

Kings, queens and castles

This chapter adopts a medieval theme, using castles as its starting point, allowing you to introduce links to the history curriculum. Week 1 focuses on castles themselves, basing work around a real or virtual visit, moving on to look at the lives of those who live in castles. For weeks 3 and 4, after exploring fairy tales set in fictional castles, children have the opportunity to create an adventure story based in their own unique castle. The final fortnight moves on to rulers with problems, such as King Midas, with a debate on the morality and issues surrounding such rulers, and concludes with royalty-themed poetry.



Expected prior learning

- Can understand how a setting can add to a story.
- Know what a verb is.
- Can understand word families and suffixes.
- Can discuss the features of a sentence.
- Can understand the convention of direct speech.
- Can identify themes.
- Can use the story structures: beginning, middle and end.
- Can use preposition, adverbs, time and cause words.
- Can understand basic techniques for performing a poem.



Overview of progression

- As well as consolidating skills from the previous chapters in working with a range of text types and an ongoing focus on adverbs, conjunctions and prepositions, the chapter introduces the perfect form of verbs, using this to mark relationships of time and cause.
- There is a particular emphasis on proofreading and correcting work using correct terminology for grammar and punctuation, and producing coherent and well-structured texts.



Creative context

- With its focus on medieval Britain there are many clear links to history.
- This chapter could link to design technology via artefacts, as well as PSHE (considering fairness in social structures and debating character and qualities in rulers).



Preparation

If possible, arranging a trip to a real castle, or carefully reviewing a virtual tour available online, such as:

- Warwick Castle: www.warwick-castle.com – click on ‘Explore Castle’, then ‘3D Panoramas Viewer...’
- Windsor Castle: www.royal.gov.uk – click on ‘The Royal Residences’, then ‘Windsor Castle’ and ‘Virtual Rooms’.

A range of books about castles and their inhabitants, novels involving fantasy castles, and information about kings and queens of England would also be useful.

You will also need:

Access to the internet is optional, but could be useful for extending research for some learners; access to a large indoor space with play equipment; dictionaries; a comic; king outfits and props; storyboard templates (optional); character card templates (optional); video camera (optional); a video clip from ‘Sleeping Beauty’ (optional).

On the CD-ROM you will find:

Media resources ‘UK castles map’, ‘Castles’; interactive activities ‘Joining clauses’, ‘Using the perfect form’, ‘Using dictionaries’, ‘Correcting work’; photocopyable pages ‘The Princess and the Pea’, ‘Sleeping Beauty’, ‘King Midas and the Golden Touch’, ‘The Emperor’s New Clothes’, ‘The King’s Breakfast’, ‘God Save the Queen’