

# Tudor times at Carisbrooke

## Introduction

This theme uses both the castle and the museum displays. The starting-point is a ruined Tudor mansion inside the walls of Carisbrooke Castle. It was built by Sir George Carey, cousin of Queen Elizabeth, who was Captain (or Governor, as he preferred to be called) of the Island from 1583 to 1603. As Captain, he was entitled to live at Carisbrooke Castle, and he spent more of his time in residence than most of his predecessors had done. Carey is a useful local example of a rich Tudor person, and during the visit, we look at aspects of his lifestyle.

## Programme

(1) an introduction in the education room, talking about ruined buildings and what we can learn from them

(2) a visit to the ruins of Carey's mansion in the castle courtyard where students become 'history detectives' and interpret the features which survive

(3) sketching and labelling of features, such as fireplaces, the oven, the serving-hatch

(4) an activity in the museum to find out about Carey's furniture (a rich person's furniture) and search for Tudor artefacts

(5) final activity in the education room: a demonstration of the kind of clothing worn by Carey and his wife

It will probably be necessary to split the class into groups for activity (4). If possible, please could you bring one or two adults with you to help with supervision.

This programme takes 2 hours for a single class. Please allow 2½ hours if bringing 2 classes.

## Preparation

No specific preparation is necessary. We shall be referring to Tudor times, of course, and also to Elizabeth, a Tudor queen.

You won't need to bring anything with you, except your free pass. We will supply activity sheets, paper, pencils and clipboards.

Please remind everyone to dress appropriately, as we shall be working partly outside.



*Museum Education Service*



### **Follow-up ideas**

1. Find pictures of surviving Tudor houses. Compare with the artist's interpretation of the ruins of Carey's house (this will be supplied). Are any features similar?

2. Extend the work on Elizabethan furniture. (i) Books on antique furniture could be used to supplement classroom resources. (ii) Compare with modern furniture; e.g. try listing all the furniture used for storage in a modern house, thinking it through room by room. What would Carey's household have used? (iii) Develop any sketches of the patterns and ornament on the Tudor furniture in the museum into art work in other media. (iv) Make a fabric collage based on the bed-hangings, with stylised leaves, flowers and fruits growing from curling stems.