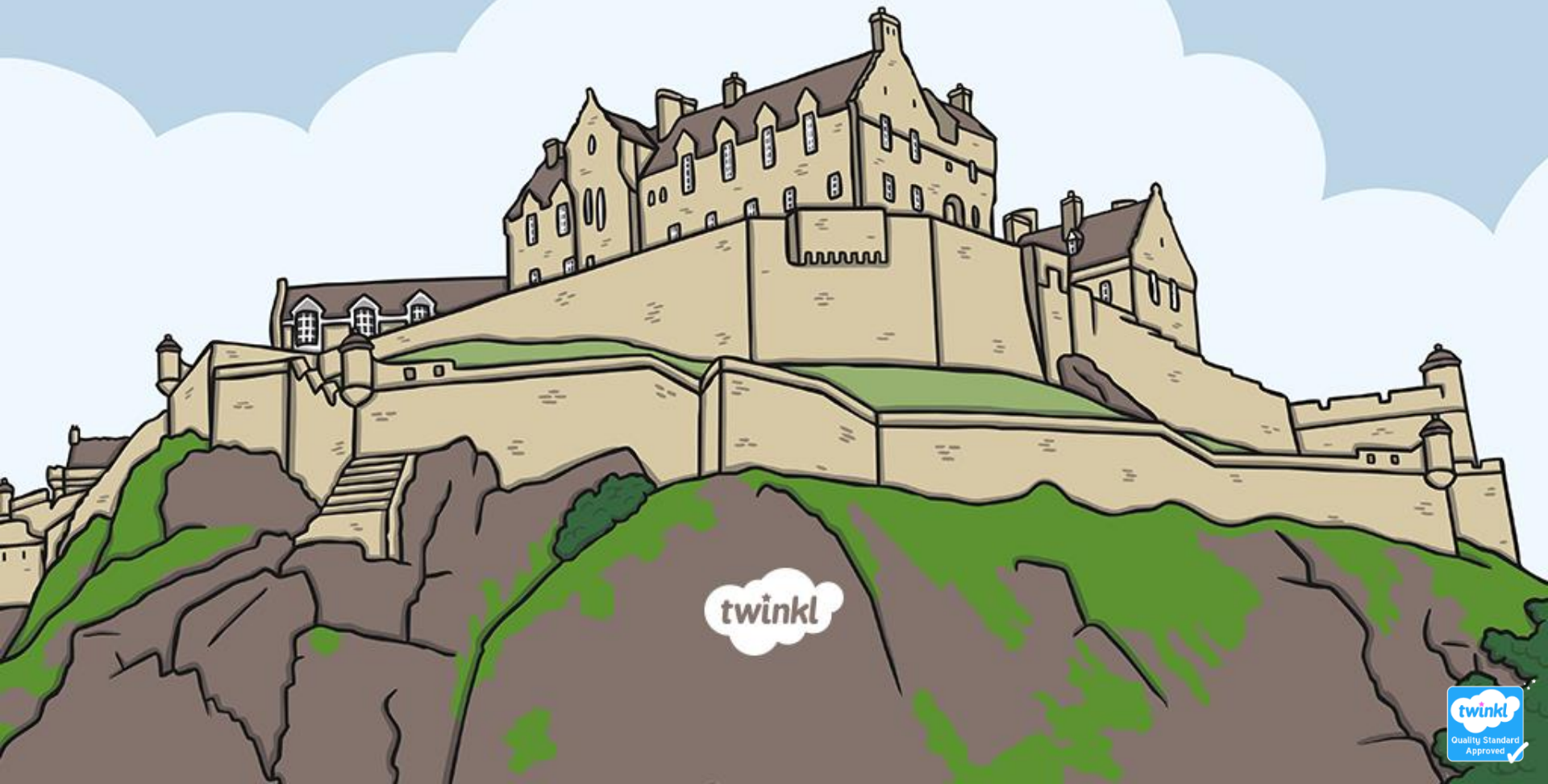


All About

# British Castles

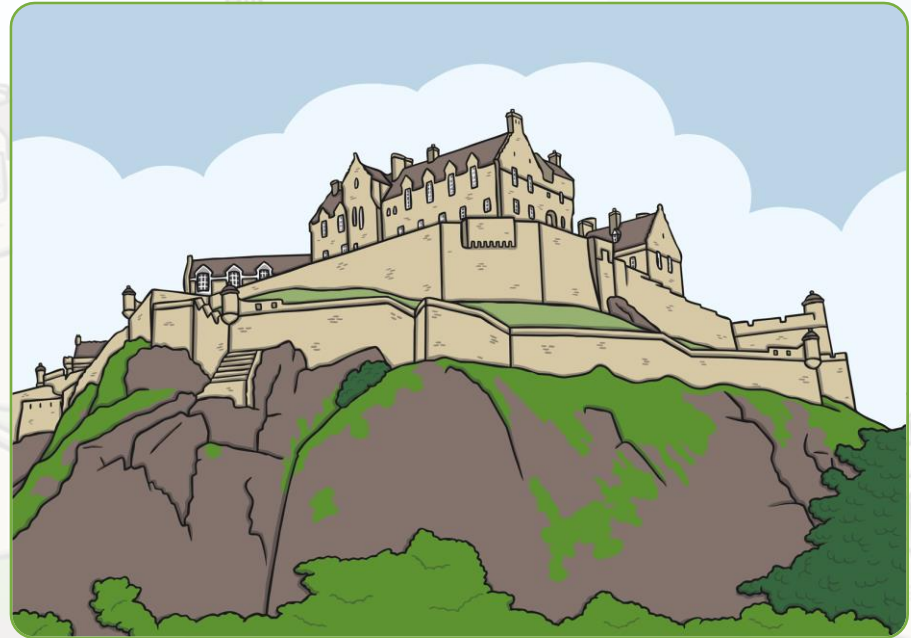


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# What Is a Castle?

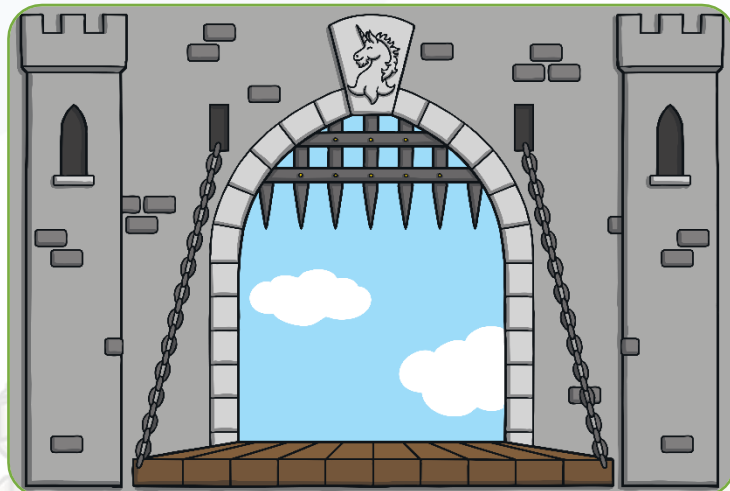
Castles are strong buildings, often made out of stone. They were built a long time ago for important people.

Castles were lived in by the important people, their families and servants. Castles protected people from attacks. Some castles were very big and grand, in order to show how much money the important person had.



# How Were Castles Designed?

Castles were often built on hills. This meant attackers could be seen in plenty of time.



Castle drawbridge

Some castles were built in the middle of a small lake. This lake was called a moat. The only way to get into these castles was across a special bridge called a drawbridge. The drawbridge could be pulled up to stop people getting into the castle.

Castle walls were thick and usually made of stone. This protected the people inside the castle.

# Castles Today

Over time, some castles stopped being lived in. Today, some of them are in ruins, while others are still working buildings.

There are lots of castles that can be visited, both castles that are ruins and those that are still lived in.

We are going to look at 4 castles located in the United Kingdom – England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.



Talk  
About  
It

Have you ever visited a castle?

# Dover Castle

Dover Castle is in Kent in England. It started being built almost nine hundred years ago by a king called Henry II. Other kings and important people added more parts to the castle over 800 years. As the castle was by the sea, it was an important part of protecting England from attacks from other countries.



# Caernarfon Castle

Caernarfon (say Car-nar-von) Castle is in the town of Caernarfon in Wales. A king called Edward I decided that the castle should be built over 700 years ago. Edward I was English but had taken over parts of Wales. The castle was to be a way of keeping control of Wales. Hundreds of years later, bits of the castle began to turn to ruins. You can visit Caernarfon Castle.



# Edinburgh Castle

Edinburgh Castle is in Edinburgh, Scotland. It was built on a tall hill called Castle Rock. The first Edinburgh Castle was built almost 1000 years ago! It was an important part of Scottish defence hundreds of years ago, when Scotland and England fought wars against each other.



# Balmoral Castle

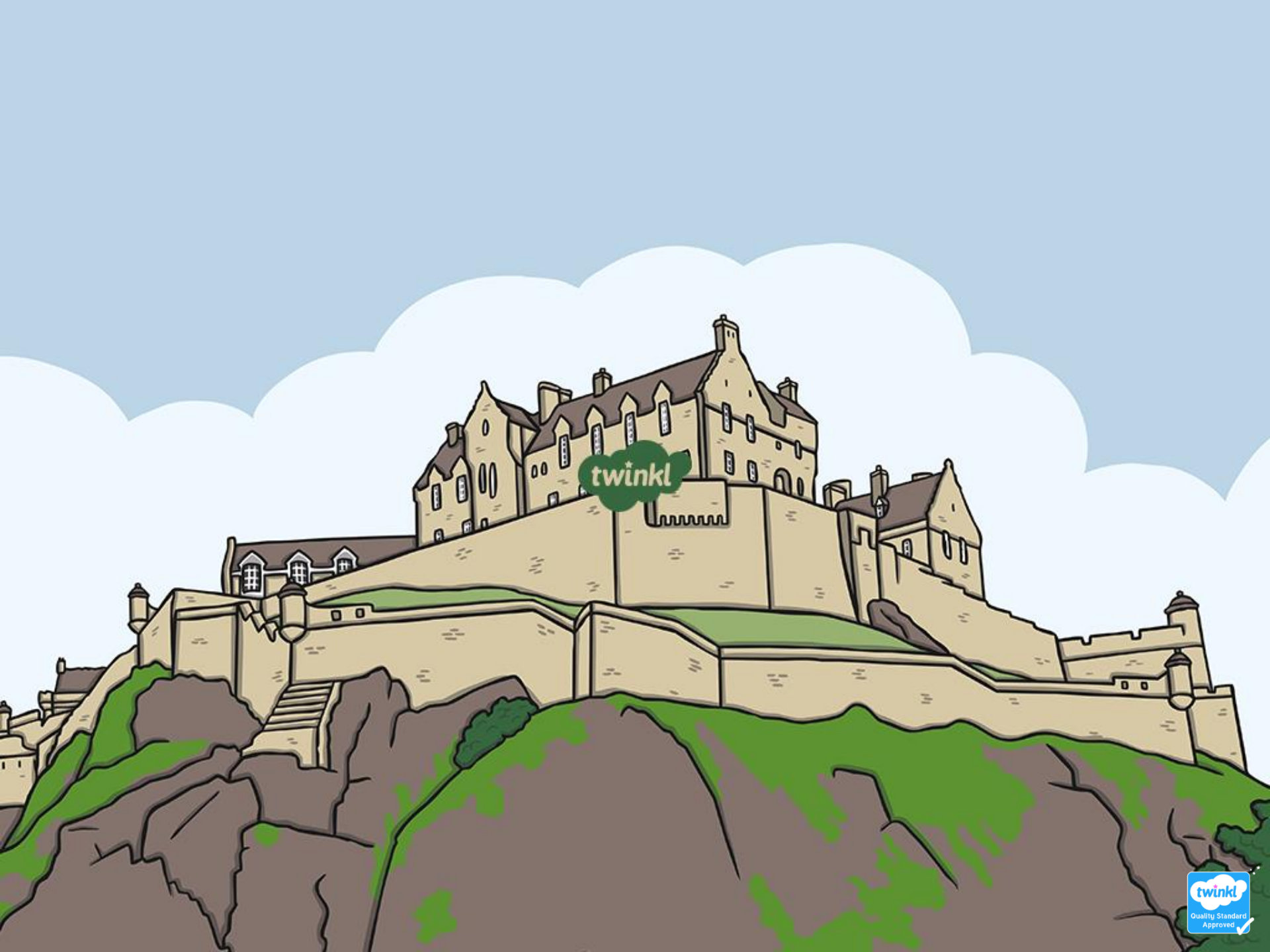
Balmoral Castle is in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. There was an older castle in the area, but in 1853, Queen Victoria bought the land and had a new castle built instead. Can you see the flag in this photo? This is called the Royal Standard and it is flown from a building when the Queen is there.



# Dunluce Castle

Dunluce Castle is in Country Antrim, Northern Ireland. It was built over 500 years ago by the MacQuillan family. Not long after it was built, another family, called the MacDonnell clan, fought the MacQuillans and took control of the castle. The castle was surrounded by high cliffs. Today, the castle is in ruins, although people can visit it and look around.





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