

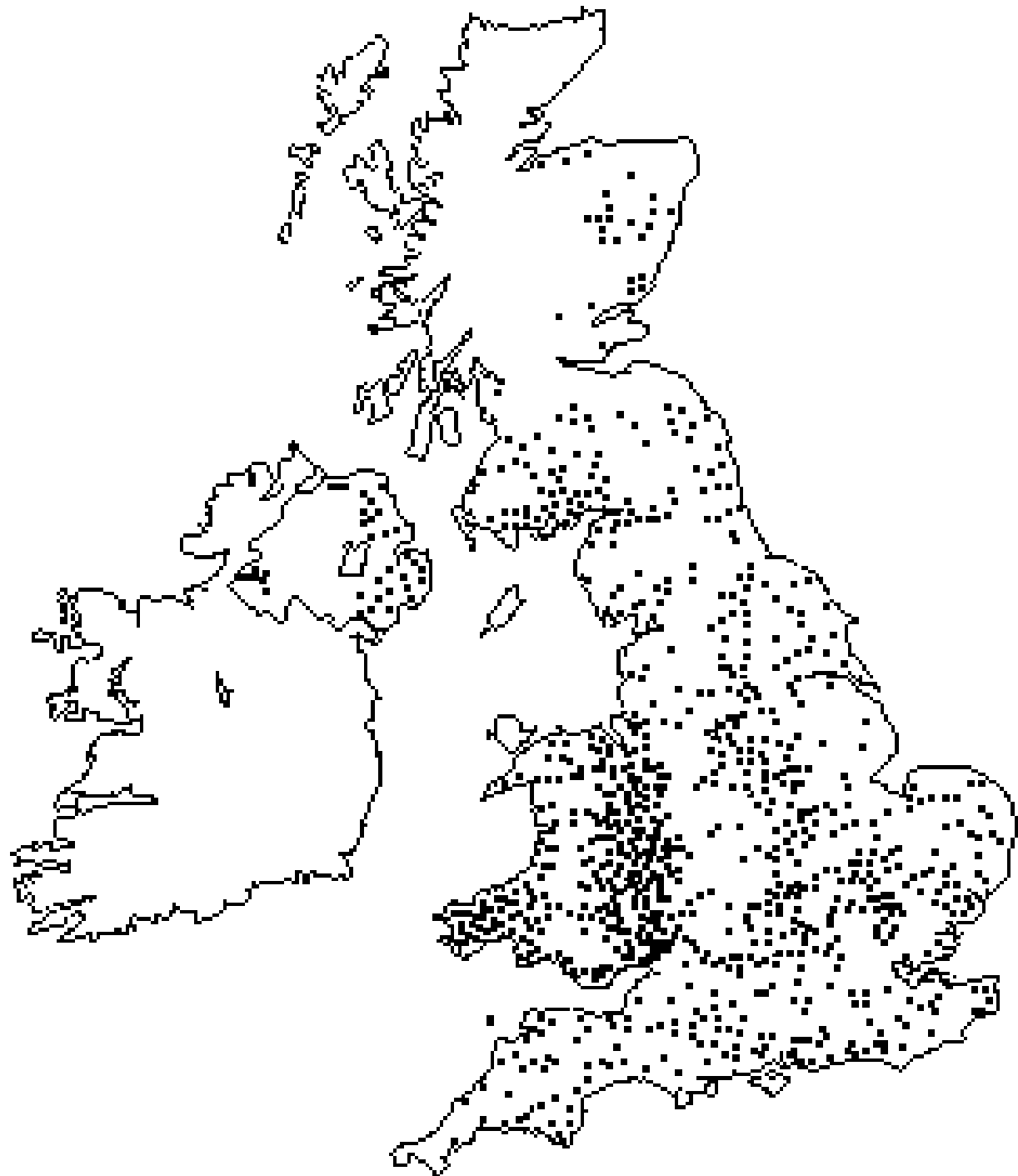
# Norman Castles

By the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- Describe the types of defensive structures used in England shortly after the Norman Invasion;
- Identify strengths and weaknesses in early Norman defensive structures.

- When the Normans captured an area they built a fort or castle where they would be safe. The first forts were made from wood. They could be built in a few months. They were called motte and bailey forts and they were often built on a river bend or near a large town. They were usually built on high ground where they had a good view of the surrounding countryside. They were located near one another so that the Normans in one fort could send signals to their neighbours nearby.



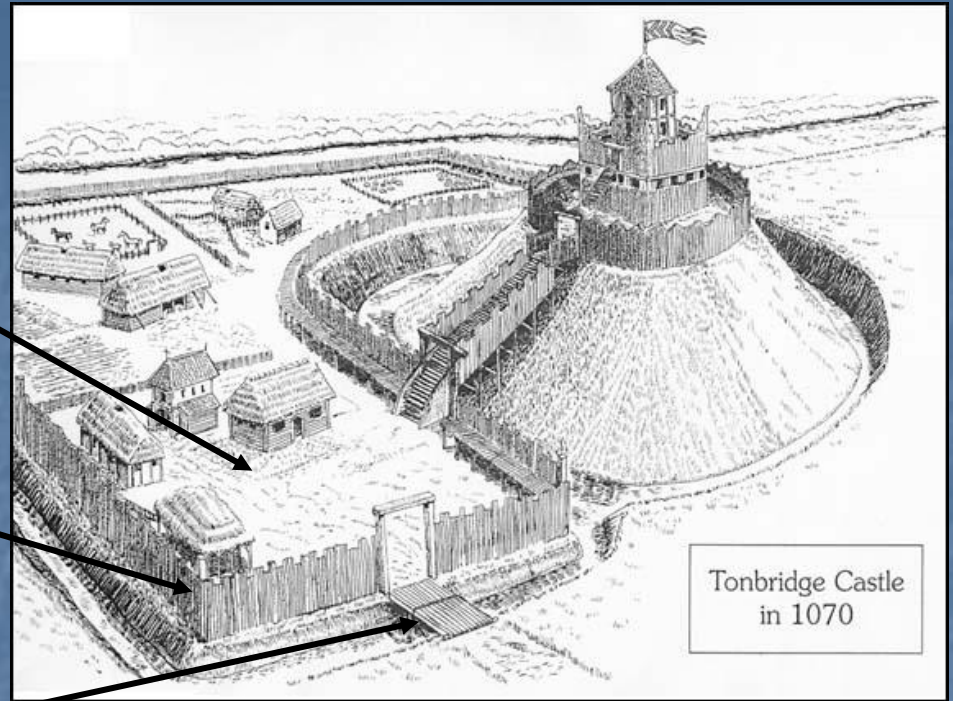




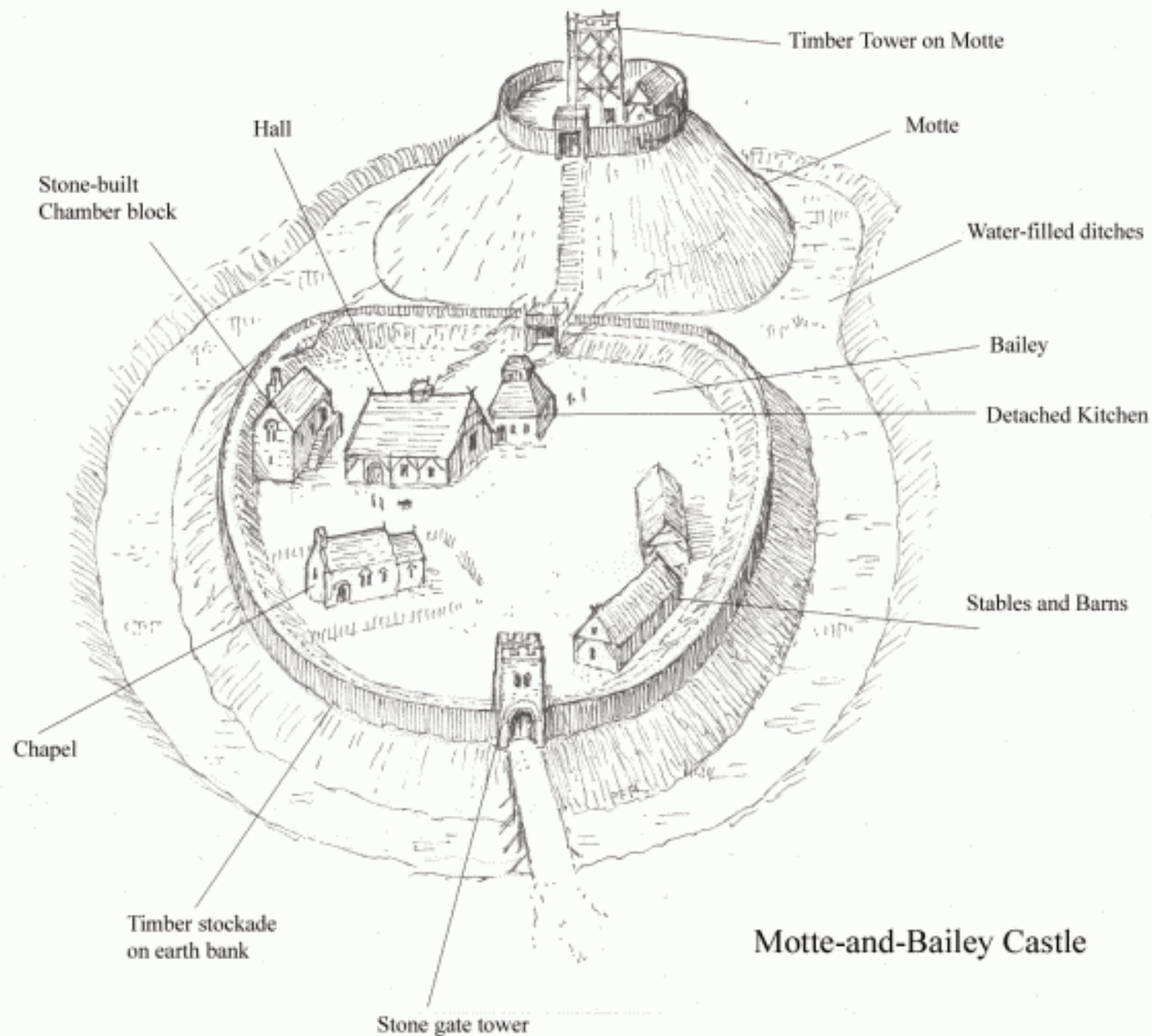
- First a large amount of earth was dug up and raised into a great mound. This mound was called the motte. It had a flat top.
- A simple wooden house with two or three rooms was built on the flat top. This was called a tower-house or keep.
- The lord and his family lived here. It was surrounded by a wooden fence.



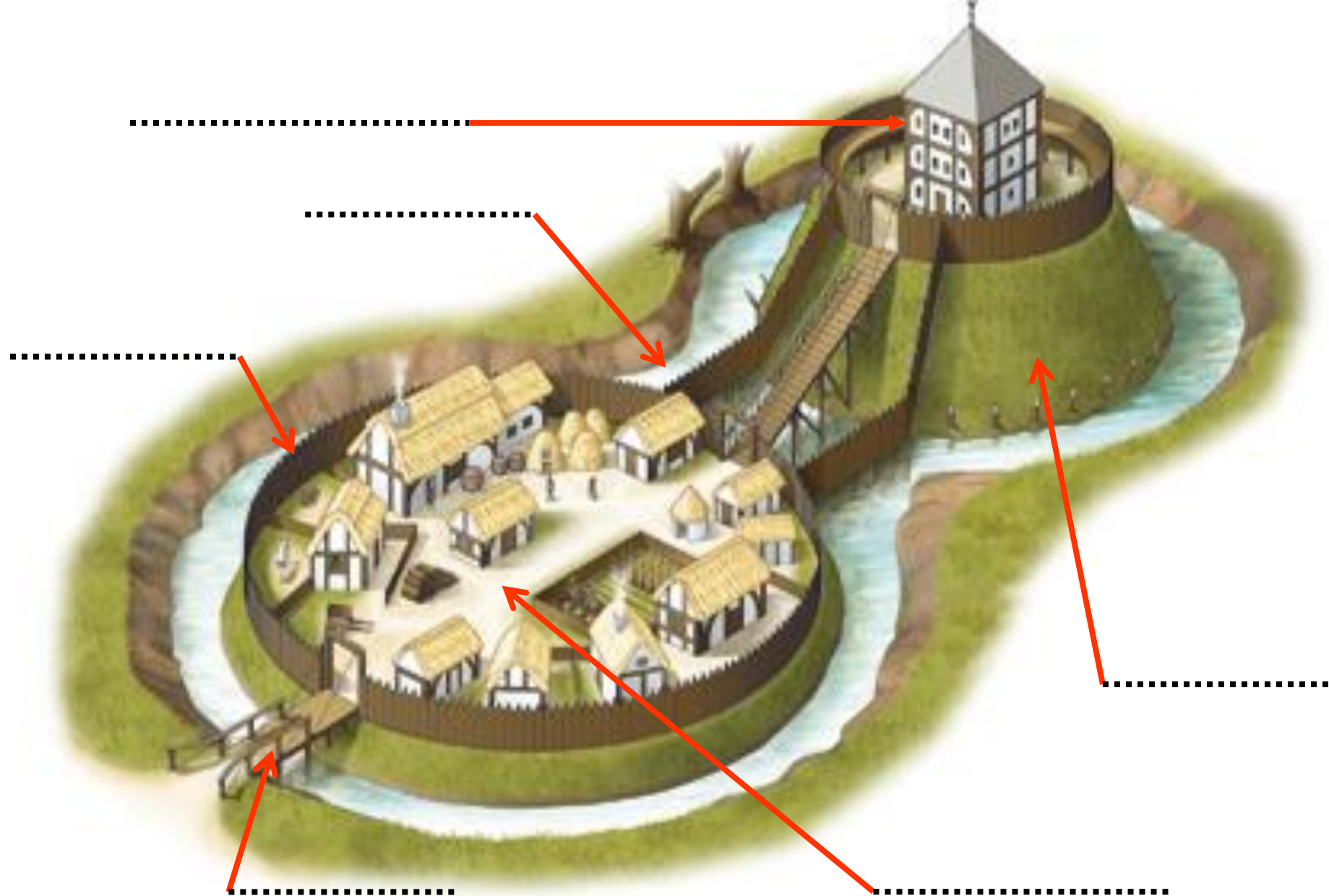
- The bailey was at the base of the motte. It had many buildings. The lord's workers, soldiers and craftspeople lived here. It also contained workshops and stables. The bailey was also surrounded by a strong wooden fence.
- The motte and bailey was surrounded by a wide ditch full of water. This was called a moat. It had a drawbridge.
- Motte is an old French word for 'clod of earth' and Bailey meant 'enclosure'.

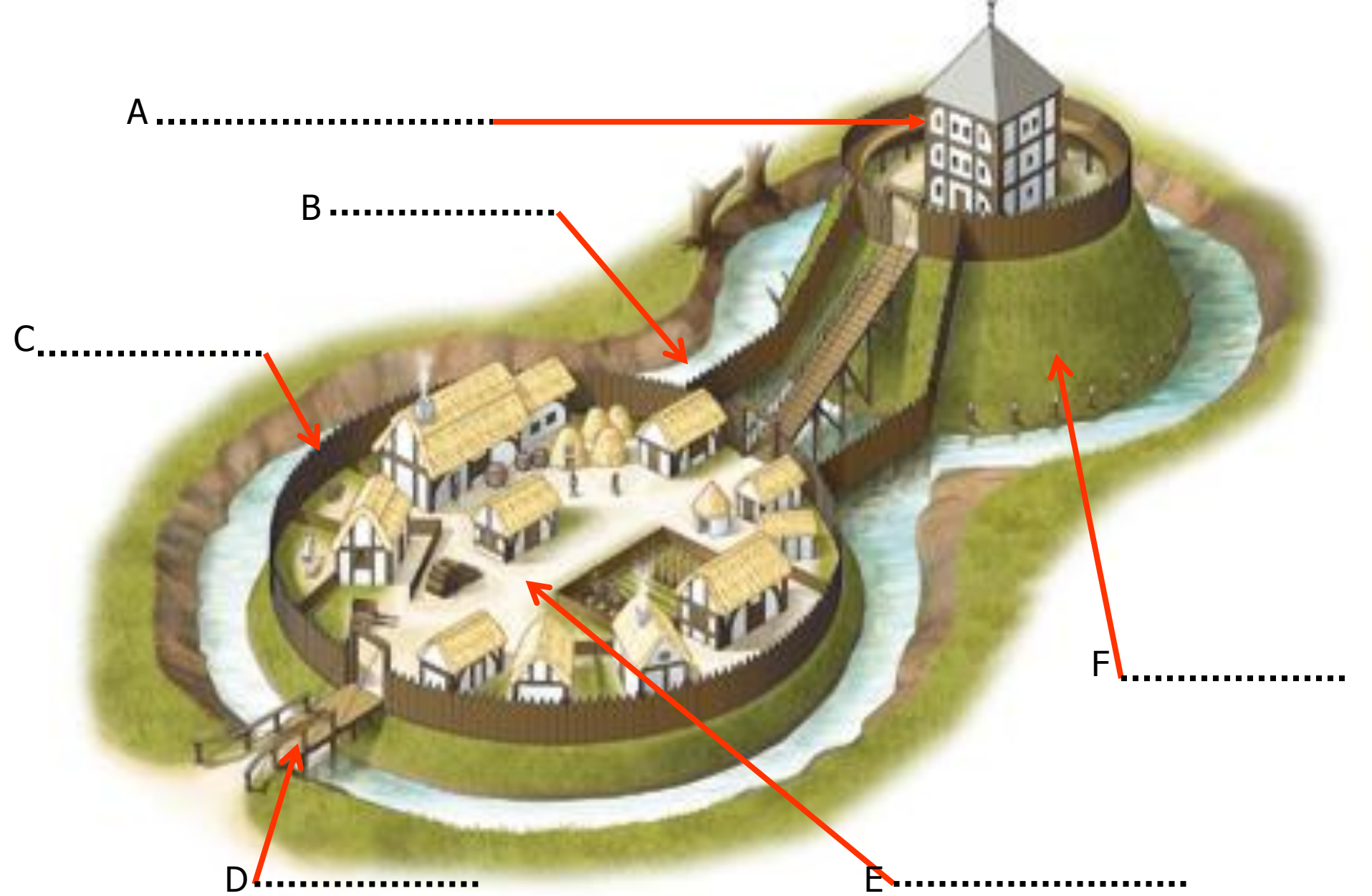






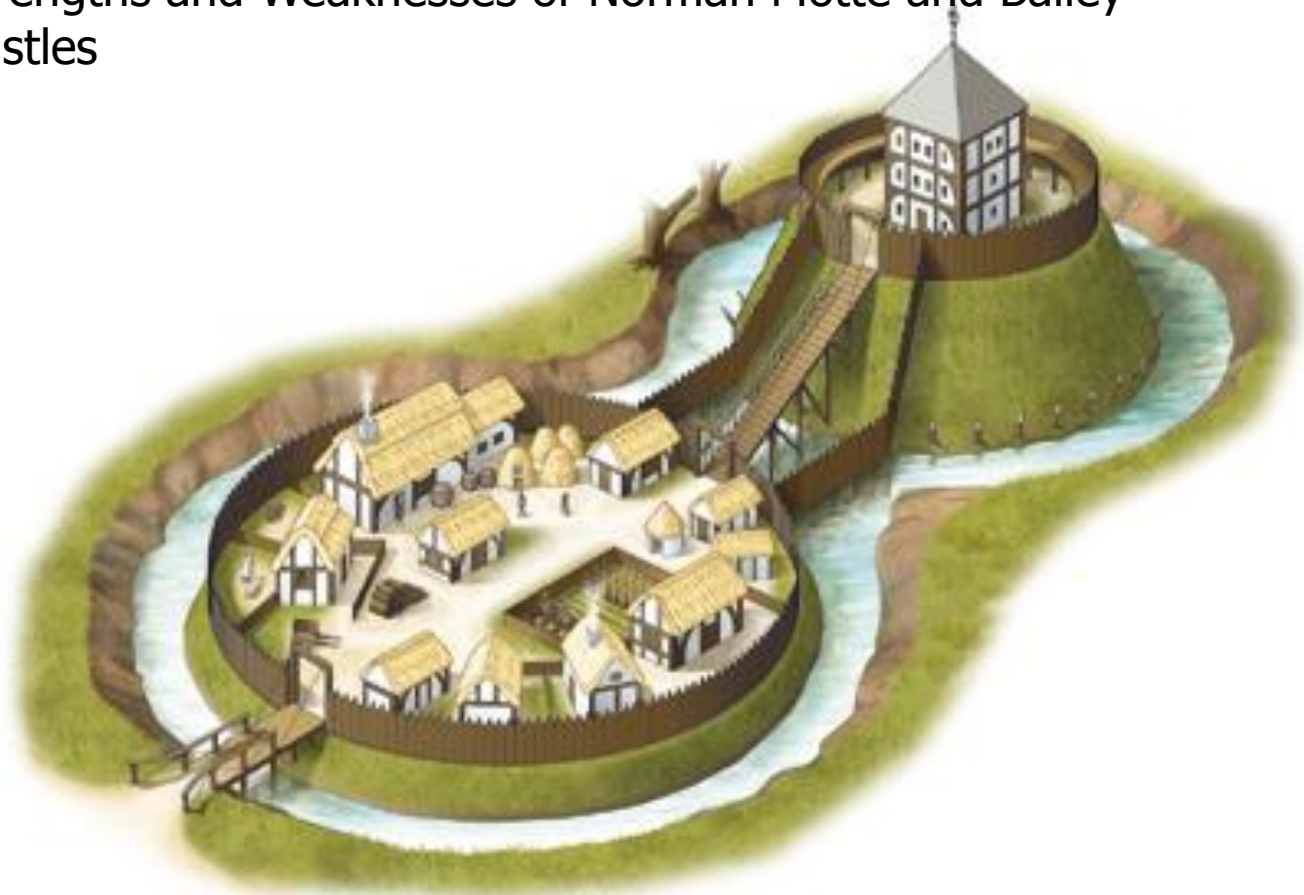
Motte-and-Bailey Castle







## Strengths and Weaknesses of Norman Motte and Bailey Castles





# The Fuedal System

