



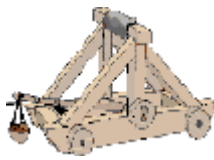




Ways to Attack a Castle – ANSWERS (feel free to add your own knowledge)

	 Fire Arrows	 Battering Ram	 Ladder	 Belfry Tower	 Mangonel, Trebuchet, Catapult	 Mining	 Siege
How it Works	Soldiers fire arrows aiming for palisade and wooden buildings	Pushed into a door / wall with a moving ram (tree) generating force	Pushed up against the castle walls for soldiers to climb up and onto the battlements / turrets	Pushed towards castle walls by lots of soldiers. Gets soldiers onto the battlements / turrets	Catapults corpses, animals, rocks at a wall or into a castle. Can be used as part of a Siege	Soldiers mine under the castle, burn the wooden supporting beams underground the castle collapses	Army would set up base outside of a castle (surrounding it). Aim to starve the castle into submission
Good Points	A soldier could fire them from a distance making sure he was safe. Also at night	Some protection for the soldiers pushing it. Very powerful, can bash through doors	Relatively light and easy to make. Could be erected easily	Much more protected than a ladder. Can get lots of soldiers to the castle walls at once	Powerful! Good for psychological warfare, especially if sending over captured soldiers from that castle	Relatively safe from open attack, can be done at night	Relatively safe for sieging army, could be far enough away to not be attack by arrows. Can stop supplies entering
Bad Points	Accuracy – It was more a hit and hope really. Less useful after Motte & Bailey	Takes lots of men, very heavy, vulnerable to attack from above (oil, fire). Cant cross moats	Could be pushed off easily, soldiers vulnerable when climbing.	Very heavy, expensive, wooden so vulnerable to defensive fire arrows. Takes lots of effort to get it in position	Accuracy might play a part, need to be relatively close to do damage = vulnerable. Expensive, heavy.	Hard work, could collapse on the miners. Needed to get the corners for maximum success.	Depending on size of castle (supplies within) a siege could take weeks / months. Many Soldiers would need to harvest
Best Castle to Attack	Motte & Bailey Or wooden buildings within a Stone Keep	Stone Keep if no moat. Concentric, but could be seen coming	Stone Keep. Problem with concentric is once you scaled one wall, there were often more	Stone Keep / Concentric, problem is again, only good for first wall of concentric castle	Stone Keep / Concentric during a siege – keep chipping away at the walls doing damage over time	Any without a moat. Stone Keep – More ideal for square castles with corners, not round	Concentric – if you were patient enough and had enough supplies, you could take a concentric castle with little damage