

LEEDS CASTLE'S THE POTTED HISTORY OF LEEDS CASTLE



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 the chronological understanding, knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past and historic interpretation.

WORKSHOP SESSION

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. In a fun and imaginative way the children will learn about the lives of the people who have built, knocked down, rebuilt, bought and sold Leeds Castle.

All of the class will be involved in the story; it is essential that you assign children to their characters before the day. This is important as you will know your class and each child's aptitude for role-play - it also saves a lot of time on the day.

Simple costumes and props will be available for each group to dress up as the main characters in the story and act the plot out as the story proceeds.

After lunch, the class will be split into two groups and led through the Castle by the workshop leaders.

TIMETABLE OF THE DAY

We are an inclusive venue and can accommodate groups of up to 100 children. The timetable you follow will depend upon the size of your group.

The timings shown are approximate and can vary depending on how the workshop and tours progress. We are able to be flexible and the Education Leaders will consult with you on the day if there are particular circumstances or considerations.

Timetable 1 - For group size 40 and below

WHOLE GROUP	
10.00 am	Coach to drive to Ticket Office where you will be met by your Education Leader.
10.15 am	Directed to the Education Centre by staff
10.30 am	Workshop session
11.30 am	Lunch & Free Time
12.45 pm	Guided Tour of the Castle
1.30 pm	Free time

Timetable 2 - For group size 41 – 75

GROUP A		GROUP B	
10.00 am	Coach to drive to Ticket Office where you will be met by your Education Leader.		
10.15 am	Directed to the Education Centre by staff		
10.30 am	Workshop session	10.45 am	Guided tour of Castle
11.30 am	Lunch	11.30 am	Lunch & free time
12.45 pm	Guided tour of Castle	12.30 pm	Workshop session (Ensure that toilets are used beforehand)
1.30pm	Free time	1.30pm	Free time



TIMETABLE OF THE DAY

Timetable 3 - For group size 76 – 100

GROUP A		GROUP B		GROUP C	
10.00 am	Coach to drive to Ticket Office where you will be met by your Education Leader.				
10.30 am	Arrive at Education Centre and workshop session	10.30 am	Free time & snack	10.45 am	Self-guided Castle tour
11.30 am	Self-guided Castle tour	11.45 am	Workshop session (Please arrive by 11:40 and ensure that toilets are used beforehand)	11.30am	Free Time & Lunch
12.30 pm	Lunch & free time	12.45 pm	Lunch & Self-guided Castle tour	1.00pm	Workshop session (Please arrive by 12.55 and ensure that toilets are used beforehand)

Cast List

Please nominate pupils to play the different characters in the story before attending the workshop. There will be enough costumes for every pupil to participate. Remember to bring this list with you on the day!

Main Characters	
King William I	
Hamo de Crevecoeur	
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	



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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.

Following the Battle of Hastings, William divided England up and the Manor of Leeds was given first to his half-brother, Bishop Odo, and later to a cousin, Hamon (Hamo) de Crevecoeur, who had fought alongside William at the Battle of Hastings.

It was Hamo's grandson Robert de Crevecoeur who began the building of Leeds Castle in 1119.

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 1, 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 private 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 1800's the castle was owned by Charles Wykham Martin. His father Fiennes had 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.



FOLLOW UP IDEAS FOR THE CLASSROOM

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 being crowned in Westminster. 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. 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.

