

European Castles and Palaces Requirements

Castles and Palaces

During the course of earning this patch you will have the opportunity to learn about the following European castles and palaces. Activities and information associated with each castle or palace are meant to reflect a particular time period during which it was active. Select six of the eight castles and palaces listed below to learn about. Read the information provided here about your chosen castles and palaces then complete the activity connected to that location.

Swords Castle – Dublin, Ireland – 1200s

Heidelberg Castle – Heidelberg, Germany – 1300s

Doge's Palace – Venice, Italy – 1400s

Kronborg Castle – Copenhagen, Denmark – 1500s

Winter Palace – St. Petersburg, Russia - 1700s

Neuschwanstein Castle – Hohenschawngau, Germany – 1880s

Buckingham Palace – London, England – 1940s

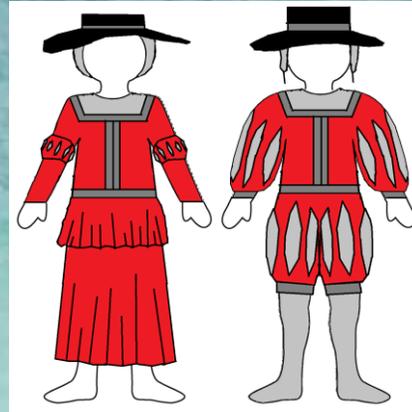
Zarzuela Palace – Madrid, Spain – 2010s

Paper Dolls

Print out the paper dolls template on the HD Patch Project website. Decorate the dolls to look like yourself and friends or family. Then, as you learn about and complete the activity associated with each castle, print out the outfits that go with them. Each set of outfits is designed to fit the place and a time that the castle was active in order to give an image of what people who lived and worked in that particular area may have looked like.



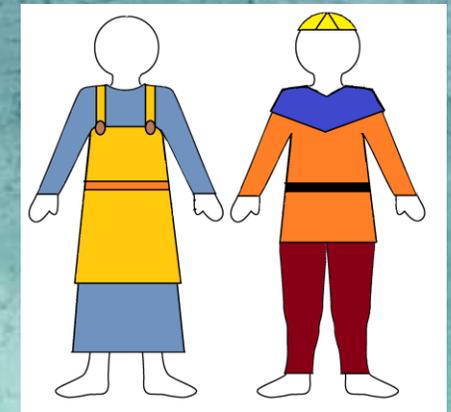
Swords Castle
1200s



Heidelberg Castle
1300s



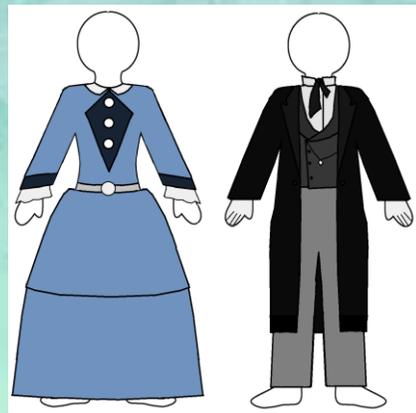
Doge's Palace
1400s



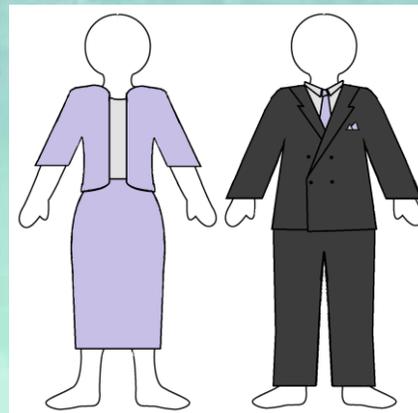
Kronborg Castle
1500s



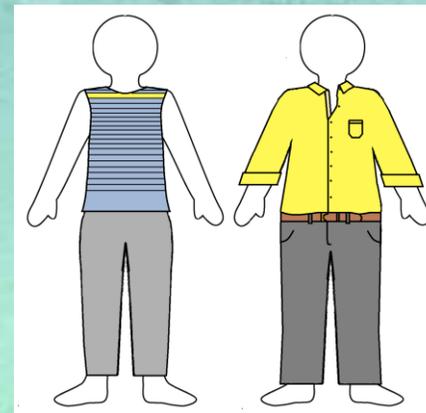
Winter Palace
1700s



Neuschwanstein Castle
1880s



Buckingham Palace
1940s



Palace of Zarzuela
2010s

1. Swords Castle

Swords Castle, located north of Dublin, Ireland, was constructed around the early 1200s and was updated in various ways in the four hundred years following that. It served as the home of the Archbishop of Dublin throughout the middle ages. This castle was constructed right around the end of the Viking occupation of Ireland. The story that we hear of castles is often one of sword fights and drama, but many, including this one, served primarily as homes.



Swords Castle



The Viking occupation of the country led to a mixing of Anglo Saxon and Viking fashion. In Christianized Ireland women were traditionally wore head covering, something that was only common in Scandinavia as necessary for protection against the weather. This led to light weight Viking style caps being found in northern England and Ireland.

Follow instructions available on the resource page to make one such head covering. This particular one, referred to in present day as either the Dublin cap or hood, is simple to sew and can be constructed using one rectangle of fabric. They were typically made from silk or wool, but for the purpose of this activity you may use any material. We recommend felt or lightweight cotton.



Dublin caps worn by Medieval reenactors



2. Heidelberg Castle

Heidelberg Castle, built on a hill overlooking Heidelberg, Germany, was constructed right around the beginning of the 1300s. The castle was then expanded and updated in a variety of ways over the next several centuries. It was also caught up in a variety of wars throughout its time. Heidelberg Castle served as both a residence and a defensive fortification. It sustained damage in a fair number of these conflicts, most recently around the end of the Nine Year's War in the late 1600s.

By the 1700s the castle was essentially abandoned by the royalty that had once lived there. During that century it was mined for building materials which were used to build the nearby Schwetzingen Castle. By the 1800s the structure was further decayed. Locals took stone and wood from the ruins for their own construction projects.

During that same time period artists and authors began to travel to Heidelberg and depict the castle in their work. An eventual result of this romanticization was that in the mid 1800s city officials drafted a plan to preserve the castle and reinforce the remaining structure. The actual reconstruction went on from 1897-1900 and cost 520,000 German marks, which is approximately equivalent to 1,369,674 euro today

Follow the recipe found on the resource page to create a dish similar to one that may have been consumed in Heidelberg around the castle's beginnings in the mid 1300s.



Heidelberg Castle



3. Doge's Palace

The Doge's Palace was established in Venice, Italy in 1340. The palace served as the seat of power for the Venetian Republic for approximately 700 years. Doge was the title given to the chief magistrate of Venice. Much of the original Gothic style of the palace was lost to a variety of expansions throughout the century and to two fires both in the 1500s.

The Doge's Palace served as both a residence for the Doge and as the meeting place for the government of the state. The structure included everything from lavish apartments to a courtroom to a torture chamber. Today the palace stands as a museum.

Masquerade balls, dances at which each of the attendees would wear a mask, became common during the European Renaissance. This trend grew to extreme popularity in Venice and in fact continues to this day. During the height of the masquerade trend, masks were common not just for parties, but also in the every day.

Follow the instructions that can be found on the resource page to create your own masquerade mask.



Doge's Palace



watercolor of Venetian mask shop painted by Jan Van Grevenbroeck (1731-1807)

4. Kronborg Castle

Kronborg Castle was built beginning in 1574 in Elsinor, Denmark along the Sound, a narrow strip of water between Denmark and Sweden.

Kronborg Castle was built in this location due to its strategic value. The Sound provided the gateway between the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. This route was necessary in order to travel to Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and parts of Germany, Denmark, and Sweden by sea. Access to it was incredibly valuable. Kronborg Castle allowed the Danes to control this passageway for 400 years.

Today Kronborg Castle is best known as the setting of William Shakespeare's famous play, *Hamlet*.

Heraldry was an important part of Denmark's history. The tradition originated among the warrior class, but grew to include folks of all social classes. Danish heraldry followed the German-Nordic tradition, meaning that one coat of arms was generally used for an entire family.

After viewing the information about heraldry on the resource page, design a coat of arms for yourself. Then, create a shield out of cardboard and draw or paint your newly designed coat of arms onto that shield.



Kronborg
Castle
Exterior



Kronborg
Castle
Interior

5. Winter Palace

The Winter Palace was built in St. Petersburg, Russia during the 1730s, then altered and added to almost continuously until a large fire seriously damaged it in 1837. After the fire it was almost immediately rebuilt. The palace served as the official residence of Russian monarchs from when it's initial construction was completed in 1732 until the castle was stormed in 1917. The storming of the palace by Red Soldiers is considered one of the defining moments of the Russian Revolution. It was part of a turning point that led to the end of a monarchy in Russia.

Today the Winter Palace is one of the series of buildings that make up the Hermitage, the largest art museum in the world. The museum was founded in 1764 by Catherine the Great and has been open to the general public since the mid-1800s. It is one of the oldest museums in the world to still be in operation today.

Follow the link provided on the HD Patch Project website to browse the online collection of the Hermitage. Pick a favorite piece of art, then create your own work inspired by your choice.



Winter Palace Interior

Winter
Palace
Exterior

6. Neuschwanstein Castle

Nestled among the German Alps, Neuschwanstein Castle was designed to be a fanciful retreat for a shy king. King Ludwig II, one of the last Bavarian kings, built it using his private funds and several substantial loans. Construction of Neuschwanstein Castle lasted from 1868 to 1892. King Ludwig II died before having the chance to see the finished building. Yet, he still lived in completed parts of the castle for years while construction continued on unfinished sections.

Neuschwanstein embodies an architectural style known as romanticism that glorified the medieval while often presenting it from a more fantastical perspective. There was no longer a need for the heavily fortified practical constructions of the past, and the concept of castles was quickly becoming one of fairy tales.



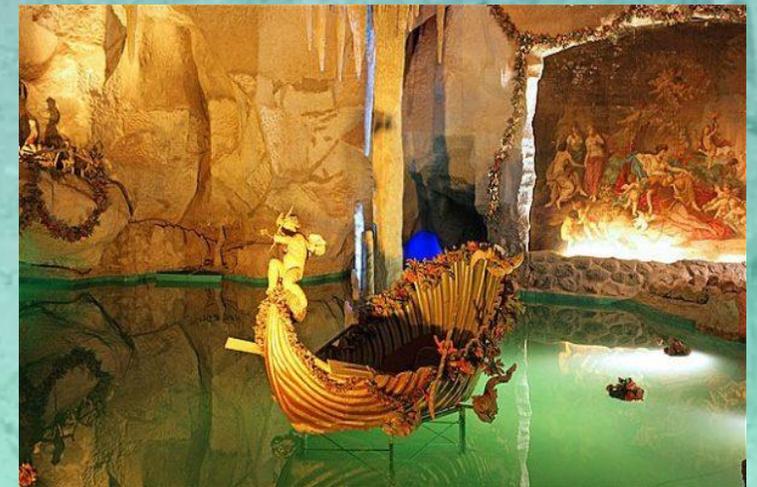
Neuschwanstein Castle Exterior

Neuschwanstein was an ornate building designed to live out these fantasies. It included several lavish rooms in keeping with design standards of the time, but also included more fanciful aspects such as an interior grotto. As well as whole rooms decorated with scenes from operas composed by Richard Wagner, Ludwig II's favorite musician.

Imagine being able to design your own castle. What unique room or feature would you add? Perhaps art celebrating one of your favorite musicians or authors? Or a magical room similar to the grotto that can be found in Neuschwanstein Castle? Create a model or diorama illustrating this feature.



Neuschwanstein Castle Interior



7. Buckingham Palace

Buckingham Palace is located in the city of Westminster, just outside of London, England. First constructed as large townhouse in 1703, it was acquired by the British royal family in 1761 and has been expanded at various intervals since then. The building first became the principle residence of a British monarch in 1837 when Queen Victoria took the throne.

Today Buckingham Palace serves as the official residence of Queen Elizabeth II, the current English head of state. It is also the administrative headquarters for the monarchy, housing several offices, including those belonging to a handful of nobility. Official receptions, banquets, parties, and other gatherings are hosted at the site year round. And, more than 800 people work within the palace on a daily basis.



Buckingham Palace



Elizabeth and Mary in Uniform

Queen Elizabeth and her younger sister, Princess Margaret, also grew up in Buckingham Palace. But, did you know that they were Girl Guides when they were young? They were enrolled in Guides by their aunt, Princess Mary, and were both members of special troops that met on the ground of Buckingham Palace itself. Elizabeth's troop the 1st Buckingham Palace Company was formed in 1937 when she was eleven years old. Not long after that, a Brownie troop was formed for seven year old Margaret.

Some of the badges Elizabeth earned as a Girl Guide include interpreter, child carer, homecraft, and needlewoman. In the 1940s, Girl Guides learned how to transmit a Morse code message at a speed of at least thirty letters a minute as part of earning the telegraphist badge. Look up Morse code and try transmitting a short message using the link provided on the resource page in order to share one of the experiences that Elizabeth and Margaret might have had growing up as British Girl Guides.



7. Zarzuela Palace

The Zarzuela Palace is the current residence of the Spanish Monarchs. Located on the outskirts of Madrid, the palace was originally built during the 17th century as a hunting lodge for King Phillip IV. The palace was later altered during the 19th century to adapt it to the architectural fashions of that time.

The Spanish royal family has resided there since 1962, when King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofía, moved there after their marriage. Currently, King Felipe and Queen Letizia of Spain reside in Zarzuela Palace with their two daughters, Leonor and Sofía.

Find some friends and visit the website listed in the resource page in order to try playing a Spanish game, like might be enjoyed by Leonor and Sofía, along with countless other Spanish children.



Resources

Find resources and instructions to help you complete each of the activities associated with a castle or palace. Remember to document completing each activity. In order to earn the European Castles and Palaces Patch you must complete at least six of the eight activities.

1. Dublin Cap (Swords Castle): <https://tinyurl.com/dublincap>
2. Medieval Recipe (Heidelberg Castle): <https://tinyurl.com/whitemush>
3. Mask (Doge's Palace): <https://tinyurl.com/plastermas>
4. Coat of Arms (Kronborg Castle): <https://tinyurl.com/heraldrydesigns>
5. Hermitage Art (Winter Palace): <https://tinyurl.com/hermitageart>
6. Diorama (Neuschwanstein Palace): <https://tinyurl.com/diydiorama>
7. Morse Code (Buckingham Palace): <https://tinyurl.com/morsecodepractice>
8. Spanish Games (Zarzuela Palace): <https://tinyurl.com/spanishkidsgames>