**Medieval Sieges – Key Features**

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| Feature | Definition | Strengths/weaknesses |
| Related image  **Keep** | The inner fortifications of a castle, usually with the living quarters of the owner/  guardian, and last resort for defenders. |  |
| Related image  **Bailey** | The area in between the keep of a castle and the curtain wall. This could become a ‘kill zone’ after an initial breach of the outer walls. |  |
| Image result for curtain wall castle  **Curtain Wall** | The outer walls of a castle that protected the inhabitants and buildings beyond the keep. |  |
| Image result for concentric walls  **Concentric Walls** | Two (or more) curtain walls built to create circuits between each ring of defences. |  |

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| Feature | Definition | Strengths/weaknesses |
| Image result for moat cartoon  **Moat** | A ditch, often filled with water (rarer in Outremer, however), that encircled the outer wall. |  |
| Related image  **Drawbridge** | A board, lowered down from the main gate of the castle, so that a moat could be crossed. |  |
| Related image  **Gatehouse** | An extra-fortified section to help defend the entrance of a castle, usually built much higher than the surrounding walls. |  |
| Image result for portcullis  **Portcullis** | A (usually metal) spiked grate that lowered down in front of the castle’s gate. |  |

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| Feature | Definition | Strengths/weaknesses |
| Related image  **Towers** | Taller sections attached to the walls that provided higher vantage points and often a large platform at the top. |  |
| Image result for castle battlements cartoon  **Battlements** | The walkway that ran along the top of castle walls and towers to allow soldiers to guard the defences |  |
| Related image  **Talus** | A slope that ran along the outside of the outer wall, often deliberately made in a rough, jagged manner. |  |
| Image result for arrow slits drawing  **Arrow Slits** | Narrow holes in the walls of towers and other defences to allow archers to shoot at attackers from within. |  |

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| Feature | Definition | Strengths/weaknesses |
| **Murder Holes** | Holes overlooking the ground below a wall or gate that allowed defenders to drop nasty surprises on the attackers. |  |
| **Storeroom** | A dry area in a castle where food, firewood and animal fodder could be kept dry. Some food was preserved through curing. |  |
| Image result for cistern medieval  **Cistern** | An area in a castle, often a tank, but sometimes a room, that stored water. | Related image |
| Image result for smithy  **Smithy** | A place where metal tools, weapons and armour were made and repaired, as well as essential metal parts of the castle itself |  |

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| Feature | Definition | Strengths/weaknesses |
| **Trebuchet** | A long-range catapult that flung projectiles out of a sling. The counterweight is raised using winches. |  |
| Image result for mangonel  **Mangonel** | A catapult that fired projectiles out of a bowl-shaped bucket up to 1300 feet. |  |
| Image result for undermining castle  **Undermining** | The act of digging a tunnel, supported by wood, beneath a castle wall. The wooden beams could be burnt to collapse the wall. |  |
| Image result for poison water supply  **Poison** | Sabotaging a water supply that flowed into a castle with the use of rotting corpses or excrement. |  |

**Medieval Sieges – Key Features**

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| Feature | Definition | Strengths/weaknesses |
| Image result for battering ram  **Battering Ram** | A large log or similar object swung by hand or on chains to smash through gates or even walls. |  |
| **Belfry** | A tower, either constructed at a wall or built on wheels to allow attacker to get onto the battlements via a drawbridge. |  |
| Related image  **Ladder** | Wooden rungs or steps raised against the walls to allow soldiers to climb onto the battlements. |  |
| Image result for mantlet medieval  **Mantlet** | A protective wooden board move into position to provide attacking archers with some cover. |  |