



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

KSI-2

KS3

SEND

TEACHERS' KIT

Carisbrooke Castle

This kit helps teachers plan a visit to Carisbrooke Castle, which offers fascinating insight into life in a medieval castle and castle defences. Use these resources before, during and after your visit to help students get the most out of their learning.



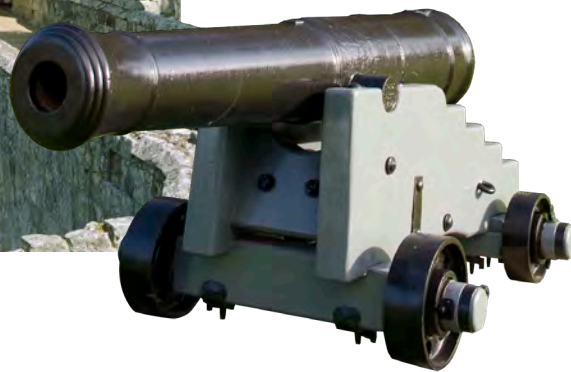
GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EDUCATION BOOKINGS TEAM:

☎ 0370 333 0606

✉ bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk

📍 bookings.english-heritage.org.uk/education

Share your visit with us on Twitter @EHEducation



Step into England's story

WELCOME

This Teachers' Kit for Carisbrooke Castle has been designed for teachers and group leaders to support a free self-led visit to the site. It includes a variety of materials suited to teaching a wide range of subjects and key stages, with practical information, activities for use on site and ideas to support follow-up learning.

We know that each class and study group is different, so we have collated our resources into one kit allowing you to decide which materials are best suited to your needs. Please use the contents page, which has been colour-coded to help you easily locate what you need and view individual sections. All of our activities have clear guidance on the intended use for study so you can adapt them for your desired learning outcomes.

To further aid your planning, we have created Hazard Information guidance, which you can download from the Carisbrooke Castle **Schools page**. Here you can also find information on our expert-led Discovery Visits and an overview of what your class can experience. You can find more practical information about your booked visit to Carisbrooke Castle in the Education Visit Permit and the Site Information Pack which have been sent to you.

We hope you enjoy your visit and find this Teachers' Kit useful. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of our team either via bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk or on 0370 333 0606.

English Heritage Learning Team

ICON KEY

The icons below will help you quickly identify the types of activities and information presented.

									
									
AUDIO	SPEAKING	HANDS ON	LOOK	LISTEN	SCIENCE	SMELL	WRITE	READ	
									
READ	ROLE PLAY	CHALLENGE	DID YOU KNOW?	MAP	QUOTE	EXAMINE	ART	GROUP ACTIVITY	

CONTENTS

KSI-2

KS3

SEND

PRE-VISIT

Information and activities you can use in the classroom before your visit.

Site Plan	5
Historical Information	6–10
Glossary	11–12
Timeline	13–17
Perfect Place for a Castle ■	18–21

AT THE CASTLE

Activities for students to do at Carisbrooke Castle to help them get the most out of their learning.

Top Things to See ■ ■	23–32
Human Tableaux Timeline ■	33
Medieval Siege Spies ■ ■	34
Activity Trail ■	35–45

POST-VISIT

Activities and information to help extend your students' learning back in the classroom.

Sources	47–50
Our King, Our Prisoner ■	51–52



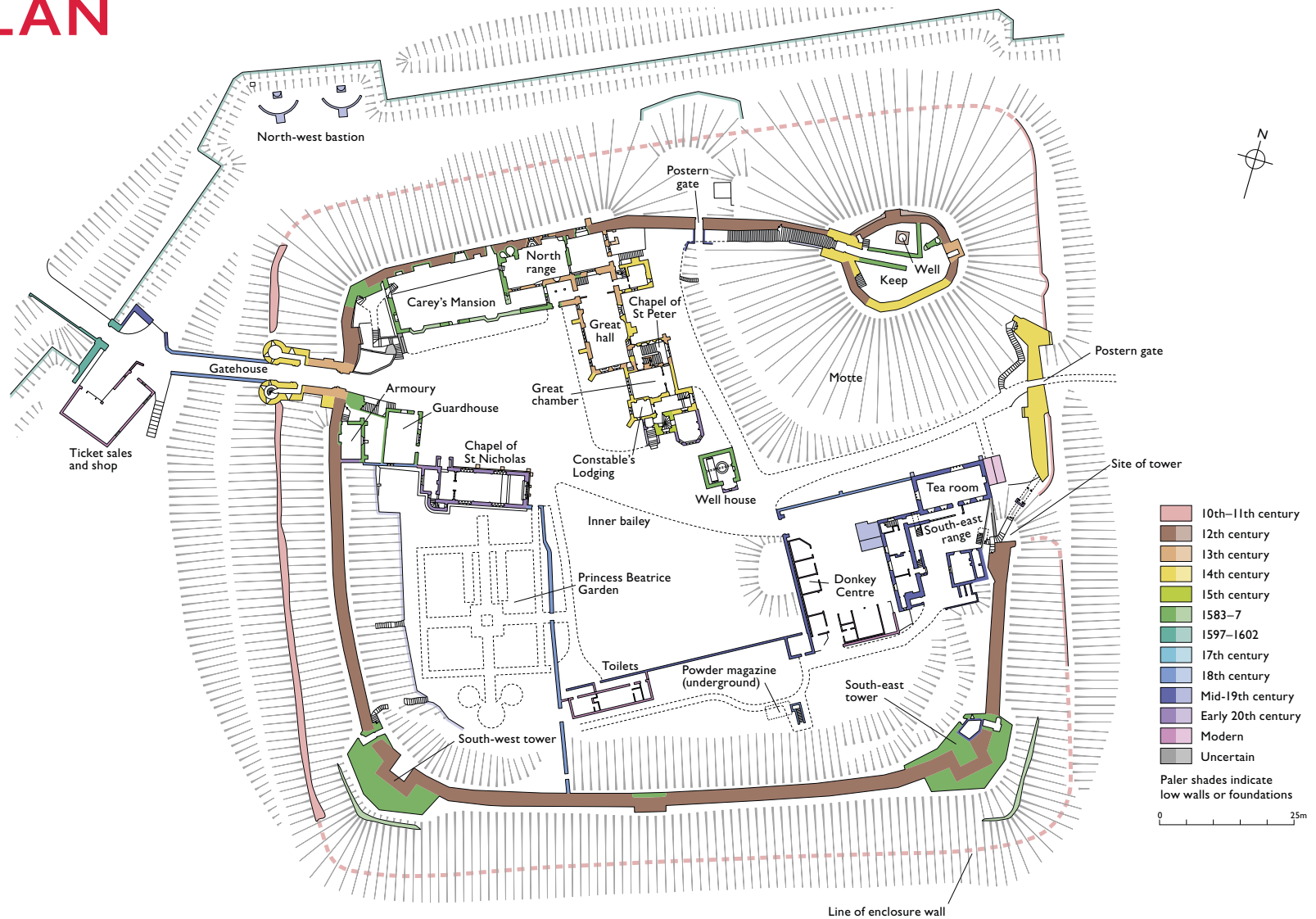
PRE-VISIT

Information and activities you can use in the classroom before your visit.

CARISBROOKE CASTLE

SITE PLAN

BACK TO CONTENTS



HISTORICAL INFORMATION

DISCOVER THE STORY OF
CARISBROOKE CASTLE

Below is a short history of Carisbrooke Castle. Use this information to learn how the site has changed over time. You'll find the definitions of the key words in the Glossary.

ROMAN AND SAXON SETTLEMENTS

Carisbrooke has been an important place of **settlement** since the Romans. There were at least three Roman villas in the area around Carisbrooke and Newport that show people were living here between the 3rd and 4th centuries AD.

Evidence of a 6th-century Saxon graveyard has been found on Carisbrooke Hill. Coins discovered west of Carisbrooke from the 7th century show that the Saxons living there were **trading** with countries far away from England.

Between 998 and 1009, the Vikings used the Isle of Wight as a base to invade the mainland. The local people built a **burh** on the hill as a place to be safe from, and fight against, the Vikings. The Saxon stone wall can be seen at the east and west sides of the castle today. This was probably the first building on the hilltop.



A Saxon soldier. The Saxons had to defend the Isle of Wight from Viking raiders.

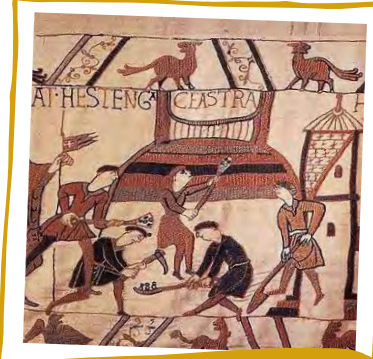
NORMAN CONQUEST

After his victory at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, William the Conqueror (r.1066–87) granted the Isle of Wight to his cousin William FitzOsbern.

Domesday Book records a castle at Carisbrooke in 1086, probably built by FitzOsbern. It's likely he adapted the Saxon burh – ditches were dug to form an inner and outer bailey and the castle buildings were made from wood and earth.

By 1075 the castle belonged to **the Crown** again. In 1100, King Henry I (r.1100–35) faced a rival claim to the throne by his eldest brother, Robert. To secure his support along the south coast, Henry gave the Isle of Wight to his loyal supporter Richard de Redvers. It was probably Richard who built the **motte-and-bailey** castle.

Richard's son Baldwin took over Carisbrooke Castle in 1107. Baldwin made the castle stronger by building stone walls and the **keep**. During the **civil war**, Baldwin supported Empress Matilda. But when the **well** in the keep stopped working, the castle didn't have any water. To survive, Baldwin had to surrender to King Stephen (r.1135–54) in 1136. Baldwin did not get his lands back until 1153.



A scene from the Bayeux Tapestry showing a motte being built by the Normans to strengthen their position at Hastings.

ISABELLA'S MEDIEVAL EXTENSIONS

In 1263, Baldwin de Redvers' descendant Countess Isabella de Fortibus inherited Carisbrooke Castle when she was 25 years old. The **Countess** was a powerful landowner with many estates—unusual for a woman in medieval times.

Carisbrooke Castle became Isabella's main home. She extended and rebuilt it to show how important she was. She built a great chamber for herself, overlooking the island, the **chapel** of St Nicholas, and many of the other buildings. The remains of lots of these buildings can be seen today.



One of the expensive glass windows overlooking the island that Isabella de Fortibus had in her great chamber.

A FAILED FRENCH SIEGE

In the 14th century (1300s), the Isle of Wight was involved in the **Hundred Years War** between England and France. If the French armies landed on the island, they could sail up the river Solent and use the ports of Southampton and Portsmouth as bases to attack the rest of England.

In 1377, the French landed on the Isle of Wight and **besieged** Carisbrooke Castle. One story is that the French army were defeated when **bowman** Peter de Heynoe shot and killed the French commander. The **arrow loop** through which he is supposed to have shot his arrow can be seen at the castle today.

To protect the castle from similar attacks, more defences were built during the 14th century, like the **drum towers** around the main **gatehouse**.



An archer from the 14th century. Bowman Peter de Heynoe shot and killed the French commander during the siege in 1377.

1500s: ELIZABETHAN FORTRESS

In 1537, Henry VIII (r.1509–47) began building new **defences** to protect England against France and Spain. **Forts** were built along the coast to defend the Isle of Wight and the mainland. Carisbrooke Castle was used to store **munitions**.

Sir George Carey, a cousin of Elizabeth 1 (r.1558–1603), was made captain of the castle in 1583. Sir George extended the castle to show off his power and built a new **mansion** in the castle grounds. He rebuilt the well house and **treadwheel** to raise water. This can be seen at the castle today.

To boost the castle's defences, Sir George added **bastions** to the inner bailey wall and probably built the large **earthwork barbican**. Ten years after these upgrades, the Spanish were still a threat, so Sir George transformed Carisbrooke Castle into an **artillery** fort. An earth wall was built around the castle with arrowhead-shaped bastions to defend against an attacking force with big guns. You can see the remains of the north-west bastion as you enter the castle.



A modern aerial view of the castle showing the artillery fortress, with arrow-headed bastions, built between 1597 and 1602.

CIVIL WAR: A ROYAL PRISONER

After England made peace with Spain in 1604, the castle was no longer needed as a defensive fortress. Its next major role came when the **English Civil War** began in 1642. Carisbrooke Castle was quickly surrendered to the **Parliamentarians** and used as a prison.

The most famous prisoner to be held at the castle was Charles I (r.1625–49). He had escaped from Hampton Court Palace and made his way to the Isle of Wight, believing he would be protected by the **governor**, Colonel Robert Hammond. Instead, he was arrested.

Charles was a prisoner in the castle for ten months. At first he was allowed to roam quite freely in the castle grounds. The barbican was even converted into a bowling green for him. But on 20 March 1648 Charles attempted to escape by climbing out of his bedchamber window in the middle of the night, only to get stuck. From then on, he was watched much more closely.

Charles was put on trial and finally executed in 1649. Following his death, his two children were brought to Carisbrooke Castle and imprisoned. Within weeks, his daughter Princess Elizabeth died from a chill caught whilst playing bowls.



Charles I got stuck in the window of his bedchamber while trying to escape from Carisbrooke Castle in 1648.

1700S AND 1800S: PRETTY RUINS AND THE MILITIA

In the 1700s and 1800s forts on the coast became more important. Carisbrooke Castle is inland so it was no longer used much for the defence of the Isle of Wight. Some buildings continued to be useful as stores and a military hospital.

By the middle of the 1800s the Isle of Wight was becoming a popular place for tourists and Carisbrooke Castle was one of the main attractions. The castle was decaying, but Victorian tourists liked to see the ruins, even with plants growing over them.

At the same time, the castle had become the home of the Isle of Wight Artillery **Militia** – **civilian** men who trained as soldiers in their spare time. They trained on the guns mounted on the north-west bastion.



Tourists exploring the gatehouse. The trees and ivy were left to make the ruins look pretty.

THE PRINCESS'S SUMMER HOME

In 1896, Queen Victoria's youngest daughter, Princess Beatrice, became governor of the Isle of Wight. The princess gave the castle a refresh. The gatehouse and the chapel of St Nicholas were restored, the great hall was re-roofed and the **Constable's** Lodging was extended.

In 1913, Princess Beatrice decided to make Carisbrooke her summer home. The **panelling** and the **window seats** in the Constable's Lodging show what the rooms would have looked like when she lived there.

The buildings of the south-east range were converted for the princess's servants and a tunnel was built underground so the servants could get to her rooms.



The initial of Princess Beatrice on the outer gate.

CARISBROOKE TODAY

Carisbrooke Castle is now looked after by English Heritage. It is still popular with tourists and people who visit to learn about the history of the castle and the island.



Visitors to Carisbrooke Castle meet one of the donkeys who work the treadwheel in the well house.

GLOSSARY

WEIRD WORDS AND
THEIR MEANINGS

Below is a list of words you might come across while exploring Carisbrooke Castle. Use this Glossary to find out what they mean.

arrow loop – a thin gap in a wall for a bowman to shoot arrows through

artillery – big guns with a large barrel, like a cannon

barbican – the outer defence area of a castle, outside the main gate and designed to defend it from attack

bastion – a part of a fort that sticks out from the main outer wall, to allow guns to fire along the wall at approaching enemies



A cannon on the north-west bastion.



A bowman (archer) ready for battle in the 14th century.

besiege – to surround (a fortress) with soldiers to try to capture it or starve the people living there into surrendering

bowman – an archer

burh – a Saxon fort

chapel – a small building or room used for Christian worship within a larger building, such as a castle

civil war – a war between people in the same country

civilian – a person not in the armed services

constable – the governor of a royal castle

countess – a title for a woman in the aristocracy

the Crown – the monarchy; the ruling King and/or queen

defences – things that help stop an attack

drum tower – a round tower (shaped like a drum) built into a wall

earthwork – a large artificial bank of soil, often one made as a defence

English Civil War – the war in the 1600s between people who supported Parliament and people who supported the king (Royalists) over how England should be ruled

fort – a secure building that protects itself from an attack

gatehouse – room(s) built over a castle entrance

governor – an official appointed to govern a town or region

herber – a garden where herbs or vegetables are grown

Hundred Years War – the fighting between England and France: 1337–1453

keep – the strongest tower of a castle and the final refuge during an attack

mansion – a large, impressive house occupied by an important, powerful family

militia – a part-time military force, whose members are civilians

motte-and-bailey – a castle built with a raised earthwork mound (motte), with an attached enclosure or courtyard (bailey),

surrounded by a protective ditch and wooden palisade (fence)

munitions – military weapons, ammunition and equipment

panelling – panels (flat wooden boards) used to decorate a wall

Parliamentarians – people who supported Parliament in the English Civil War

settlement – a place where people start to live and build a community

siege – when enemy forces surround a town or building, cutting off essential supplies, to force the people inside to surrender

Spanish Armada – a huge fleet of Spanish warships that sailed up the Channel in 1588 in an attempt to invade England

trading – buying and selling goods or jobs

treadwheel – a large wheel turned by the weight of people or animals used to lift water from a well

undercroft

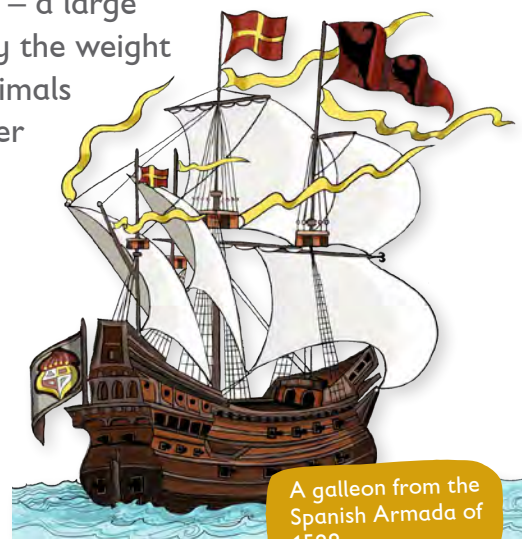
– the crypt (underground room) of a church

well – a long narrow hole dug into the ground to get water from the ground

window seat – a seat below a window, especially one in a bay or alcove



The drum towers in the gatehouse at Carisbrooke Castle.



A galleon from the Spanish Armada of 1588

ANGLO-SAXONS

NORMANS
1066–1154

EVENTS IN BRITISH HISTORY

c.410–1066

Anglo-Saxon kingdoms rule over much of Britain.



1066

William the Conqueror is victorious at the Battle of Hastings. The Norman Conquest of England begins.



500

1000

c.500

Evidence of a 6th-century Saxon graveyard has been found on Carisbrooke Hill.

c.998–1009

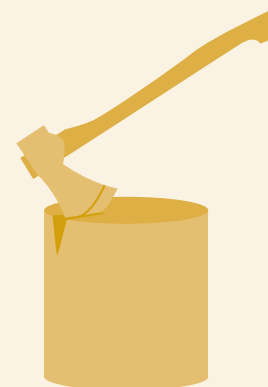
A burh (Saxon fort) is built on the hilltop at Carisbrooke by the Saxon population to defend against the Viking raiders on the Isle of Wight.

c.700

Coins discovered west of Carisbrooke from the 7th-century show that the Saxons living there were trading with countries far away from England.

c.1066

After the Conquest, Norman lord William FitzOsbern adapts the Saxon burh to build a castle using wood and earth.



**6–10TH
CENTURIES**

**11TH
CENTURY**

HISTORY OF CARISBROOKE CASTLE



NORMANS

1066–1154

1100

Henry I is crowned king. He grants the Isle of Wight to loyal supporter Richard de Redvers.



1135

King Stephen takes the throne. Civil war begins in England. Richard de Redvers' son, Baldwin de Redvers, supports the king's rival, Empress Matilda.

1100

c.1100

Richard de Redvers probably builds the motte-and-bailey castle.

c.1107-36

Baldwin de Redvers rebuilds parts of the castle in stone and builds the shell keep.

1136

Baldwin de Redvers surrenders to King Stephen at Southampton. Carisbrooke Castle is not given back to Baldwin until 1153.

12TH
CENTURY

PLANTAGENETS

1154–1485

1216–72

Reign of Henry III.



1200

1263

Countess Isabella de Fortibus inherits Carisbrooke Castle. Isabella makes the castle much bigger creating many new buildings.



13TH
CENTURY

PLANTAGENETS

1154–1485

TUDORS

1485–1603

1337–77

Reign of Edward III.

1337–1453

The Hundred Years War
between England and France.

1537

England is under threat of invasion from France and Spain. Henry VIII begins building forts and castles along the south coast of England and the Isle of Wight.

1588–1603

Reign of Elizabeth I.

1588

The Spanish Armada fails in its attempt to invade England.

1300

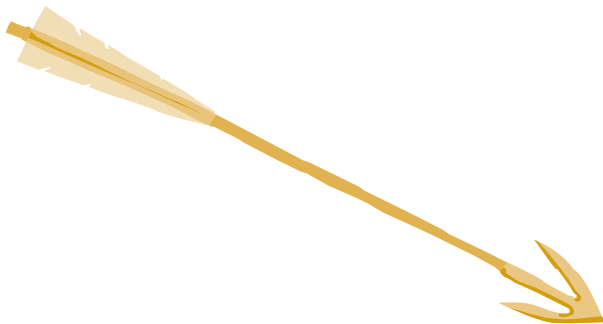
1335–36

Two drum towers are added to the main gatehouse.

1377

The French land on the Isle of Wight and besiege Carisbrooke Castle.

The siege fails when the French commander is killed by Peter de Heynoe's arrow.



**14TH
CENTURY**

1583

Elizabeth I's cousin, Sir George Carey, becomes captain of Carisbrooke Castle.

1583–87

Sir George extends the castle buildings, builds a new mansion house, adds bastions and probably creates the large barbican.

1597–1602

Sir George expands the castle again, this time into a huge artillery fortress. He builds ramparts, ditches and artillery bastions around the castle.

**16TH
CENTURY**



STUARTS

1603–1714

GEORGIANS

1714–1830

1604

England made peace with Spain.

1642

The English Civil War began.

1649

Execution of Charles I.

1660

Restoration of Charles II.

1600

1700



1714–27

Reign of George I.

1642

Carisbrooke was surrendered to Parliamentary forces.

1647

Charles I fled from captivity to the Isle of Wight for protection but was imprisoned at Carisbrooke.

1648

Charles I attempted to escape through a window in the Constable's Lodging, but got stuck in the window.

1723

A survey of Carisbrooke showed that the mansion house built by Sir George Carey had been demolished. The buildings are used as the governor's house and a military store.

17TH
CENTURY

18TH
CENTURY

1837-1901

Reign of Queen Victoria.



1896

Princess Beatrice, Queen Victoria's youngest daughter, becomes the governor of the Isle of Wight.

1914-18

The First World War.

1944

Princess Beatrice dies.



1800

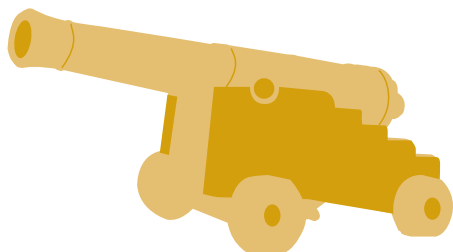
1900

1853

Carisbrooke Castle becomes the base of the Isle of Wight Artillery Militia.

1901

The great hall is re-roofed and new windows are installed.



1913

Princess Beatrice decides to use Carisbrooke Castle as her summer home. The Constable's Lodging is adapted and redecorated for her use, and a tunnel built for servants to get to her rooms.

1897

The gatehouse is restored and becomes the first home of the Carisbrooke Castle Museum.

19TH
CENTURY

20TH
CENTURY

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

PERFECT PLACE FOR A CASTLE



Recommended for

KSI-2 (History, Geography)

Learning objectives

- Identify geographical features in the past and today and how the local landscape has changed over time.
- Explain how the geographical position of the castle helped its defence.

Time to complete

30–40 minutes



An aerial view of Carisbrooke Castle, showing its proximity to the coast.

SUMMARY

This activity will help students understand the geographical and strategic position of Carisbrooke Castle. It begins with students analysing the map symbols on an Elizabethan map of the Isle of Wight and comparing it with a modern map.

Students then identify geographical features and landmarks on the maps that help them to understand the castle's defensive position.

By comparing the maps students can draw contrasts, and recognise continuities, that illustrate how the landscape of the Isle of Wight has changed over time. Students then reflect on how such changes are reflected in the changing role of the castle through history.

The activity involves practising geographical skills such as interpreting maps and recognising map symbols.

ACTIVITY ANSWERS

A – On the 1579 map, Carisbrooke Castle is just above the word 'VECTA'.

B – 1. Hills, 2. Wood or forest (depending on density of trees), 3. Rivers.

D – 1. Museums (tourism), 2. Golf courses (sport and recreation), 3. More housing on the coast, i.e. Ryde, Shanklin and Sandown.

The island is no longer at threat from a naval attack and has a higher population.

Some students may suggest 'roads' as an answer, as they are not evident on Map 1. The 1579 map shows mainly coastal features, an impression of natural topography and settlements. One of its purposes was to highlight vulnerable areas of coastline in the event of a naval attack. Unsurfaced roads and tracks did exist on the Isle of Wight during the Elizabethan era but are not shown on Map 1.



An aerial view of Carisbrooke Castle, showing how the castle is on high ground overlooking the town.

ACTIVITY ANSWERS

E – 1. Rivers, 2. Carisbrooke Castle, 3. Woods/forests.

F – 4: Hurst, Calshot, Haselworth ('hasellorde') and Southsea ('Sowthsee').

Hurst and Calshot Castles (both English Heritage) can still be identified on Map 2 – the location of Southsea Castle is only shown by a lighthouse, though the castle is a visitor attraction with a museum.

Haselworth Castle was abandoned in 1556 and no remains are visible today.

G – The castle is built in the centre of the island, on a hill, to give it the best vantage point possible. It was also an intimidating visible prospect for approaching invaders.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Using role play or storytelling, students could imagine themselves as 16th-century Spanish sailors on board ships, heading across the sea to attack the Isle of Wight. What would they see as they approached the island? What would they feel when they saw the castle? What would they say to their shipmates? Students could film or write their descriptions of their experience.

MAP READING

MAP 1

The Isle of Wight from the book 'Atlas of the Counties of England and Wales', 1579. The map shows important things on the coastline. These maps were important as England was threatened with invasion from Spain.



MAP 2



A modern, 21st century, Ordnance Survey map of the Isle of Wight.

Look at Map 1

There has been a fort or castle at Carisbrooke for over 1,000 years. You are going to investigate why this is a good place to build a castle and how Carisbrooke defended the Isle of Wight.



The historical symbols tell us about features in the landscape.

This symbol represents a whole village.

A Can you find Carisbrooke Castle? **Draw** a circle around it.

B **Find** these three other symbols on the map. What features do they show?



Look at Map 2

Map 2 shows how the Isle of Wight has changed since 1579. The symbols show different features of the landscape today.

C **Find** Carisbrooke Castle and draw a circle around it.

D What three features are **different** in the Isle of Wight today?

E What features have stayed the **same** since 1579?

1

1

2

2

3

3

In the 16th century, Carisbrooke Castle protected the Isle of Wight and southern England from invasion. The castle needed to stop an enemy from capturing the island and using it for attacks on Portsmouth and Southampton.

F **How many** castles were built on the mainland?

G **Why** is the castle in the centre of the island?



AT THE CASTLE

Activities for students to do at Carisbrooke Castle to help them get the most out of their learning.

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

TOP THINGS TO SEE



Recommended for

KSI-2 (History)

Learning objectives

- Explore key architectural features at the castle and understand their significance.
- Interpret key points in the castle's history through sensory learning and role play.

Time to complete

Approx. 60 minutes



Countess Isabella's window.

SUMMARY

This activity encourages students to look closely at nine key locations around the castle that represent key moments in its history. Through exploring handling objects and taking part in role play, students will make connections between the feature and the people and events associated with it.

You can guide your class around the nine locations or set students off with copies of the activity sheets to complete the challenges in smaller groups. Depending on their ability, students can use the activity sheets on pages 24–28, or complete the shorter tick list on page 29.

MAIN ACTIVITY

Please print enough worksheets for your class and bring clipboards and pencils to use around the castle. Students should record their progress by ticking off each location/feature/activity as they find or complete it. The labelled map included on p.30 will help with orientation.

The first stop in the activity is De Heynoe's loop. You can find the nine 'things to see' in any order, but we have recommended a logical route around the castle. Please note that the wheel-chair accessible version of this route is labelled with a wheelchair icon on the map.

Please be aware of other visitors as you do the activities and supervise students closely at all times.

DISCOVERY BAGS

The handling collection associated with this activity must be booked in advance of your visit. Please contact our Bookings Team on 0370 333 0606 or email: bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk

TOP THINGS TO SEE

EXPLORE CARISBROOKE CASTLE

Explore the castle in small groups. See if you can find all of these places and complete each challenge!



1 DE HEYNOE'S LOOP

In 1377 Carisbrooke Castle was under siege by the French. The commander of the French army was shot and killed by an arrow. We think the arrow was shot by the archer Peter de Heynoe from this arrow loop in the wall walk.

WHERE IS IT?
Up the steps past the visitor centre. Look up to the top of the wall.

DID YOU FIND IT?

DID YOU KNOW?


The lower wall here was built by the Saxons. They built a bank of chalk and later strengthened it with stone. The Normans built their castle on top.

CHALLENGE TIME!

Think about the shape of a bow and arrow.
Talk to a partner about why the arrow loop is in a cross shape.

2 SOUTH-WEST BASTION

The artillery bastion (platform) was built around the south-west tower in the 1500s. It was built to hold new, big, heavy guns that could aim at the enemy coming towards the castle.

 **WHERE IS IT?**
Keep the curtain wall on your left, down the grassy slope

DID YOU FIND IT?



DID YOU KNOW?



Another name for a bastion is a 'knight'.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Discuss why the bastions aren't tall towers, like the keep. Why are they low to the ground?



3 GATEHOUSE

This has been the entrance to the castle for the past 900 years. It would have had a drawbridge that could be raised in an attack. The platform between the towers has holes in so that soldiers could drop things on the enemy.

 **WHERE IS IT?**
Back at the visitor centre

DID YOU FIND IT?

DID YOU KNOW?



In 1380, gun ports (like upside-down keyholes) were added to the top of the towers to hold early handguns.


CHALLENGE TIME!



Why are the drum towers circular? **Decide** how this could help during an attack.

4 CAREY'S MANSION

Sir George Carey built the mansion house between 1584 and – 1586. As a cousin of Elizabeth I, the mansion showed off his wealth and power. The house had 13 rooms. Look out for fireplaces and slots for floor beam joists.

 **WHERE IS IT?**
Inner bailey,
on the left

DID YOU FIND IT?



DID YOU KNOW?



The house has a long gallery (like a long, wide corridor) where people walked up and down for daily exercise.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Discuss what you would find in the house of an important, rich person living today.

5 ISABELLA'S WINDOW

Before this area was Sir George Carey's Elizabethan mansion, it was the medieval great chamber of Countess Isabella. At this time, wealthy people wanted private rooms. The steps up to the window allowed Isabella to see far off into the distance over her lands.

 **WHERE IS IT?**
Inner bailey, on the left

DID YOU FIND IT?



DID YOU KNOW?



Glass was very expensive in medieval times. To have a window in her room showed that Isabella was very rich.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Look closely at the windows. Why are they much smaller than the frame around the edge? Why are there sloping walls on either side?

6 CHARLES I'S ESCAPE

Charles I was kept prisoner at the castle from 1647 to 1648. One of his bedrooms was in the chamber block of the great hall. On 20 March 1648 he tried to escape from here but got stuck in the window. The window was replaced in 1901 by the one you see now.



WHERE IS IT?

Inner bailey, on the outside of the great hall

DID YOU KNOW?



Charles's page, Henry Firebrace, wrote that Charles practised putting his head through the window, so he thought the rest of his body would fit through.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Imagine you were the constable of the castle when Charles I was here. How would you feel about keeping the king as a prisoner?



DID YOU FIND IT?



7 KEEP

The keep stands on a motte. The motte is built from layers of chalk and stone. The motte could not hold a tall, heavy tower, so a shell keep was built – a wall around the top of the motte with lean-to buildings inside.

WHERE IS IT?

Along the wall walk, past the mansion

DID YOU KNOW?



The well in the keep is 48 metres deep. Look out for sockets in the wall that were used to winch up the water.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Find the garderobes (toilets). Why are they built in a tower that leans over the edge of the keep wall?



DID YOU FIND IT?



8 DONKEY CENTRE

Donkeys have lived at Carisbrooke Castle for hundreds of years, operating the treadwheel in the well house. All the donkeys' names start with the letter 'J'—the letter that Charles I used as his secret signature at the castle.

 **WHERE IS IT?**
At the bottom of the keep stairs, go left

DID YOU FIND IT?

DID YOU KNOW?



It takes up to 18 months of training for a donkey to be ready to move the treadwheel. They work for up to six minutes a day.


CHALLENGE TIME!



Can you discover why a donkey's body shape makes it powerful?

9 ST NICHOLAS'S CHAPEL

There has been a chapel or church on roughly this site ever since the Norman Conquest. You can see the foundations of the medieval chapel at the base of the walls. The chapel you see today was built in 1904 to commemorate the execution of Charles I (in 1649).

 **WHERE IS IT?**
Inner bailey, opposite the mansion



DID YOU KNOW?



The woodwork in the chapel is from a ship, the **HMS Nettle**. It was one of the last wooden warships to be built, and first set sail in 1831.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Today the chapel is a memorial to the men from the Isle of Wight who gave their lives in the world wars. **Discuss** why we have war memorials.

DID YOU FIND IT?

TOP THINGS TO SEE

EXPLORE CARISBROOKE CASTLE

See if you can find all of these things. Tick each one off as you find it.



1 HEYNOE'S LOOP

Saxon wall

2 BASTION

I imagined cannons booming!

3 GATEHOUSE

Drum towers Gun ports

4 CAREY'S MANSION

Fireplaces

5 ISABELLA'S WINDOW

I looked through the window

6 CHARLES I'S ESCAPE

1901 window

7 KEEP

Well Garderobe

8 DONKEY CENTRE


I saw a donkey

9 CHAPEL

I sat quietly to remember

TOP THINGS TO SEE MAP



 Not all the stops on this route are suitable for people in wheelchairs or with limited mobility. Please see page 31 for an alternative accessible route.



1 DE HEYNOE'S LOOP

4 CAREY'S MANSION

7 KEEP

2 SOUTH-WEST BASTION

5 ISABELLA'S WINDOW

8 WELL HOUSE

3 GATEHOUSE

6 CHARLES I'S ESCAPE

9 CHAPEL

HINT

After the last stop at the Chapel, why not explore Princess Beatrice's beautiful garden?

TOP THINGS TO SEE ACCESSIBLE MAP



1 DE HEYNOE'S LOOP

2 SOUTH-WEST BASTION

3 GATEHOUSE

4 CAREY'S MANSION

5 ISABELLA'S WINDOW

6 CHARLES I'S ESCAPE

7 KEEP

8 WELL HOUSE

9 CHAPEL

HINT

After the last stop at the Chapel, why not explore Princess Beatrice's beautiful garden?

WHAT I'VE LEARNT

I think the one best thing to see at Carisbrooke Castle is:

.....
.....

The most interesting thing I learnt today is:

.....
.....
.....
.....

I want to know more about:

.....
.....
.....

Draw a picture inspired by your visit to Carisbrooke Castle.

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

HUMAN TABLEAUX

TIMELINE



KS2

Recommended for

KS2 (History, Drama)

Learning objectives

- To understand the chronology of Carisbrooke Castle's history.
- To use role play and tableaux to interact with architectural features and understand how they represent different time periods.

Time to complete

1 hour



De Heynoe's loop is thought to be where bowman Peter de Heynoe shot the arrow that killed the French commander during the siege of 1377.

SUMMARY

There are key locations at Carisbrooke Castle that have architectural details that together tell a narrative of its history.

Students can identify these spots as they discover the castle grounds:

- the motte and bailey
- the 12th-century keep
- Isabella's medieval window
- Heynoe's loophole from the 14th-century French siege
- fireplaces from Sir George Carey's 17th-century mansion
- the window from which Charles I tried to escape
- Beatrice's garden

At each feature, or somewhere nearby if there isn't enough space, ask the students to pose in a tableau that illustrates the period in the castle's history, e.g. a group of archers shooting through the loopholes around the keep wall walk or the Saxons wearily digging an earthwork bank. Take a photo of each tableau.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Use the photographs back in the classroom to create a human tableaux timeline. The students could prepare to present the timeline to a younger age group, perhaps another class in their school. They could use printed copies of the photographs arranged in order alongside a written timeline of the castle's history, or create one using a programme online, such as www.tiki-toki.com

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

MEDIEVAL SIEGE

SPIES



Recommended for

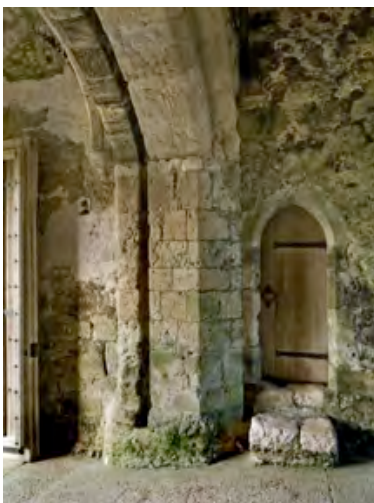
KS2–3 (History, English, Design & Technology)

Learning objectives

- Identify Carisbrooke Castle's defensive features.
- Understand how castle structures and defences were designed to combat medieval siege weaponry.
- Recognise key principles of medieval weapons technology.

Time to complete

1 hour



The portcullis would have been lowered over the thick wooden gates in the gatehouse. You can see the grooves at the gatehouse today.

SUMMARY

In the 14th century, England was at war with France. In fear of an attack by the French, improvements were made to the castle's defences, such as adding the drum towers to the gatehouse. In this activity, students pretend that they are French spies infiltrating the medieval Carisbrooke Castle, in order to examine the ability of its defences to withstand a siege.

Before the visit, students should gain a good understanding of siege weapons such as scaling ladders, siege towers, battering rams, cats and mantlets, mangonels, trebuchets and guns. Alternatively the class could also focus on simpler tactics such as cavalry, foot soldiers and archers. It may be that you split your class into groups each looking at the effectiveness of one of these weapons – this could introduce an element of competition.

FEATURES YOU MIGHT LIKE TO FOCUS ON:

- curtain wall (wall walk, crenellations, towers)
- gatehouse (drawbridge, drum towers, portcullis and gun ports – for early handguns)
- keep (motte and bailey, keep gatehouse, wall walk)
- ditches and earth banks
- arrow loops
- thick walls

Students should make sketches and notes about each defensive feature, thinking about how they might protect a castle during an attack.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Following your visit, the students could prepare a report for the French king to explain how well Carisbrooke is defended. They could identify which siege weapon would be the most effective on its defences. This report could be prepared as a medieval parchment, perhaps with tea-stained paper and a red wax seal.

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY TRAIL



KS3

Recommended for

KS3 (History, Art)

Learning objectives

- Identify the key defensive features of a castle and understand why Carisbrooke Castle was built in its particular location.
- Examine specific defensive features in detail and understand their defensive function.

Time to complete

10–15 minutes per activity;
4 activities



The gatehouse at Carisbrooke Castle.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if your students were familiar with some key defensive features of medieval castles, for example gateways or gatehouses, moats, curtain walls, towers and keeps. Search for 'castles' on the English Heritage website to find some helpful resources.

PREPARATION AND RESOURCES

You will find the Activity Trail on the following pages. Please print or photocopy enough for your class to bring to Carisbrooke Castle.

We advise that you bring enough clipboards and pencils for each of your students. Pens are not permitted.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

At the end of the Activity Trail, students have an opportunity to design their own castle, using what they have learnt during their visit about defences that they have learnt during their visit. Students could construct models of their castles back at school, using recycled materials. They could label each defensive feature and present it to the class, who might like to decide on a winner of 'Best Defensive Design'.

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

TEACHERS' ANSWER SHEET

KS3

AT THE GATEHOUSE

2 – How does the gatehouse make a visitor feel?

Castles were an important way to show off the lord's power and status. They needed to be large and intimidating to both frighten off attackers and show the local population that the lord was the controlling authority. The Normans needed to establish their ruling authority following the Conquest of 1066.

4 – What do the buildings tell us about how many people lived at the castle?

Castles needed to house not only the lord and his family but a whole community of people who lived and worked there, including a chaplain and a private chapel.

AT THE KEEP

2 – Why was the castle built on a hill?

The castle is built in the centre of the island, on a hill, to give it the best vantage point possible. It was also an intimidating visible prospect for approaching invaders.

AT THE WALL WALK

TOWERS – towers within the curtain wall where armed guards had a vantage point to attack from and watchmen could keep lookout.

KEEP – the main tower on top of the motte. Very thick walls and with a well – the last place of refuge in case the castle perimeter is breached.

GATEHOUSE – thick walls, twin cylindrical towers, with a drawbridge, portcullis and strong wooden gates to keep the castle entrance secure.

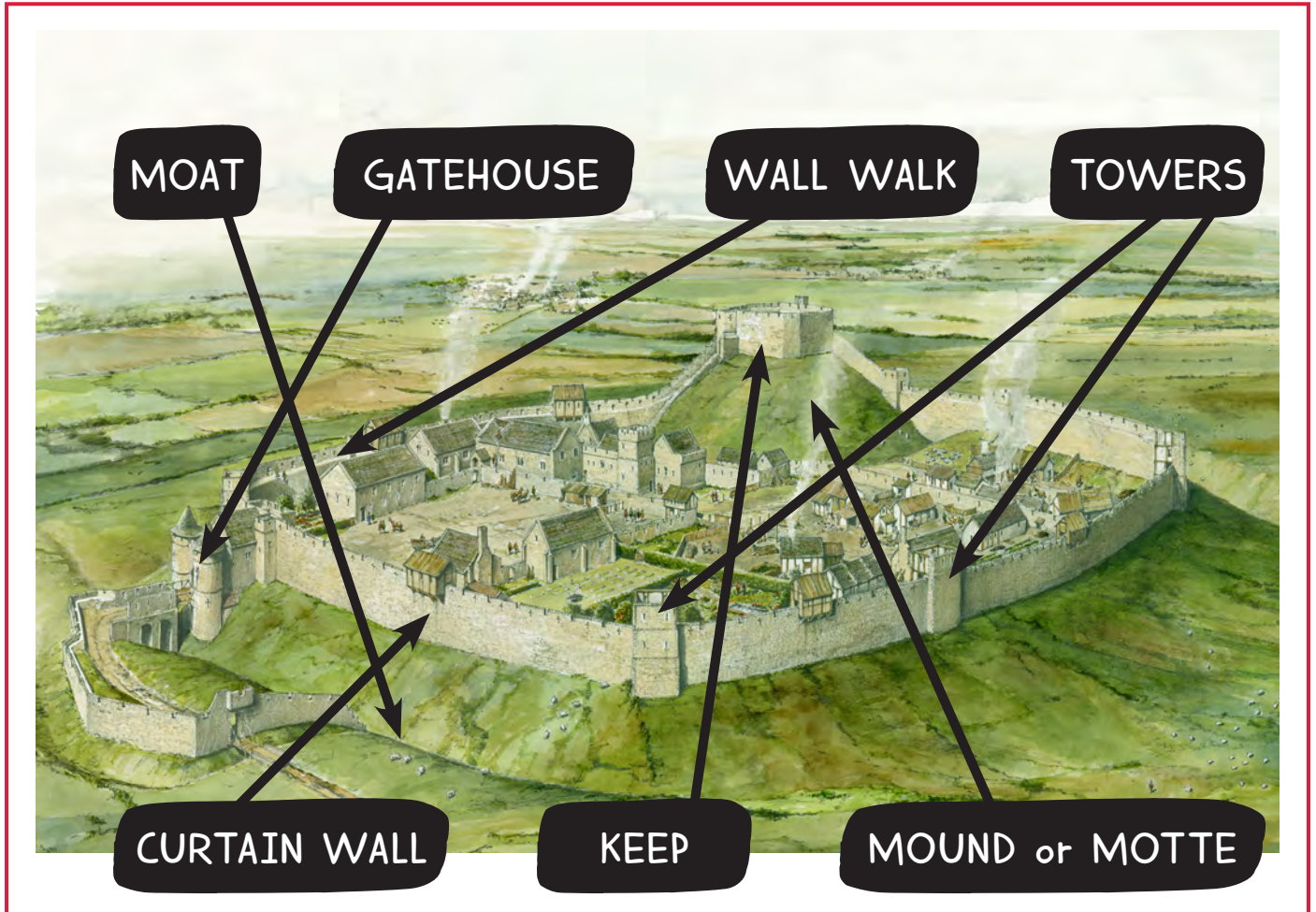
MOTTE – this raised earthwork mound was invented by the Normans. It was a final obstacle for invaders trying to get into the castle's last refuge during an attack – the keep.

MOAT/DITCH – the first line of defence for a castle. The drawbridge that bridged the moat or ditch to allow entry to the castle could be drawn up to prevent attackers crossing.

WALL WALK – the wall walk is high up on the top of the curtain wall and therefore has good views of the surrounding countryside to help spot attackers approaching the castle. It also provided a fighting platform from which soldiers could launch missiles and shoot arrows.

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

TEACHERS' ANSWER SHEET



ACTIVITY TRAIL

DISCOVER
CARISBROOKE CASTLE



NAME:

CLASS:

SCHOOL:

WELCOME!

There has been a fortress on this site for over 1,000 years. You must discover why this is such an important place to build a castle. It should take you around one hour to complete this activity trail.

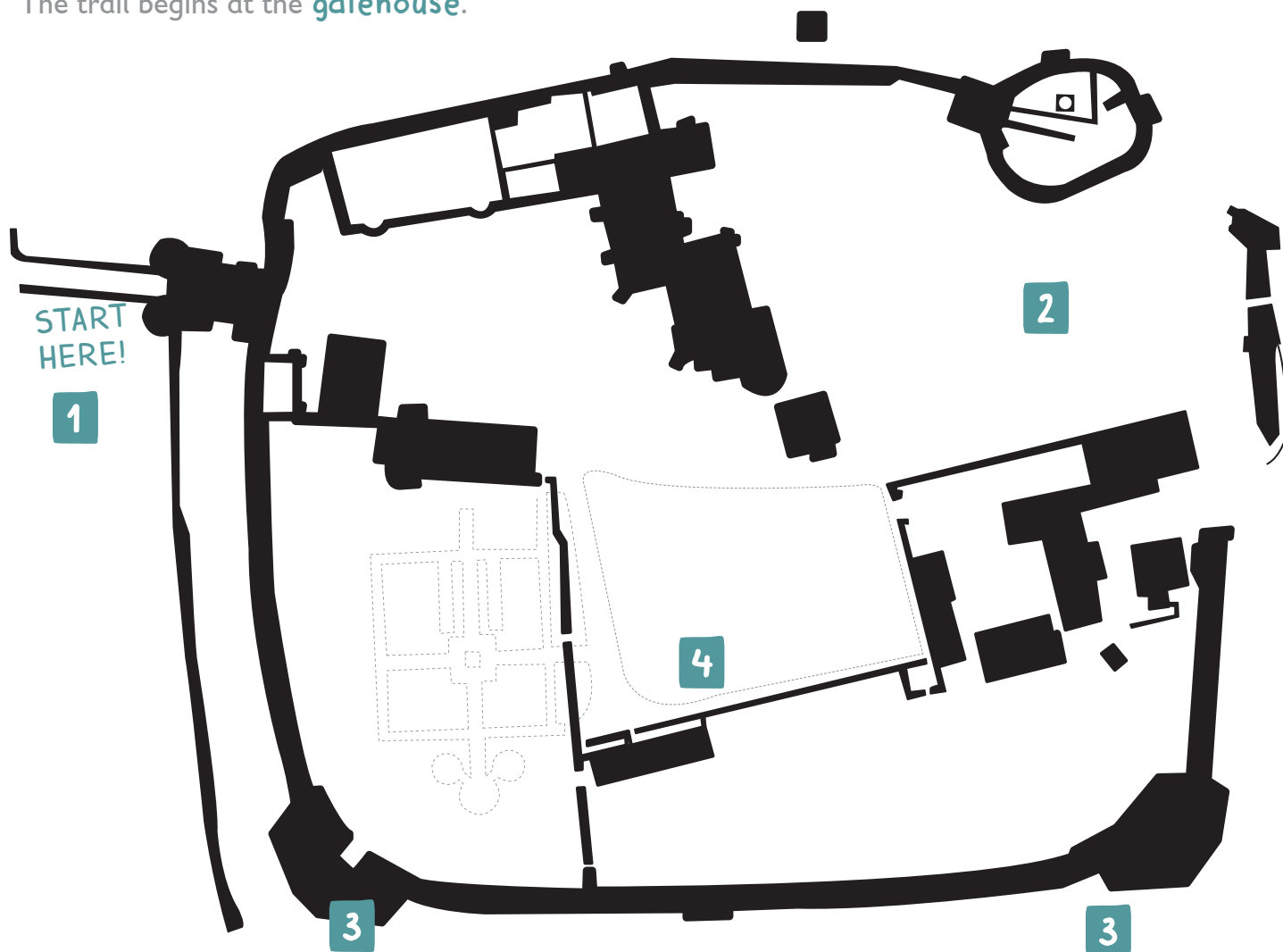


An aerial view of Carisbrooke Castle.

CASTLE PLAN

Use the castle plan to help you find your way around the castle. Complete each task as you move around the site.

The trail begins at the **gatehouse**.



1 Activity 1 – Gatehouse

3 Activity 3 – Wall walk

2 Activity 2 – Keep

4 Activity 4 – Inner bailey

ACTIVITY 1 – THE GATEHOUSE

YOU HAVE ARRIVED
AT THE CASTLE
GATEHOUSE!

Complete questions 1 and
1 then move into
the inner bailey.



The gatehouse at
Carisbrooke Castle.

1 Which words **describe** your first impressions?

huge strong
grand symmetrical
solid impressive
tall intimidating

2 How does the gatehouse make a visitor **feel**?



Go through
the gatehouse
into the
inner bailey.

3 What words **describe** the inside of the castle?

many buildings spread out massive
cramped ruined empty
different-shaped buildings

4 What do the buildings **tell** us about how many people lived at the castle?

View through
the gatehouse of
the inner bailey.



ACTIVITY 2 – THE KEEP



The castle wall walk leading to the keep.

From the top of the keep you can see lots of the landscape of the Isle of Wight and beyond.

1

Can you **spot** these landmarks? Use the information board '**Castle with a View**' to help you. Tick them off as you find them:

Carisbrooke town

Parkhurst Forest

Mainland

2

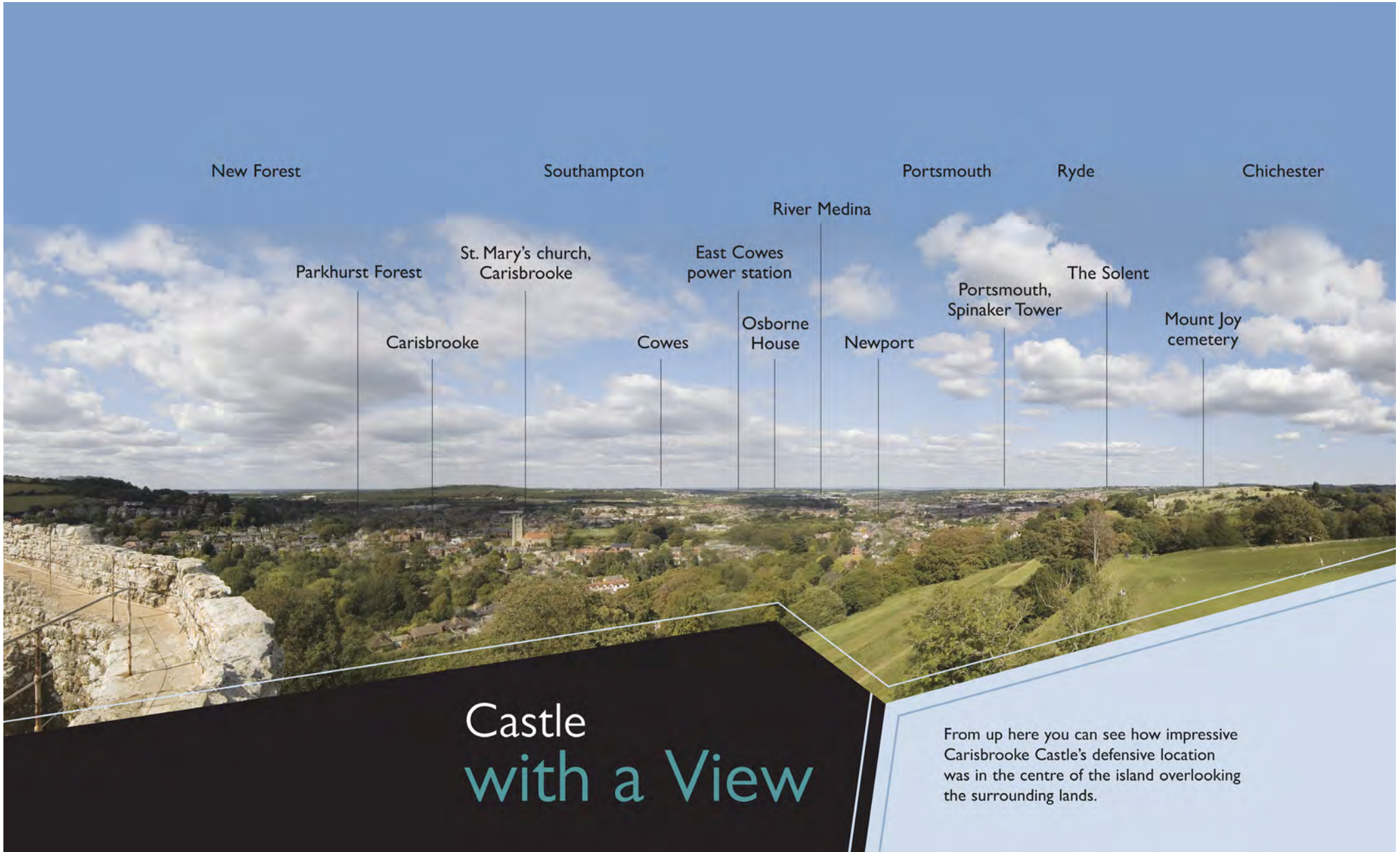
Why was the castle built on a hill?

3

Imagine it is the 1500s. The Isle of Wight has been invaded. You must send news to the governor! **Draw** your view of enemy ships on the horizon and armies marching towards the castle.



Drawing of a 16th-century Spanish galleon.



New Forest

Southampton

Portsmouth

Ryde

Chichester

River Medina

Parkhurst Forest

St. Mary's church,
Carisbrooke

East Cowes
power station

The Solent

Carisbrooke

Cowes

Osborne
House

Newport

Portsmouth,
Spinaker Tower

Mount Joy
cemetery

Castle with a View

From up here you can see how impressive Carisbrooke Castle's defensive location was in the centre of the island overlooking the surrounding lands.

ACTIVITY 3 – THE WALL WALK

Castles were the homes of local lords or ladies who governed the area for the king. Castles were also built to control and defend an area against an attack. We are going to look at Carisbrooke's defensive features.

The picture shows **seven** key castle defences at Carisbrooke.

Draw an arrow to match the label to the defensive feature. Explain in a few words how each feature defends the castle. 'Curtain wall' is done for you.

MOAT

GATEHOUSE

WALL WALK

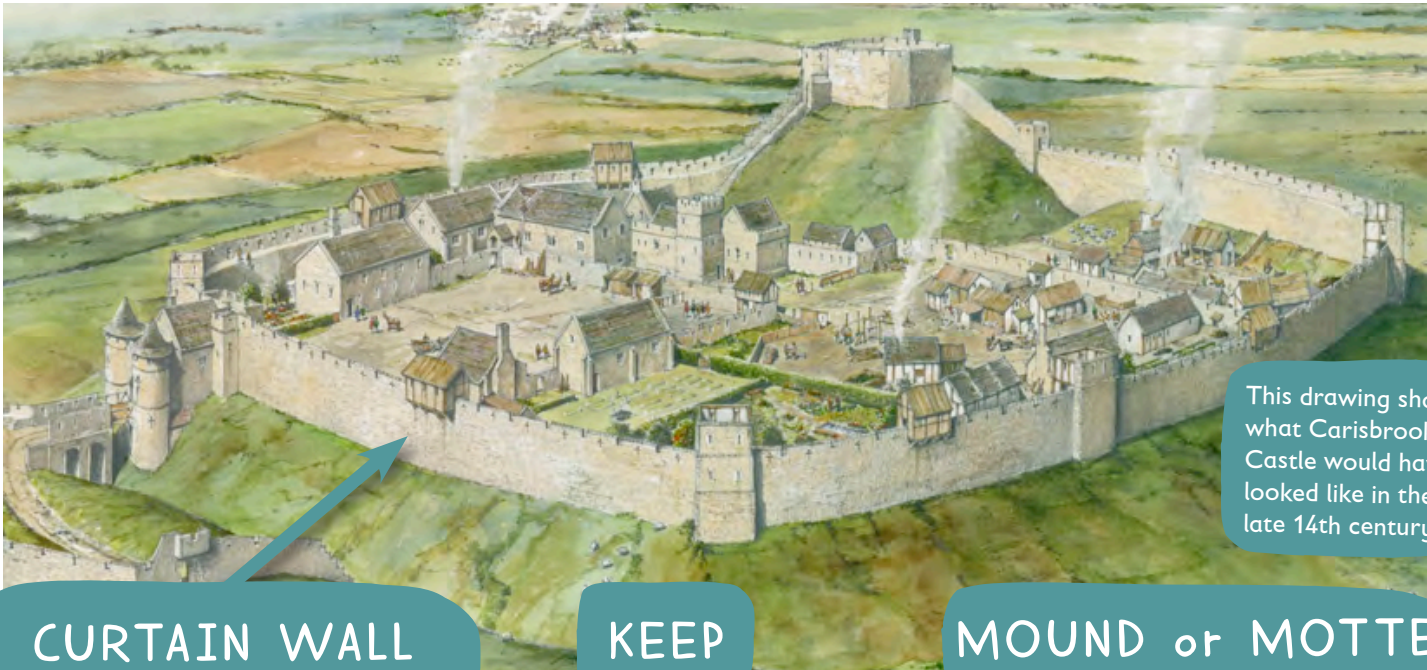
TOWERS

.....
.....

.....
.....

.....
.....

.....
.....



This drawing shows what Carisbrooke Castle would have looked like in the late 14th century.

CURTAIN WALL
- strong and high to stop attackers getting in.

KEEP

MOUND or MOTTE

.....
.....

.....
.....

ACTIVITY 4 – THE INNER BAILEY

Imagine that your school is in danger of invasion!

Design a castle to build in your local area to protect your school.

Use this space to **design** your castle:



You can use the information in this booklet to help you decide:

- 1** **Where** to build your castle
- 2** **Which** defences you will include
- 3** **How** to make your castle stand out and impress people from close up and far away



POST-VISIT

Activities and information to help you extend your students' learning back in the classroom.

SOURCES

PEEK INTO THE PAST

A historical source is something that tells us about life in the past, such as a document, a picture or an object. It may be a primary source, from the time, or a secondary source, created later. Experts at English Heritage have chosen these sources to help you learn about Carisbrooke Castle's history.

SOURCE 1

De Heynoe's loop at Carisbrooke Castle is thought to be the arrow loop through which **bowman** Peter de Heynoe shot the arrow that killed the French commander during the siege of 1377.



SOURCE 2

‘One Petrus de Heynoe came to Sir Hugh Tyrell, then Captayne of ye Island, and tolds him he woold undertake with his silver bowe to kill ye Commaunder of ye Ffrench takinge his time, for he had observed him how nyghtes and morninges he came near ye Castle; which on leave he killed owt of a loopehole on ye west syde of ye Castle, and by that means browght ye fffrench to a composition to take 1000 markes and be begone, and to do no furthor harme’

This source describes the siege of Carisbrooke Castle by a French army in 1377. It is written by Sir John Oglander. Sir John was Deputy Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight from 1595 to 1648. The source describes the moment that bowman Peter de Heynoe killed the French commander with a single arrow.

Sir John wrote the description in the 1600s, more than 250 years after the siege.

This source is taken from *The Oglander Memoirs*, published in 1888.

SOURCE 3

- four chambers at an upper level next to a hall over an undercroft
- a great chapel belonging to Quarr Abbey (the chapel of St Nicholas)
- a small chapel
- a great kitchen
- a chamber for the constable over an undercroft
- a sundial in a herber
- a fish tank/pool
- a prison'



In 1293, Carisbrooke Castle was sold by Isabella de Fortibus to King Edward I. The king ordered lists of all the buildings and things at the castle to work out how much it was worth. This source is a list from 1294 that tells us what Isabella's castle was like. The remains of most of these buildings can still be seen today.

SOURCE 4

'... this morning began a great fight between both fleets ... [which] were out of sight by three in the afternoon'



This source is Sir George Carey's written record of the moment he saw the Spanish Armada from Carisbrooke Castle on 26 July 1588. Sir George was captain of the Isle of Wight from 1583 to 1603.

The source comes from the diary of Sir John Oglander. Sir John was Deputy Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight from 1595 to 1648.

SOURCE 5

SIR GEORGE CAREY

Portrait miniature of Sir George Carey by Nicholas Hilliard, 1601. Sir George lived at Carisbrooke Castle as captain of the Isle of Wight from 1583 to 1603.

Nicholas Hilliard (1547–1619) was a painter of miniature portraits. He was the official miniature painter to Elizabeth I.



SOURCE 6

‘His weekly expense in wheat-corn and pastry was constantly three-quarters, but when lords and ladies were there ... he spent treble as much, for then he would have all the gentlemen of the Island, their wives also there. He was a most free man in his house-keeping, and his meat was always served up to his table with a consort of wind and still music.’

This source describes how Sir George Carey spent his money while he was living at Carisbrooke Castle. Sir George was captain of the Isle of Wight from 1583 to 1603.

The source is part of a diary. It was written by Sir John Oglander. Sir John was Deputy Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight from 1595 to 1648.



SOURCE 7

‘I offered my Service to one of these Conservators [guards] to wait at the Dore opening into the Backstayers whilst he went to supper ... by which means I had freedom of Speaking with his Majesty ... we had opportunity to discourse often; and amongst other things of severall ways for his Majesties Escape (for his imprisonment was then intolerable). Amongst other ways, I proposed his coming out of his bedchamber window; wch he sayd he could do, there being room enough. I told him I feared it was too narrow. He sayd he had tryd it with his Head; and he was sure, where that would passe, the body would follow.’

‘... thus we were to procee: I should tosse something against the window, wch was the signe to put himself out; and to let himself down by a Cord, wch I, for the purpose had given him. Being down, and in the Night dark, I was to conduct him crosse the Court ... to the great wall of the Castle; where I was to have let him down by a long Cord; a Stick being fastened crosse at the end for him to sit on.’

‘In the middle of these hopes, I gave the Signe, at the appointed time. His Majestie put himself forward; but then, too late, found himself mistaken; he stciking fast between his Breast and Shoulders, and not able to get forwards or backwards ... Whilst he stuck, I heard him gorane, but could not come to help him ...’

Henry Firebrace’s account of the king’s attempt to escape from Carisbrooke Castle. Firebrace was Charles I’s page. This account was written nearly 30 years after the event.



SOURCE 8



A photograph of visitors inside the entrance to Carisbrooke Castle in 1906. The gatehouse was used as the first Carisbrooke Castle Museum.

SOURCE 9

‘My father enjoyed his time working for her in the palaces in London, and he used to tell me about all the kings he had met. At the castle [Carisbrooke] he lived in the building across the courtyard from the well house, which was connected to the princess’s house by an underground corridor.’

An account from Mrs Moira Griffin. Mrs Griffin’s father, Jack Kenway White, worked as a footman for Princess Beatrice in the 1930s.

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

OUR KING, OUR PRISONER



Recommended for

KS2 (History, English)

Learning objectives

- Understand the significance of Carisbrooke Castle as the site of an event of national history.
- Engage with and analyse sources to understand different perspectives of history.

Time to complete

1 hour

SUMMARY

This activity encourages students to engage with different points of view about a historical event. They will analyse a source from one point of view, and evaluate how reliable it is.

Before beginning the activity, students should be familiar with the story of Charles I's attempted escape from Carisbrooke Castle and the reasons for his imprisonment here. Use the Historical Information and source 7 in the Sources in this pack to explain the event to your students.

In a class discussion, students should consider why the king was allowed special privileges such as playing on the bowling green and could roam the castle grounds freely. Why might Charles have been treated differently to other prisoners?

Print copies of source 7 in the Sources and share these with the class. Students discuss first in pairs and then share their ideas with the class what they think it tells historians about the night of the escape and how reliable the source is.

Using the facts they have learnt and their memories from their visit to the castle, students work in small groups to imagine different points of view about Charles's imprisonment at the castle. They should discuss and record words and phrases about how they would feel as each/ one of the following characters:



Charles I got stuck in the window of his bedchamber while trying to escape from Carisbrooke Castle in 1648.



Charles I got stuck in the window of his bedchamber whilst trying to escape from Carisbrooke Castle in 1648.

- The king: could not move beyond the castle walls; he walked around the walls every day for exercise; he was allowed to use the bowling green. Charles believed he was chosen by God to be the king.
- Henry Firebrace, the page: exchanged letters with the king in secret; he planned to help the king escape from the castle, using a rope to lower him over the high castle walls.
- The governor: was responsible for the security of the castle; he had to make sure the castle was comfortable for the king but also that he could not escape. If the king did escape, the governor would be severely punished.

Each group should use their words and phrases to create an imaginative piece of writing from the perspective of one of the three characters. For example:

- write a poem as the king and his feelings about his imprisonment
- design an escape plan – because this is top secret, students could try to write part of it in code
- write a report to Cromwell's Parliament on how securely the king is imprisoned and on his welfare

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Students could create a cartoon strip or a news report of the story of the planned escape and its failure.