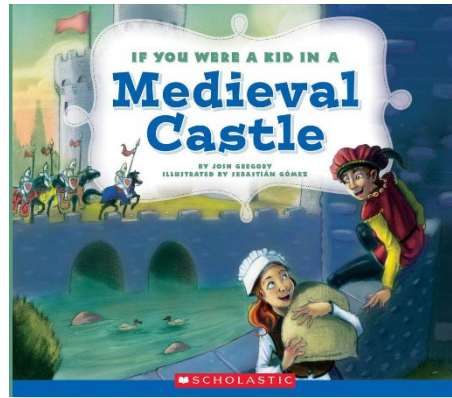


CLOVERBUD READING ADVENTURES

If You Were a Kid in a Medieval Castle

By Josh Gregory, Illustrated by Sebastian Gomez

Readers can get a glimpse into medieval times by following two friends with very different roles in a castle. Henry, the son of a medieval lord, has lived at the castle his whole life but finds out that he must leave to begin training as a knight. Margaret works in the castle kitchen and is who Henry turns to for help. Throughout the book readers will find real life information about what it was like for the different classes that lived in the castle.



ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS

Build a Working Drawbridge



Materials and tools: Empty snack box, yarn or string, paint, markers or crayons, chopstick or pencil, tape, craft knife, scissors

What to do:

1. Choose a box the size that you want your castle. A cereal box, fruit snack box or something of similar size would work.
2. Turn your box inside out by finding the glued seam along one of the sides and carefully pulling apart.
3. Design the top of your castle and cut off the pieces you desire.
4. You may need to secure your structure to help it stand. One way to do this is to use extra cardboard attached to the back. You can also use staples on the base of the castle.
5. Decorate the outside of your castle using your material of choice: paint, crayons etc.





6. Use a craft knife to cut out three of the edges of your drawbridge. Do not cut the bottom. Poke 2 holes through the top of the doorway at each upper corner and then on each side of the inside wall of the castle. Fold the drawbridge down.
7. Place a chopstick or pencil in the two side holes. Add some tape to the outside ends of the chopstick to prevent it from slipping back into the hole. Repeat for the other side.
8. Measure your string, poke an end through a corner on the drawbridge gate and tie a knot. Then, tape the other end to your chopstick Repeat for the other side.
9. When you roll your stick forward, the drawbridge opens. When you roll your stick backward, the drawbridge closes.

ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS

Build a Catapult



Materials: 7 craft sticks, 3 rubber bands, a cap from a milk jug, cotton ball, marshmallows, or other objects to launch

What to do:

1. Stack 5 crafts sticks together and rubber band the ends.
2. Stack 2 craft sticks together, and wrap a rubber band around the end.
3. Separate the 2 craft sticks. Place the stack of 5 craft sticks between the 2 craft sticks.
4. Wrap a rubber band around all the craft sticks to hold the catapult together.
5. Glue a milk cap on to be the launching platform.
6. Push down on the top craft stick and release to launch your object.

Create a Coat of Arms

A coat of arms represented each family in medieval times. Families chose symbols and colors that had meaning and symbolized their history, reputation, or rank (royalty, military). Even the shape of the coat of arms had meaning.

You can find out more about coat of arms here: <https://glazermuseum.org/coatofarms/>



The video above also shows how to make a coat of arms following the directions below. You will also find an image you can download to create a coat of arms.

Directions to Draw Your Shield:

1. To draw your shield, first, draw a giant U.
2. Now close the “U” by drawing a line across the top.
3. Draw a line across the middle from the top of the shield to the bottom and a second line left to right so you have four spaces to draw in. You have now drawn a shield!
4. To make this coat of arms personal to you, draw some of your favorite things in your shield. You need to start with your first initial so everyone knows who this shield belongs to.

Directions to Design Your Coat of Arms:

1. In one space draw your first initial which is the first letter of your name.
2. Draw your favorite animal in another space.
3. In the third space draw your favorite food.
4. Finally, draw your favorite activity. Do you like to read, dance, or play?

SNACKS

A Medieval Feast

The BBC provides a fun activity guide to help you create a Medieval feast. You can find the guide at http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory/HOH_Feasting_activities.pdf. You can set the scene for your feast by following the suggestions such as creating tapestries from a sheet or even just pieces of paper put together to create the feel of a tapestry. Hang your coat of arms on the wall. You can cover your table with a white cloth. The simple recipe below could be served along with hard cheese, fruit jam and bread or cold meat like ham. Remember that forks were not used during medieval times. Use your fingers to eat.

Quick Gingerbread

In the book, Margaret works in the kitchen. She might have made a recipe like this.

Ingredients

- A mug of warm honey water (see below)
- 3 Tablespoons of honey
- A mug of breadcrumbs
- A pinch of ground ginger
- A pinch of cinnamon



Making the Gingerbread

1. Pour honey water in to mixing bowl.
2. Quickly stir in the 3 Tablespoons of honey.
3. Add the ginger and cinnamon and stir.
4. Stir in the breadcrumbs a spoonful at a time. Keep going until you have a sticky dough that can be molded into balls.
5. Take out small balls of the mixture and using your hands mold them into squares, circles or rectangles. Place onto parchment paper.
6. Let them stand for at least 10 minutes.
7. Sprinkle with cinnamon and serve.

Honey Water

1. Put a Tablespoon of honey in a mug
2. Fill with boiling water and stir
3. Let cool a little before using

OTHER BOOKS TO READ ALOUD

Everything Castles, National Geographic Kids

Cross-Sections Castle, Stephen Biesty

A Year in a Castle, Rachel Coombs

Knights and Castles, Mary Pope Osborne

The Knight at Dawn, Mary Pope Osborne

Marguerite Makes a Book, Bruce Robertson

The Hawk of the Castle: A Story of Medieval Falconry, Danna Smith

RESOURCES:

<https://ourfamilycode.com/can-you-build-a-working-drawbridge-castle-steam-challenge/>

VIDEOS ABOUT CASTLES

What Was Life Like? | Episode 6: Castles - Meet A Medieval Noblewoman:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1k-LhWB4QaA>

Homes Through History | Episode 2: Meet King Henry II's Lord Steward at Dover Castle:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_A5NMIYx9k



GLOSSARY

Moat - A moat was a defensive ditch dug around the castle. It could be filled with water and there was typically a drawbridge across it to get to the castle gate.

Keep - The keep was a large tower and the last place of defense in a castle.

Curtain Wall - The wall around the castle which had a walkway on it from which defenders could fire arrows down onto attackers.

Arrow Slits - These were slits cut into the walls that allowed archers to shoot arrows at attackers but remain safe from return fire.

Gatehouse - The gatehouse was built at the gate to help reinforce the castle defenses at its weakest point.

Battlements - Battlements were at the tops of castle walls. Generally, they were cut out from walls allowing defenders to attack while still being protected by the wall.

4-H CLOVERBUD READING ADVENTURES

Reading Adventures are part of the Ohio 4-H Cloverbud program. This adventure was developed by Christy Millhouse, Ohio 4-H STEM Educator, 4-H Youth Development, Ohio State University Extension. It contains well-known activities, games, and snacks. Sources are indicated where appropriate. Find more reading adventures online at ohio4h.org/cloverbudresources.

TIP:

This 4-H Cloverbud Reading Adventure works well with Chapter 11 ‘Storytelling’ in *The Big Book of 4-H Cloverbud Activities* available through OSU Extension offices or online at extensionpubs.osu.edu. Ohio residents get the best price when they order and pick up their purchases through local Extension offices.

EVALUATION

We value your input! After completing a Reading Adventure with your Cloverbuds, please click on this [link](#) and tell us what you think. Your feedback will be used to improve the Reading Adventure program. Or, type the link in your browser and navigate to the evaluation site: <https://go.osu.edu/evaladventures>

