

Castles and Cathedrals



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Folklore and fairytales, Princes, Knights, and Kings are storybook characters to most of us. But as we begin living overseas and visiting some Castles and Cathedrals we begin to learn fact from fiction.

Castles

Castles were homes that were also fortresses. Many were built during the Middle Ages. During that time wars were fought and land defended by powerful individuals rather than by central governments. These residences were intended for a King, Lord, or Nobleman. Thick walls and high battlements were known as early as the days of the Assyrians (8th century BC). Weapons and embroidered tapestries decorated stone walls and animal skins covered the floors.

Cathedrals

It's been said that Cathedrals are Christianity's most glorious contribution to the art of building. In Medieval days, all of Western Europe was Roman Catholic. Entire communities united in an effort to build a church to bring credit to the city as well as to glorify God.

Different styles of architecture

Byzantine: Combines styles that come from the Middle East and from Ancient Rome

Romanesque: Northern art began to influence Roman art and a new style was born

Gothic: 12th Century, Cathedrals had an upward thrust as though reaching for Heaven



Challenges for all Girls

1. Visit at least 3 (total) Castles & Cathedrals. Please list them and where they are located.

A.

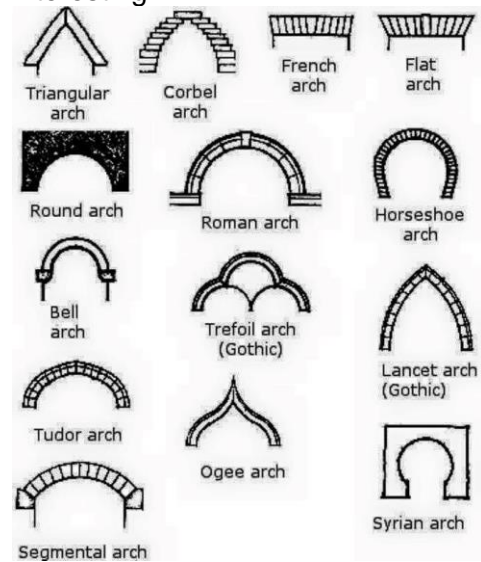
B.

C.

2. Draw a picture of one of the Castles or Cathedrals that you visited.

3. What kind of architecture was predominately used in the design of the Castle or Cathedral you drew?

4. Did you see any of these arches? Draw any other architecture features you found interesting.



5. Write a story about living in a Castle or Cathedral on a different sheet of paper.

6. Design and draw your own stained glass window for a Cathedral.

Challenges for Older Girls

Junior Girl Scouts and above should complete one of the following projects to earn this patch.

Discovering Ruined Castles

Many of the castles we see today in Europe are in ruins. If you look closely, you can find some clues that show how the castle would have once looked. Use the six clues given below and any others that you might find to help you draw a ruined castle as it may have looked when it was first built.

Clues:

1. Grooves in the walls around the gatehouse show where the portcullis (heavy iron gate) was once raised or lowered for castle entry.
2. Fireplace openings and beams or holes for beams show how many floors a building might have had.
3. Foundations can show whether a room was large, small, round, square, or rectangular.
4. Parts of spiral staircases can often be seen in towers.
5. We can sometimes tell how long, high, or thick castle walls were by looking at their remains.
6. Holes in the walls of the gate can show where the drawbridge was raised or lowered by supporting chains on each side.

Castle/Cathedral Detective

Find pictures of real castles and/or cathedrals and label as many different parts as you can.

Here are some examples:

Castles: Portcullis, moat, drawbridge, keep, bailey, murder holes, great hall, garderobes

Cathedrals: cloister, transepts, chapter house, buttress/flying buttress, nave, rose windows

Be prepared to explain the meaning of the labels that you used.

Castle/Cathedral Architect

Make a castle or cathedral from cardboard, popsicle sticks, wood, or even spaghetti. Draw a plan for your creation. Be sure to include the important characteristics for each.

As you can see, "Fairytale can come true, it can happen to you," as Walt Disney so aptly put it. That which is only a story for some can become a reality for Girl Scouts Overseas.

We hope you have had fun earning your Castles and Cathedrals patch. The cost of the patch is \$3.00 Please turn in your answers to your troop leader and she will order you patch for you.

For more information or to order patches, please contact tribordergirlscouts@usagso.org.