

Leeds Castle: A Potted History

Teacher's Notes

Workshop Programme

The workshop is designed to cover a range of sections within the English and History areas of the National Curriculum. Suitable for both older children at Key Stage 1 and younger children at Key Stage 2.

Learning Objectives

The workshop focuses on the history of Leeds Castle in the form of a drama production, performed by the children. It covers the listening, speaking and drama requirements of the primary literacy strategy and in the history curriculum; chronological understanding, knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past and historic interpretation.

The one hour session tells the story of Leeds Castle using the most colourful characters, important to its history. From a time before the Castle was built, when it was the Manor of Leeds, through the 300 years of royal ownership, and the 400 years of private ownership. The children will learn about the lives of the people who have built, knocked down, rebuilt, bought and sold Leeds Castle; in a fun and imaginative way.

After lunch, the class will be split into two groups and led through the Castle by the workshop leaders, where they will see the buildings, pictures and furniture etc. they heard about during the story session.

Timetable

We are an inclusive venue and can accommodate groups of up to 180 children. The timetable you follow will depend upon the size of your group.

On the next page you will find two timetables. Please ensure you are following the correct one when planning your day.

Groups of below 40 children please follow Timetable 1 Group A only. You will be met by Education Leaders at the Ticket Office, where they will help you with your payment and then they will escort you to the Education Centre.

Groups of 40 – 80 children, please split the group into 2 and follow Timetable 1, Groups A & B. You will be met by Education Leaders at the Ticket Office, where they will help you with your payment and then they will escort you to the Education Centre.

Groups of 80 – 120 please follow Timetable 2. You will be met by Education Leaders at the Ticket Office, where they will help you with your payment. Group A will be escorted you to the Education Centre, while Groups B & C will be welcomed and given maps and timings to ensure that you arrive at the Education Centre at your allotted time. Please ensure also that all children have used the toilets prior to their session.

Groups of 120+ please request the timetable for extra large groups.



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The timings below in both timetables are approximate and can vary depending on how the workshop progresses. They may also vary by season.

Timetable 1: For Groups 25 - 80

GROUP A		GROUP B	
10.00am	Coach to drive to the ticket office where your Education Leader will meet you and assist with payment	10.00am	Coach to drive to the ticket office where your Education Leader will meet you and assist with payment
10.20am	Walk to the Education Centre	10.15am	Walk to the Education Centre
10.30am	Workshop Session begins	10.30am	Depart Education Centre and visit the Castle
11.30am	Lunch	11.15am	Free time
12.00pm	Depart Education Centre and visit the Castle	12.00pm	Lunch
12.45pm	Free time	12.30pm	Workshop Session begins
		1.30pm	Depart Education Centre

Timetable 2: For Groups of 80 - 120

GROUP A		GROUP B		GROUP C	
10am	Coach to drive to Ticket Office where your Education Leader will meet you and assist with payment.	10am	Coach to drive to Ticket Office where your Education Leader will meet you and assist with payment.	10am	Coach to drive to Ticket Office where your Education Leader will meet you and assist with payment.
10:30am	Workshop Session	10:30am	Free Time & snack Arrive at Education Centre at 11:40am (please ensure all children have used the toilet before the workshop session)	10:30am	Self-guided Castle Tour (castle opens 10:30)
11:30 am	Self guided Castle tour	11:45am	Workshop Session	11:30am	Free Time & Lunch. Arrive at Education Centre at 12:55 (please ensure all children have used the toilet before the workshop session)
12:30pm	Lunch & Free Time	1pm	Self-guided castle tour	1pm	Workshop session



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Historical Background for Teachers

In 1066 the French Duke, William of Normandy, invaded England and killed the English King, Harold, in a big battle at Hastings. William shot Harold in the eye with an arrow and then crowned himself King of England. To say thank you to all his family and friends who had helped him at the battle, William divided England into pieces and gave it to them. The Manor of Leeds was given to his half brother, Bishop Odo.

Bishop Odo was not a nice man, He was cruel to the people who lived on his land and charged them lots of rent that they couldn't pay. The King got tired of Odo's behaviour and ordered him to be arrested and sent home to France in disgrace!

King Edward I became King around 200 years later, he was very tall with long arms and legs and his nickname was Longshanks! His wife, the Queen, was Eleanor of Castille, a very beautiful Spanish princess with dark hair. Edward and Eleanor loved each other very much and together added to the buildings here at Leeds and created a medieval royal castle for them to live in. Eleanor brought luxury things with her to decorate the castle, such as glass for the windows and carpets for the floors and walls.

King Henry VIII was tall and handsome when he was younger, with reddish coloured hair. He was considered to be very good looking, but he is most famous for having 6 wives. His first wife, Catherine of Aragon, was married to him for 24 years and visited Leeds with him once or twice. Henry did a lot of building at Leeds; he made it bigger and more luxurious by adding another floor and putting in bigger windows.

In 1520 Catherine & Henry both stayed at Leeds Castle overnight on their journey to France to meet with the French King, Francois I, at the Field of the Cloth of Gold. Entertainment was provided by Jesters

400 years ago Leeds Castle was sold by King Edward VI. Since then it has been owned by families.

300 years ago a very beautiful lady called Catherine Culpepper owned the castle, her grandfather had been given a lot of land in America by the King. Catherine was an only child, so when she married Thomas, 5th Lord Fairfax, they became the proud owners of both Leeds Castle and lots of land in America. Catherine & Thomas had 2 sons. Robert the youngest stayed in England at Leeds Castle and the eldest son Thomas, went to America to look after the land there.

In the mid 1800s the castle was owned by Charles Wykham Martin. His father Fiennes and rebuilt the front part of the castle, which, externally remains much the same today, but had also run out of money. Charles, who loved the castle, embarked on researching its history and in fact wrote a book of the complete history of Leeds Castle. Charles' descendants faced with heavy death duties were forced to put the castle up for sale in 1925.

The last owner was Lady Baillie. She bought the Castle in 1926 and lived here with her 3 children. She had a lot of work to do, fixing it up, and when we visit the castle you will see some of the things she did. Before Lady Baillie died, she created a perpetual trust, to which she left the castle, its contents and 500 acres of land.



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Cast List

Please nominate pupils to play the different characters **before** attending the workshop (this saves valuable time during your visit). There are enough costumes for every child to take part. Remember to bring this list with you on the day!

The cast list is as follows – the remaining children will dress as soldiers.

King William I	
Bishop Odo	
King Edward I	
Queen Eleanor of Castille	
King Henry VIII	
Queen Catherine of Aragon	
Jester	
Jester	
Catherine Culpeper	
Thomas, 6th Lord Fairfax	
Charles Wykeham Martin	
Lady Baillie	



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Follow-up Ideas

Storytelling & Drama

- With the children sitting in a circle, start to retell the story of Leeds Castle. There are many variations to this idea. You could specify that each child adds the character, or just adds one sentence. You could go round the circle, or have a soft ball or object that could be thrown from child to child to continue.
- Ask the children to choose one of the historical characters and use mime to act the character to the rest of the class. Can they convey by movement and expression alone who they have chosen to be?
- Divide the children into pairs or small groups. Using one of the historical characters, ask them to devise a TV interview to tell the story of their time at Leeds Castle. They will need to think about the interviewer's questions as well as the answers from the character. This could be recorded, or performed in front of the class.
- Older children could choose a character and turn their story into a modern day version, performing in groups.

Finding Out

- Using available informational sources such as books and the internet, encourage the children to find further facts about the characters associated with Leeds Castle.
- Encourage research into the other important people connected with Leeds Castle, other than the ten owners we have already learnt about.
- Encourage the children to think about what life was like for the people in the castle during any one of the character's ownership.
- Encourage research into what life was like for ordinary people, like themselves. Did all children go to school at the time of the Tudors reign?

Writing

- A group of children could work together to design a comic strip, based on one of the incidents from the story of Leeds Castle e.g. the arrival of Henry VIII at the castle, or William I arresting Bishop Odo. This will involve deciding how many frames they will need and how they can put the dialogue into its simplest form.
- Provide the children with a crossword or word search grid, and ask them to devise their own puzzle, using words connected with the castle and its owners.
- Either alone, or in groups, choose one of the characters and write a newspaper headline and article about him or her.

Art & Design

- Each of the owners of Leeds Castle had their own coat of arms, which can be seen in the castle. Provide a shield template and get the children to design their own coat of arms.
- The children could make puppets of the characters they have learnt about.
- Ask each child to draw up his/her family tree or a timeline of their own house or school.
- Ask the children to make a model of Leeds Castle. This could be a simple castle shape or an advanced model of the castle complete with the moat and other buildings, depending on ages and abilities.

