

WARWICK CASTLE



Key stage 1&2
ATTACK AND DEFENCE
 War
 Machines



- 1421**
Earl of Warwick supervises trial of Joan of Arc
- 1445**
Henry de Beauchamp becomes Duke of Warwick
- 1449**
Richard Neville becomes Earl of Warwick
- 1471**
Richard Neville (Kingmaker), dies at the Battle of Barnet
- 1478**
George, Duke of Clarence imprisoned and killed
- 1540**
Further development at the Castle - including a new roof for kitchens and building of the spy tower.



The Earls of Warwick



De Newburgh



Duplessis



Maudult



De Beachamp



Neville



Plantagenet



Dudley



Rich



Greville

Teacher notes

Attack and Defence

WAR MACHINES

Large scale war machines were used by armies to gain access to fortified settlements when the inhabitants had retreated inside. They were used to shorten the length of sieges by allowing fortifications to be breached or by psychologically reducing the resolve of the defenders inside.

Mechanical engines of war have existed since antiquity and the Trebuchet first appeared in Europe in the mid 12th Century. The most common ammunition used was large rocks and stones but manure and dead animals were often launched with the intention of spreading disease - pigs were favoured because they were more aerodynamic! Beehives were also used, and barrels with tar that could be ignited. Severed enemy heads were also sometimes used as missiles to demoralise the opposition and unfortunate messengers with rejected terms might also be thrown back. War machines often had nicknames, the Warwick Castle Trebuchet is called Ursa (meaning She-Bear) and stands at 18m high and weighs 22 tonnes!

The Ballista was a giant stationary crossbow that fired long heavy bolts. These were used to demolish the merlons on the walls and kill the defenders. It was also a weapon of defence that could be positioned on the walls and towers to fire on the attackers and their siege machines.

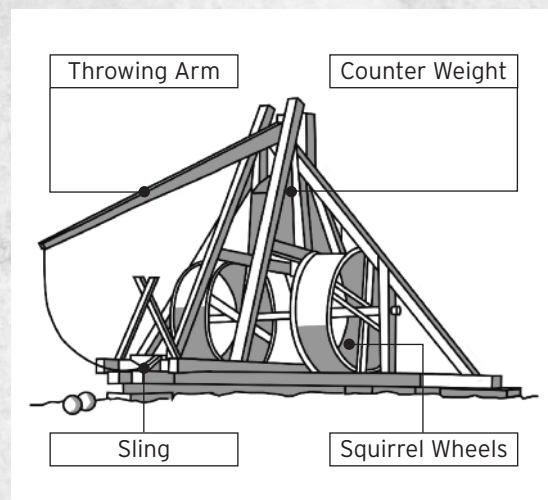
Below are a range of activities some of which can only be completed during the season when the Trebuchet fires or with additional teacher research/input.

PRE VISIT ACTIVITIES:

- Explore the variety of war machines used during the Middle Ages. Worksheet 1 can be used by matching the picture to the description.

DURING THE VISIT:

TEACHER'S NOTES TO WORKSHEET 2



TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL VISIT

The easiest way to check the timings of the daily Trebuchet show is to consult the Events guide at the turnstiles and in the Courtyard.

The Trebuchet Master will always be on hand to speak to groups however, for an extended session why not book a Trebuchet Talk?

See *Teacher's Introduction to Warwick Castle* for further details

POST VISIT ACTIVITIES:

• Design & Technology/Art:

In groups build your own Trebuchet or Ballista. Our Ballista doesn't fire so challenge the groups to see if they can make theirs work.

• Descriptive Writing:

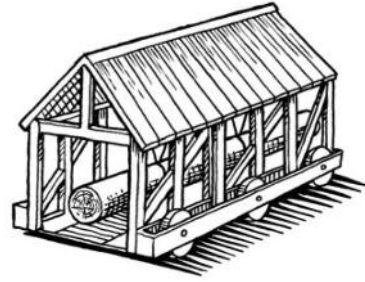
Write an instruction manual on how to fire the Trebuchet.



War Machines

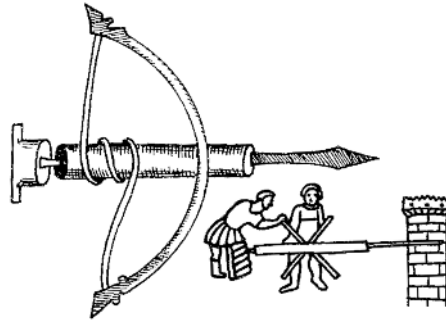
TREBUCHET

Large siege machines that threw missiles via a throwing arm and sling. The throwing arm had to be brought down to the ground via ropes and pulleys. It was fixed in place by a trigger mechanism while the shot was loaded. When the trigger was released the shot flew at the enemy at great speed!



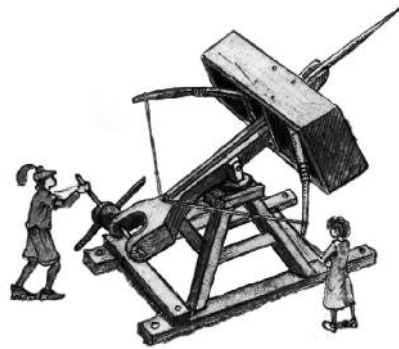
BALLISTA

Was like a giant stationary crossbow. They fired long and heavy bolts, some as long as 2m. They were used to destroy the walls and kill the defenders positioned on them.



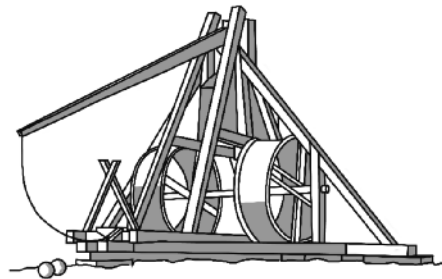
SIEGE TOWERS

A wheeled tower used as a way of getting over the walls, as well as carrying a battering ram. It was also a platform from which to shoot and a cover for undermining (digging under Castle walls). However it could only travel on flat surfaces very, very slowly!



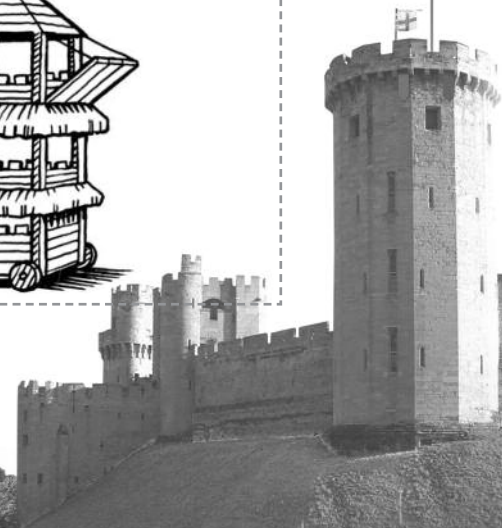
BATTERING RAMS

Were designed to break through walls. They were massive logs covered at one end in metal. They could be swung by men holding them or be suspended in a frame on ropes or chains. They were very good against stone walls.



BORERS

Were designed for drilling holes in the walls to make them collapse. This method was very good against brick. The machine would have been a sharpened log which would have rotated in a special socket.

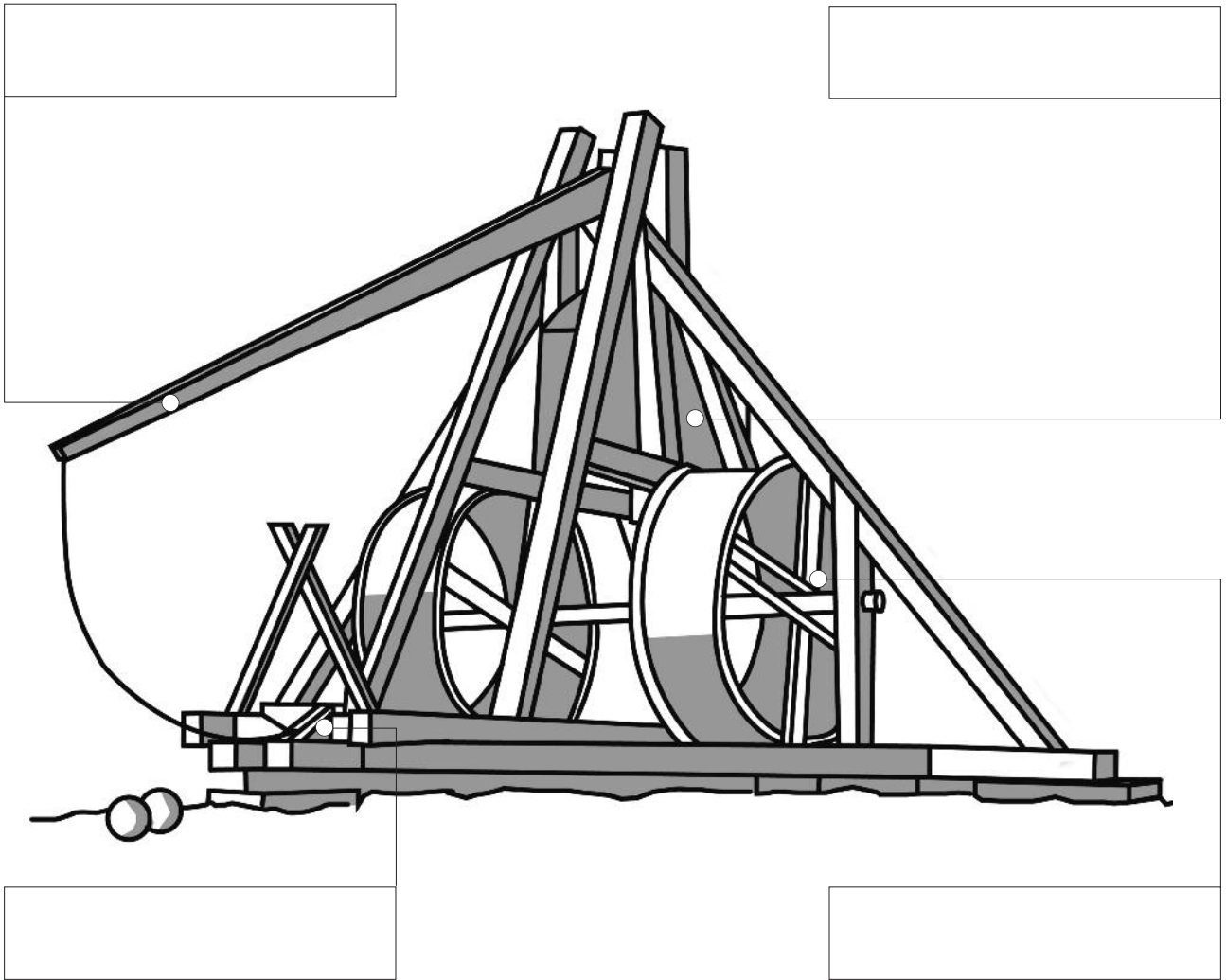




War Machines

Below is a diagram of one of Warwick Castle's ultimate war machines, the mighty trebuchet. Please label the essential parts of the machine using the words below.

Throwing Arm, Sling, Counter Weight, Squirrel Wheels



It took around 10-12 men to work the Trebuchet, which could be loaded in five to six minutes!

