, got fed up and ordered some of us to dash out of the castle, capture one of the French crossbowmen and throw him into the dungeons. This made Louis furious, and he began the siege in earnest!

As I write, the walls are trembling as the French trebuchets and mangonels send huge stones against us. I hope that if our stockade walls stand firm, we may yet hold out against them ...

2nd August 1216
The siege is going very well! Louis commanded the army to set up camp outside the castle and send everything we had against them: siege engines and tall towers full of crossbowmen - and all the while, a small group of us were secretly tunnelling underneath the stockade. Once the tunnel was finished, I set fire to the wooden supports and we sprinted back out so we could watch the wall come tumbling down. As soon as the wall fell, we charged through the gap. The barbican was ours! We have now begun digging beneath the eastern tower of the North Gate. I like to imagine Hubert de Burgh and the English soldiers standing in the bailey, watching cracks appear in the tower, unable to stop us digging away at its foundations from below.

French siege of Dover Castle

Diagram labels: keep, curtain walls, gatehouse, stockade, barbican

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