

Lesson 1 Castle people

AGES 5–7

Objectives

- To learn the names of the different people who lived in a castle and to know about their work.

Subject references

History

- Identify differences between ways of life at different times. (NC: KS1 2b)

Art and design

- Investigate the possibilities of a range of materials and processes. (NC: KS1 2a)
- Understand visual and tactile elements including colour, pattern and texture. (NC: KS1 4a)

Resources and preparation

- Photocopy page 38, 'Castle people', one for each child.
- You will need the model gatehouse, wall and towers from Themes 2 and 3. Insert a square piece of card or paper in the very top of the watchtower so that soldiers can stand on it.
- Provide a selection of different fabrics and materials (optional), and information books showing costumes from the 11th to the 14th century. Ideas for clothes can also be found at the following websites: www.lothene.demon.co.uk/crafts6.html and www.medieval-banquet.co.uk
- This lesson can be adapted to be part of your Castle Day.

What to do

- Ask the children who they think lived in castles. Show them the pictures on the 'Castle people' sheet and tell them about the people who live in a castle. Use the information in the Background section (see page 33), but do not refer to any person on the sheet in particular.
- Challenge the children to cut out the people and the names and try to match them up.

- Point out the different types of clothes worn by the people in the castle. If you have a selection of fabrics, pass them round and ask who might have worn such materials. As a general rule, drab colours of brown and grey were worn by poor people and bright colours of red and blue were worn by rich people. The people marked C, H and J would have worn drab colours.
- Display colour pictures of castle people from books or the internet (copyright permitting) and say that for Castle Day they can dress up as anyone they please (be prepared for lots of knights and ladies). Send a letter home explaining this aim and encourage parents and carers to help. If you feel that some children will not be able to bring a costume, gather together some items that they could use.
- If you have made the castle models in Themes 2 and 3, invite the children to imagine that each one of them is a knight and has four soldiers to command. Encourage them to cut out the knight and soldiers and place them on their models. Can they give reasons for the positions they have adopted? Look for answers such as guarding the gateway, watching out for enemies and so on.

Extension

- Give out copies of page 40, 'A castle and a site plan', and talk about the buildings in the upper picture. Explain that the constable lived in the gatehouse to keep a close watch on who entered and left the castle, and that people such as the cook, groom and blacksmith slept close to where they worked, while the lord and lady had their own bedroom.
- Invite the children to share their ideas on what they think it was like to live in a castle. Keep a record of their responses to compare with responses after they have finished the topic.

