

## Castles

### Lesson Plan 1

#### PART ONE (30mins)

- Come in. Exchange and share library books. (10-15 mins)
- Sitting in circle. WHAT IS A CASTLE? Let's play a word game. (15 mins)

Word association game- Everyone think of a word related to:

- CASTLE
- KNIGHTS
- KING
- HORSES
- ARMOUR

Then QUICKFIRE ROUND: beginning with the word CASTLE everyone think of a word related to the previous word said.

#### PART TWO (30mins)

- Sitting at tables (arranged in a U-shape). On the board, examine as a group pictures of the main types of British castles through history
  - MOTTE AND BAILEY
  - STONE KEEPS
  - SHELL KEEP CASTLES
  - CONCENTRIC CASTLES
  - GUN PLATFORM CASTLES
- Discuss why and how they were built and what they were used for.
- Draw and label key features and main weaknesses of each (or favourite type).

#### PART THREE (30-40 MINS)

- What was life like inside the castle?
  - WHO LIVED INSIDE CASTLES?
  - WORKERS IN THE CASTLE- WHAT JOBS DID THEY DO?
  - ANIMALS, THEIR USES AND KEEPERS
- Drama activities
  - Tableaux (living photo). In a circle invite children to imagine they are back in time in a medieval castle think of who they might be, in the castle. Invite them to enter the living photo in role and strike a pose according to what their character is doing. Explain that if the teacher taps them on the shoulder they can introduce themselves in character.

- Create a soundscape, each child in the tableaux should make a sound related to what their character is doing. First one by one then orchestrated by the teacher, by tapping children on the shoulder.
- Create improvisations by signaling action with the clap of the hands.
- Flashbacks/flashforwards. Ask children to move in slow motion to a position which their character was in a few moments ago or into the future and improvise the movements inbetween.

## PART FOUR (20 mins)

- Explain homework: Towns often grew up around castles, and were fortified. Find out about a fortified town, find or draw a picture of it and answer the following questions.
  - When was the town built?
  - What was life like for the townsfolk?
  - What jobs did they do?
  - What were their houses like?
  - Why was the town fortified?