

Cardiff Castle

Catapults & Caltrops Workshop

Location

Your workshop will take place either in the Housekeeper's Room (Room 1) of the Education Centre or when possible, in the medieval Undercroft and in the Grounds of the Castle (appropriate clothing required).

Description

A workshop about the science of castle attack and defence in the middle ages, focussing on the use of large siege weapons during the period.

During the session, a variety of catapults and other weapons will be discussed – in particular the use of trebuchets, with a detailed look at the Castle's own trebuchet and the chance to use a large model trebuchet and seeing how it operates.

Your workshop will be taken by a DBS-checked, professional costumed facilitator.

Guided Tour of Castle

A tour of the House will take children around some of the highly decorated, colourful rooms that were designed by the architect, William Burges. His designs are from the Victorian period but reflect Burges' vision of how the interior of a medieval Castle would have been.

Duration

The workshop will last for 75 minutes. The guided tour lasts approximately 50 minutes though a shorter tour can be taken for younger children who may find the spiral stairs in one of the towers difficult to negotiate. There will be time allowed for lunch and to take advantage of the other aspects that are included in the visit (see below)

Key Learning Outcomes

By the end of the session, your pupils will have:

- ◆ Learnt about the different types of catapults that were used in the medieval period
- ◆ Learnt about the forces employed in their use
- ◆ Learnt how varying force will affect the operation of the catapults
- ◆ Worked as a team to operate a model trebuchet
- ◆ Experimented with different weights and missiles to decide which is most effective

Main Links to the National Curriculum

- ◆ **Key Stage 2 (Wales)**
 - **The daily life of people in the Age of the Princes (History)**
 - **Forces of different kinds, e.g. gravity (Science)**
 - **The ways in which forces can affect movement (Science)**
- ◆ **Key Stage 2 (England)**
 - **A study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066 (History)**
 - **Forces – Recognising that some mechanisms, including levers, pulleys and gears, allow a smaller force to have a greater effect (Science – Upper KS2)**
- ◆ **Key Stage 3 (Wales)**
 - **How the coming of the Normans affected Wales and Britain between 1000 and 1500 (History)**
 - **Forces – The forces in devices and their relationship to work done and power (Science)**

- ◆ **Key Stage 3 (England)**
 - **The development of Church, state and society in Medieval Britain 1066-1509 (History)**
 - **Forces – Forces needed to cause objects to stop or start moving, or to change their speed or direction of motion (Science)**
 - **Forces – Change depending on direction of force and its size (Science)**

- ◆ **Key Stage 4 (Wales)**
 - **Forces – Distance, Speed and Acceleration (Science)**
 - **Forces – Newton's Laws (Science)**

- ◆ **Key Stage 4 (England)**
 - **Forces – Acceleration caused by Forces (Science)**
 - **Forces – Newton's Laws (Science)**

What Else is Included in Your Visit

- Use of the Audio Guide that has been written especially for children
- Film show and access to areas of the Grounds including the Keep, the Battlements and Wartime Shelters.
- A Visit to Firing Line – Museum of the Welsh Soldier (Military Museum in the Interpretation Centre). Please note: Firing Line is independently managed and any activities offered are not a part of Cardiff Castle's Education Service. Visits may not be possible on certain days, or may incur an additional charge.

We usually have birds of prey on site during the week although we cannot guarantee this.