

## Walls were filled with junk

Walls were wide so guards could walk along the top.

Some castle walls were up to 20 feet wide. That is more than twice as wide as a school bus.

Builders used large stones for the sides. They filled the inside with broken building materials. Then they sealed up the walls.



**It could take up to 20 years** to build a castle. Straw and dung were used to protect unfinished walls from winter weather.



## Over 12,000 castles were built in Europe

This is what is left  
of Rabi Castle in  
the Czech Republic.

European kings gave away  
different parts of their land  
to lords. The lords had

castles built on  
their property.  
They protected that  
part of the king's land.



main building

outer wall



**A lot of lords  
became rich**

by serving as  
knights. Knights  
were the king's  
top warriors.  
They were trained  
to fight on  
horseback.

## Lords often brought beds when visiting

In the early Middle Ages, many castles did not have a lot of furniture.

They did not even have bedrooms.

People just slept in one part of the great hall of the castle. For this reason, when lords

This is a lord's bed from the Middle Ages.



visited other castles, they usually brought their beds with them. They often brought their own bathtubs, too! Sleeping chambers became more popular as time went on.

**Often, the most important** thing inside the castle walls was a well. When the castle was under **siege**, people needed water to survive.