

Castles

(art + social studies; art + history)

After the fall of the Roman Empire in the fifth century, Europe underwent a series of cultural changes that lasted a thousand years. This period of time has come to be known as "Medieval" or the "Middle Ages." It was time of knights, battles, and castles. The romanticism of the period is manifest in the literature, the history, and the number and variety of castles that sprung up like wild flowers in a field all across Europe.

Students will learn how each of the architectural elements of a castle was designed for the purpose of protection and design their own fortress by making a "pop-out" from construction paper.

Grade Levels 3-8

Preparation

1. Begin with a discussion on castle construction. Show examples in books or pictures. Be certain to include in the discussion battlements, towers, gates, projections, flags, banners, arrow slits, and landscaping. Include materials such as brick, stone, and wood. Next, discuss how residents of the castle lived in their daily lives.

Process

1. Start with a sheet of sky blue construction paper for the background. Create a landscape behind the castle with tempera paint, markers or construction paper cut-outs. Fold the paper in half horizontally.
2. Take a piece of brown construction paper and cut it in half. Sketch a series of battlements (open spaces at the top of a wall), then cut along the sketched lines. Fold in half, and make a 1/4" fold on either side to fold under and attach it to the background. This will be the main tower of the castle. Decorate a window, stone textures, etc, then fold it in half and glue it to the background so that it protrudes in the center.
3. Use the second half of the sheet of brown paper to make more sections of the castle in the same way. Add windows and doors, flags, banners, people, animals, etc.

Options

- Ground details in front of the castles can enhance the presentation (stone walks, draw bridges, moats, etc.).



Materials

Blick 80-lb Premium Construction Paper

50-sheet package of 12" x 18" Brown (11409-8036), need one per student

50-sheet pkg of 12" x 18" Sky Blue (11409-5093), need one per student

50-sheet package of 9" x 12" assorted colors (11409-1003), share two packages across class

Blick Glue Sticks, .74-oz Purple (23872-6520), need one per student

Fiskars® Student Scissors (57016-1065), need one per student

National Standards

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

K-4 Students use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories

5-8 Students select media, techniques, and processes; analyze what makes them effective or not effective in communicating ideas; and reflect upon the effectiveness of their choices

Content Standard #4 — Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures

K-4 Students identify specific works of art as belonging to particular cultures, times, and places

5-8 Students describe and place a variety of art objects in historical and cultural contexts

Content Standard #6 — Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines

K-4 Students identify connections between the visual arts and other disciplines in the curriculum

5-8 Students describe ways in which the principles and subject matter of other disciplines taught in the school are interrelated with the visual arts