

Great Castles of Britain



There are hundreds of castles in the UK – some of them are now ruins, and some of them are still homes today. They are places of danger, murder and **mystery!** Here are my four favourite UK castles.

Windsor Castle



Windsor Castle is the oldest **occupied** castle in the world. It is 900 years old and it's the Queen's weekend home. Over one million people visit Windsor Castle every year to admire the rooms, the furniture and many paintings. The biggest room in Windsor Castle is St George's Hall. It is 55 metres long and 9 metres wide. The dining table in St George's Hall can **seat** 162 people and the Queen sometimes has **State Banquets** in this room.

Bodiam Castle



Bodiam Castle is a 14th century castle near the village of Robertsbridge in south-east England. It is a **moated** castle – this means that it has a deep **channel** filled with water all around the outside walls. The moat **protected** the castle from **invaders**. During the 17th and 18th centuries, Bodiam Castle became a ruin, but it is now a very popular tourist attraction. Many people enjoy having a picnic in the fields while they look at the beautiful old castle walls.

St Michael's Mount



St Michael's Mount is a 12th century castle on an island. The island is **tidal**, so at some times of the day you can walk from the town of Marazion to St Michael's Mount, but at other times you have to swim or take a boat! The St Aubyn family bought the island and the castle in 1659 and they still live there today. They don't have many neighbours – the total population of the island is just 35!

Stirling Castle



Stirling Castle is one of the largest castles in Scotland and many Scottish Kings and Queens lived here. The oldest parts of the castle are eight hundred years old. In 1507, scientist John Damian tried to fly from Stirling Castle to France. He made wings from wood and chicken **feathers** and jumped from the top of the castle walls. Unfortunately he was not successful and he fell into a **dung heap!**

Glossary:

mystery – tajemnica
occupied – zamieszkały
seat (v) – pomieścić

State Banquet – uroczysty bankiet
moated – otoczony fosą

channel – kanał
protect – chronić
invader – najeźdźca

tidal – pływowy
feather – pióro
dung heap – gnojowisko

1 Pracujcie w parach. Przeczytajcie tekst i połączcie poniższe opisy zamków z odpowiednimi ich nazwami.

- 1 A castle on an island
- 2 A castle where the Queen stays at the weekend
- 3 A castle in Scotland
- 4 A castle with water all around its outside walls

2 Przeczytaj tekst ponownie i odpowiedz na pytania.

- 1 Why do people visit Windsor Castle?
- 2 How many people can have dinner together in St George's Hall?
- 3 Why did Bodiam Castle have a moat?
- 4 Who lives in the castle on St Michael's Mount?
- 5 How many people live on the island of St Michael's Mount?
- 6 What did John Damian want to do in 1507?



Check your memory

Zakryj tekst. Zdecyduj, czy poniższe zdania są prawdziwe, czy fałszywe.

- 1 St George's Hall is famous because it has many beautiful paintings in it.
- 2 Bodiam Castle became a ruin 300 years ago.
- 3 You always have to take a boat to visit St Michael's Mount.
- 4 Many Scottish Kings and Queens lived in Stirling Castle.



My turn

Napisz tekst na temat historycznego budynku w Polsce.

- 1 how old it is
- 2 why people like to visit it
- 3 some of the things you can see there