

Medieval Castles (Carisbrooke)

Aims

To investigate medieval castles by looking at a local example
To assess the castle's defensive strengths and weaknesses.

Preparation

Work on castles - in particular their purpose and historical context;
practice in using improvised units of measurement (e.g. feet, paces)

Programme

The introduction in the Education Room begins with a look at Norman armour to illustrate the castle's origin. This is followed by a demonstration of model siege weapons, which raises the key issue which your pupils will be investigating during their visit.

We suggest that you divide the class into supervised groups to look round the castle. However, you may like to visit the keep as a whole class, where it would be possible for either Estelle or Chris to lead a session looking at the features there. Separate supervised groups could then use the photo-hunt packs to locate and identify a variety of key features around the castle.

If possible (this may depend on the availability of the Education Room) an on-site feedback session on the castle's strengths and weaknesses would be useful. Alternatively, you could leave feedback until you return to school.

Follow-up

Make a display of the children's ideas about the castle's strengths.

If you took photographs, display these with the children's own captions. Some could be linked with an aerial view of the castle - perhaps the attached one enlarged.



Museum Education Service



