

## Golden Fort Vocabulary

Rajasthan artillery bastions caste crenelated  
crenels Krishna loopholes merlons palace Rajput  
Shastras trade routes temple

The Golden Fort at Jaisalmer in \_\_\_\_\_, India, was founded and built on the initiative of Rawal (Prince) Jaisal in 1156. Jaisal believed it was his destiny as a descendent of the god \_\_\_\_\_ and the leader of the Bhatti Rajputs to build a new capital to defend his lands and control the wealthy \_\_\_\_\_ to the West and Africa beyond.

The fort is a fine example of a primarily defensive architectural structure before the advent of \_\_\_\_\_. Its high, thick curvilinear concentric battlements - strengthened by 7 \_\_\_\_\_ with only one gateway, were designed to resist attack. The \_\_\_\_\_ double walls, 4.6m high on the outer wall and 9m the on inner, allowed warriors to hide on the wall-walk of the parapets behind the \_\_\_\_\_ and attack with missiles thrown through the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

The fort's form was affected by geography – the sandstone Trikūṭā Hill rising 76m above the flat, dry Thar Desert near a water source. It was also determined by politics – the 'feudal' system of the \_\_\_\_\_ that was dependent on the labour of local 'tribes' often in conflict with each other. Furthermore the \_\_\_\_\_ system and \_\_\_\_\_ designated that the fort follow a specific plan. As propaganda for the Rajput's warrior status Prince Jaisal insisted his architect included a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ within the walls, and that the handcrafted sandstone walls were built to last. It proved its success as a functional fort by withstanding an eight-year siege between 1286 and 1294.