

Design Brief 1: *THE HIGHLAND SENTINEL*

Focus: Topography and Vertical Advantage

Location: A rocky, uneven crag overlooking a strategic mountain pass.

- **The Scenario:** Lord Alistair needs a stronghold to guard the northern trade routes to his village/kingdom. The ground is too rocky for a traditional deep moat, and the space on the cliffside is narrow.
- **Engineering Requirements:**
 - **The “Natural” Moat:** You must use the verticality of the cardboard to simulate a “cliff” defence.
 - **The Keep:** This must be the highest point of the structure to allow for long-range scouting.
 - **Defence Must-Haves:** What else is needed for this topography? Consider where enemies may come from and how to ward them off.
- **Research Challenge:** Cite a primary source image of a “rock” or “hilltop” castle (e.g., Edinburgh Castle or Stirling Castle) and explain how they used the land as a weapon.

Citation Listing:

- **Research challenge notes:** _____

- **Citation for research challenge:** _____

- **Citation for defences used in construction:** _____



Design Brief 2: *THE RIVER GUARDIAN*

Focus: Water Defence and Gatehouse Security

Location: Low-lying marshland at the bend of a major river.

- **The Scenario:** Lady Eleanor requires a castle that controls river traffic. The ground is soft and flat, making it easy for enemies to tunnel under walls, but perfect for water-based defences.
- **Engineering Requirements:**
 - **Wet Moat:** Your design must include a wide perimeter moat. Use blue paper or flattened boxes to represent water.
 - **The Gatehouse:** Since the land is flat, the entrance is the most vulnerable point. You must design a functional **drawbridge** and **portcullis** using Makedo hinges or strings.
 - **Defence Must-Haves:** What other defence systems are needed for this topography?
- **Research Challenge:** Find an illuminated manuscript showing a castle with a water defence (search “castle moat”) and explain how a moat prevents “mining” or digging under walls.

Citation Listing:

- **Research challenge notes:** _____

- **Citation for research challenge:** _____

- **Citation for defences used in construction:** _____



Design Brief 3: *THE IRON RING* (*CONCENTRIC STRONGHOLD*)

Focus: Layered Defence and Feudal Hierarchy

Location: An open, fertile plain with no natural cover.

- **The Scenario:** The King has ordered a “concentric” castle to be built in the heart of the kingdom. Because there are no hills or rivers, the architecture itself must provide 100% of the protection.
- **Engineering Requirements:**
 - **Walls within Walls:** You must build a “Curtain Wall” (outer) and an “Inner Ward” (inner). The inner wall must be taller than the outer wall so archers can shoot over the front line.
 - **The Trap Zone:** The space between the two walls must be clear of obstructions so defenders can trap invaders there.
 - **Defence Must-Haves:** What other defence systems are needed for this topography?
- **Research Challenge:** Research the concentric design by searching for curtain walls at [WorldHistory.org](https://www.worldhistory.org). Cite how the walls helped with defence.

Citation Listing:

- **Research challenge notes:** _____

- **Citation for research challenge:** _____

- **Citation for defences used in construction:** _____



Design Brief 4: *THE URBAN BASTION* *(THE GATEHOUSE CITY)*

Focus: Crowded Spaces and Civil Control

Location: Built directly into the existing stone walls of a bustling, crowded medieval city.

- **The Scenario:** This isn't a lonely castle on a hill; it's a "Citadel." You are building inside a city to protect the Governor and prevent local citizens from revolting. Space is tight, and you are surrounded by other buildings.
- **Engineering Requirements:**
 - **Keep with Overhanging Hoarding:** Since you can't build "out" into the narrow streets, you must build "up." Create **Hoardings** (temporary wooden galleries) that hang over the edge of your cardboard **keep**.
 - **Internal Security:** The castle must have a "Postern Gate"—a small, secret exit for escape or sending messengers if the main city gates are blocked by a riot or siege.
 - **Defence Must-Haves:** What other defence systems are needed?
- **Research Challenge:** Search for "Caernarfon Castle" or the "Tower of London" on WorldHistory.org. Cite how these castles were used to control the surrounding city population, not just to protect it.

Citation Listing:

- **Research challenge notes:** _____

- **Citation for research challenge:** _____

- **Citation for defences used in construction:** _____

