

Did you know?

- Moats around castles prevented invaders from tunnelling under the castle walls. They also reduced the risk of fire.
- Castle battlements consisted of raised sections called 'merlons' (behind which defenders could shelter) and gaps called 'crenels' (through which they could fire missiles).
- It was harder for attackers to make round towers collapse as they had no corners under which holes could be dug.
- The toilets in castles were just holes in the floor. Waste products simply fell down chutes and straight into the moat. Yuck!
- Spiral staircases in castles were always built in a clockwise direction. Because most people are right-handed, this clever detail meant attackers going up the staircase had to use their left hand to defend themselves, giving a clear advantage to the descender of the stairs!
- The Eiffel Tower is one of the most visited monuments in the world. Millions of people climb to the top every year! The Blackpool Tower was inspired by the Eiffel Tower.
- The tallest building in the world is the Burj Khalifa in Dubai with an incredible height of 829.8 m! Wow!
- It takes 35 minutes to travel by train through the Channel Tunnel from Folkestone, in Kent, to Coquelles, in Pas-de-Calais.
- The soil that was dug out from under the sea to create the English half of the Channel Tunnel was deposited on the Dover coast to create Samphire Hoe, a park and popular fishing spot. France used its leftover soil to create a new hill.
- Arch bridges have been a popular design for 3000 years. They are very strong because the weight of anything crossing them is evenly distributed to the supports on each side.
- The Akashi Kaikyō Bridge in Japan has the longest central span of any suspension bridge in the world and took two million workers 10 years to construct!
- At over 21,000 km long, the Great Wall of China is the longest structure ever built by humans! According to legend, a helpful dragon identified the path for the wall to follow.
- The roof of the Sydney Opera House in Australia was designed to look like boat sails.
- Stonehenge is a mysterious arrangement of ancient stones thought to have been built 5000 years ago. Nobody knows who constructed it.