

Castles, Queens, Dragons and Knights Year 1

Who lived in a castle like this?

Core Texts
Zog by Julia Donaldson



The Clockwork Dragon by Jonathan Emmett

In this unit, pupils will find out about what castles are, where they came from and what they were/are used for. They will explore the different parts of a castle and why they were designed in the way that they were to defend the important people who lived in them. They will then focus on famous castles in the capital cities around the UK. They will also find out about the British royal family. In DT, they will design and make sashes to wear at a royal banquet and build castles using different construction materials. In computing they will use a paint package to create a picture of a castle of their own design.

By the end of this unit, I will know:

- Castles were homes of important people such as Lords of the King or Queen.
- Lots of people worked in a castle doing different jobs including knights, soldiers, craftsmen, cooks and servants
- Life in a medieval castle centred around the Great Hall. This is where the Lord would eat, entertain guests, hold banquets and conduct business.
- Originally castles were made of wood but later they were replaced with stone to make them stronger.
- Castles were built on top of hills to help with their defence.
- That the UK is made up of 4 countries- England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- The capital cities are London, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast.
- Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast and London all have famous castles.
- Queen Elizabeth II is the head of the British royal family and she resides in Buckingham Palace/Windsor Castle.
- Prince Charles is the heir to the British throne.

Key History Skills:

- Look at objects from the past and ask/answer simple questions.
- Understand that some things happened in the past and some are happening now in the present.

Key Geography Skills:

- Name and locate the four countries of the UK and their capital cities.
- Use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to physical characteristics of places studied. Eg) beach, sea, river.
- Use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to human characteristics of places studied. Eg) city, farm, factory.
- Use an infant atlas to locate places.

Key DT Skills:

- Think of own ideas for design.
- Use pictures and words to plan.
- Design a product with guidance, following design criteria.
- Explore and investigate a range of simple, large scale construction materials, e.g. cardboard boxes.
- Explore building, bridges and towers using large and small-scale construction materials.
- Join fabrics with glue.
- Decorate fabrics with buttons, beads, sequins, braids and ribbons.
- Say whether their product does what it is meant to and how it could be improved

Key Computing Skills:

- Use various tools such as brushes, pens, rubber, stamps and shapes.
- Save my work.
- Print my work.



castle	A castle is a building strengthened against attack.
moat	A deep ditch that surrounds a castle in order to protect it. It is usually filled with water.
drawbridge	A moveable bridge used to allow or prevent access to a castle.
keep	Strong tower in the centre of the castle.
battlements	The part of the castle used to fend off attackers. Gaps in the battlements allowed arrows to be launched easily.
bailey	the bailey was an inner courtyard in the middle of the castle.
portcullis	A strong iron gate that can be raised to allow the drawbridge to be lowered.
capital city	The most important city in a country.
attack	Try to get into a place with weapons.
defend	protect