

Object Handling



Recommended for

History

Learning objectives

- To explore some of the objects that tell us about Farleigh Hungerford Castle's past
- To learn about the people who lived and worked there

Time to complete

20–30 minutes



A reconstruction drawing by Philip Corke showing Farleigh Hungerford Castle in the 1640s.
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Summary

Learn about the history of Farleigh Hungerford Castle and the people who lived and worked there by exploring and handling historical artefacts. Work as a class to identify objects, the people who might have used them and when. There are also some suggested activities that can be used with smaller groups. The box will be available in the learning room on the day, if booked in advance.

Most of these artefacts are original items. Please remind students to handle them carefully and keep them away from their mouths. Please ensure that students wash their hands before they eat. The objects in the clear boxes need to remain inside for health and safety reasons. Please also wear the white gloves provided.

In the box are 17 objects which represent key points in Farleigh Hungerford Castle's history. Each object has a corresponding card which provides additional information. There are four suggested activities which will help students learn about the people and history of the castle:

1. What is it? Use enquiry and questioning skills to work out what the mystery objects are
2. Who used this? (there are role cards to help)
3. Sorting objects, oldest to newest
4. Changes over time – how has the castle changed?

When you have completed the activities, you could use the time periods (at the top right-hand side of the image cards) to create a big timeline of the objects and castle.

Please put items back into the correct sections, ready for the next group.

More learning ideas

Ask students to take on one of the roles and describe what the castle looked like at the time based on the images on the cards.

Activity 1

What is it?

Recommended for

Groups of 6–8 students

Time to complete

10–15 minutes

You will need

Roof tile, lead plumb-bob, horseshoe, pot sherd, brush, bucket handle



Instructions

- Sit the group in a circle
- Place the objects in the middle of the circle, with the relevant object card next to each one – picture facing upwards and text on the back
- Pass the objects around the circle, to enable students to examine them carefully

You could ask students:

- Can you describe it? What does it look like?
 - What materials is it made from?
 - How does it feel?
 - What do you think it is?
 - What is it used for?
 - Do you think any bits are missing?
 - What else might it need?
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- When students have looked at all the objects, place them back in the circle
 - Turn over the object cards to reveal what the objects are. Ask the students whether they are surprised by any of them
 - You may like to explain to your students that learning about the past from objects is what archaeologists do.

Activity 2

Who uses this?

Recommended for

Groups of 6–8 students

Time to complete

10–15 minutes

You will need

Objects – spoon, stained glass, coins, shot, trowel, badge



Character cards – cook, priest, 1st Lord and Lady Hungerford, soldier, surveyor, visitors



Instructions

- Sit the group in a circle
- Place the objects, object cards (picture side up) and the character cards in the middle of the circle
- Pass the objects around the circle, to enable students to examine them carefully. What do they think they are?
- When students have looked at all the objects, place them back in the circle
- Turn over the object cards and tell the students what the objects are
- Take each character card in turn. Ask students which object they think this person might have used, or might be linked to them, and why? Students could place the object on top of the person's card.

The answers are:

Cook – spoon

Priest – stained glass

1st Lord and Lady Hungerford – coins

Soldier – shot

Surveyor – trowel

Visitors – badge

Activity 3

Oldest to newest

Recommended for

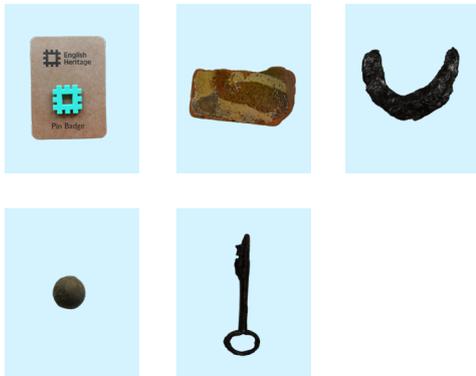
Groups of 6–8 students

Time to complete

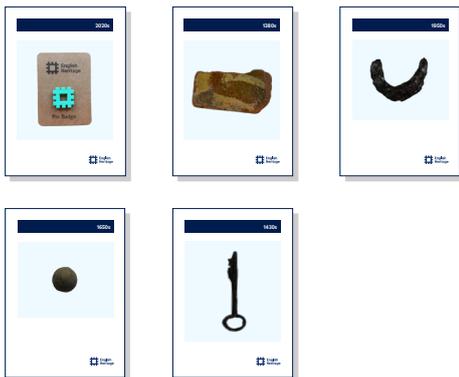
10–15 minutes

You will need

Objects – badge, floor tile, horseshoe, shot, key



Object cards for the five objects



Instructions

- Sit the group in a circle
- Place the objects, object cards (picture side up) and timeline in the middle of the circle
- Pass the objects around the circle, to enable students to examine them carefully. What do they think they are?
- When students have looked at all the objects, place them back in the circle
- Turn over the object cards and tell the students what the objects are
- Explain to students that they are going to try to sort these objects from the oldest to the newest. What clues might we use? (materials they are made from, whether they look like objects we would use today, the dates on the cards can help too)
- Students could place the objects in chronological order and then discuss if they agree on that order
- Reveal the answers below.

The order from oldest to newest is:

The answers are in the top-right corner of the pictures.

Tile – 1380s

Key – 1430s

Shot – 1640s

Horseshoe – 1950s

Badge – 2020s

Activity 4

Changes over time

Recommended for

Groups of 6–8 students

Time to complete

10–15 minutes

You will need

Pictures of the castle – Farleigh
Hungerford Castle 1430s, ruined castle
1700s, farm 1950s, aerial view 2020s



Instructions

- Sit the group in a circle and place the pictures of the castle during different time periods in the middle of the circle, face up
- Take each image of the castle one at a time. Can they identify any similarities and differences between the castle in the image and today?
- When you have looked at the images place them in the middle of the circle. Try to put them in chronological order for the history of Farleigh Hungerford Castle, focusing on the development of the castle, rather than when the image was created. Use clues to help you such as people in the images, whether it looks like today, and changes between the pictures.

Answers

The answers are in the top-right corner of the pictures

Farleigh Hungerford Castle – 1430s

Ruined castle – 1700s

Farm – 1950s

Aerial view – 2020s