

# SELF-LED ACTIVITY

## CONSTRUCT A CRAG!



KS2

KS3

### Recommended for

KS2 and KS3 (Geography)

### Learning objectives

- Use digital Ordnance Survey maps to develop geography skills, including compass directions, locational and directional language and map symbols.
- Understand the topography of Beeston crag and why it was a good location for a hillfort and later a castle.

### Time to complete

60–90 minutes

### Map feature    Symbol

Car park



Picnic site



Woodland



(can you name the particular type of trees?)

Well



Cave



The map symbols students will need to identify for question 5.

### SUMMARY

Type 'OS maps' into a search engine and select OS maps from 'ordnancesurvey.co.uk'. Type 'Beeston Castle' into the 'Search for Location' box. Your class can then explore Beeston Castle and its surrounding area using the worksheet provided (on pages 25 and 26).

For question 5 it might be helpful for students to have access to some hard copy OS maps and their symbol guide; alternatively, they're searchable online. OS has some useful map symbol flashcards for identification in its 'education resources for teachers' section.

When they've finished the worksheet, students can construct a simplified version of Beeston crag based on its contour lines, adding details such as the woodland and the picnic area, using their knowledge of the map symbols from the first activity.

### TEACHER ANSWERS

1. The OS grid reference for Beeston Castle is: SJ 53669 59274.
2. The city which sits north-west of Beeston is Chester and the city which sits south-east is Stoke-on-Trent.
3. The castle that sits on the hill top opposite Beeston to the south-west is Peckforton Castle.
4. Farm buildings surround the base of Beeston crag.
5. The symbols are shown in the left-hand column.

### MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Students could select another English Heritage site and write some questions for a partner to answer using location information, compass directions and map symbols. They might like to write a story using map symbols or find out about the history of Peckforton Castle.

## CONSTRUCT A CRAG!



An aerial view of the inner ward of Beeston Castle located on top of the crag.

Type 'OS maps' into your search engine.

When you have the correct website and have searched for 'Beeston Castle' (top left by the magnifying glass icon), complete these activities.

**1** Click on the pink pin and write the OS grid reference for Beeston Castle here: .....

**2** Zoom out until the scale (bottom right) reads 2km:1mi.  
With Beeston roughly in the middle of your screen, which city sits:

- North-west: C .....
- South-east: S    o    T .....

**3** Zoom in until the scale reads 200m:1000ft.

With Beeston at the top and middle of your screen:

Notice the green hilly areas to the south-west of Beeston.

Name the castle that sits on the hill top opposite from Beeston to the south-west: P .....

**4** Zoom in until the scale reads 100m:200ft.

What types of buildings (or 'industry') surround the base of the crag that Beeston Castle is built on? F .....

## 5 Zoom in until the scale reads 50m:100ft

- With Beeston at the centre of your screen, find the 5 things listed in the left-hand column of the table:
- When you've found them, use the guide to map symbols in the back of an Ordnance Survey map and draw the symbol for each feature.

Map feature		Symbol
Car park	FOUND IT? <input type="checkbox"/>	
Picnic site	FOUND IT? <input type="checkbox"/>	
Woodland	FOUND IT? <input type="checkbox"/>	(can you name the particular type of trees?)
Well	FOUND IT? <input type="checkbox"/>	
Cave	FOUND IT? <input type="checkbox"/>	

**Discuss:** why are symbols on maps helpful?

### HINT

You may like to switch to the aerial view (the icon that looks like a stack of papers at the bottom right) to get an alternative view of the area at each scale.

**6** Contour lines are lines drawn on maps that join places of the same height. They are usually orange or brown in colour. They might have their height above or below sea level written on them.

We can use contour lines to see the shape of land. If they are close together the slope is steep; if they are far apart the slope is gentle.

On the next page is a simplified version of some of the contour lines of Beeston crag. Use this to construct your own crag to get an impression of the shape of the land there.

- a) **Cut** around the lowest height contour line: 60m.
- b) **Trace** around the shape onto another piece of paper to create a template for that contour height level.
- c) **Do** the same for the rest of the lines, from lowest height to highest in order (70m, 80m, 100m, 125m, 130m). Don't forget to create a template for the castle remains at the top of the crag too.

Hint: You might want to do this on paper of different colours to show each layer clearly. Make a little mark to note how they fit together for when you stick them together later.

- d) **Stick** each paper template onto thick card (corrugated gives the best effect) and cut them out.

Hint: At this stage you may want to colour each 'level' (if you haven't used different coloured paper already)

(c) and complete the key, or you can leave decoration until the end.

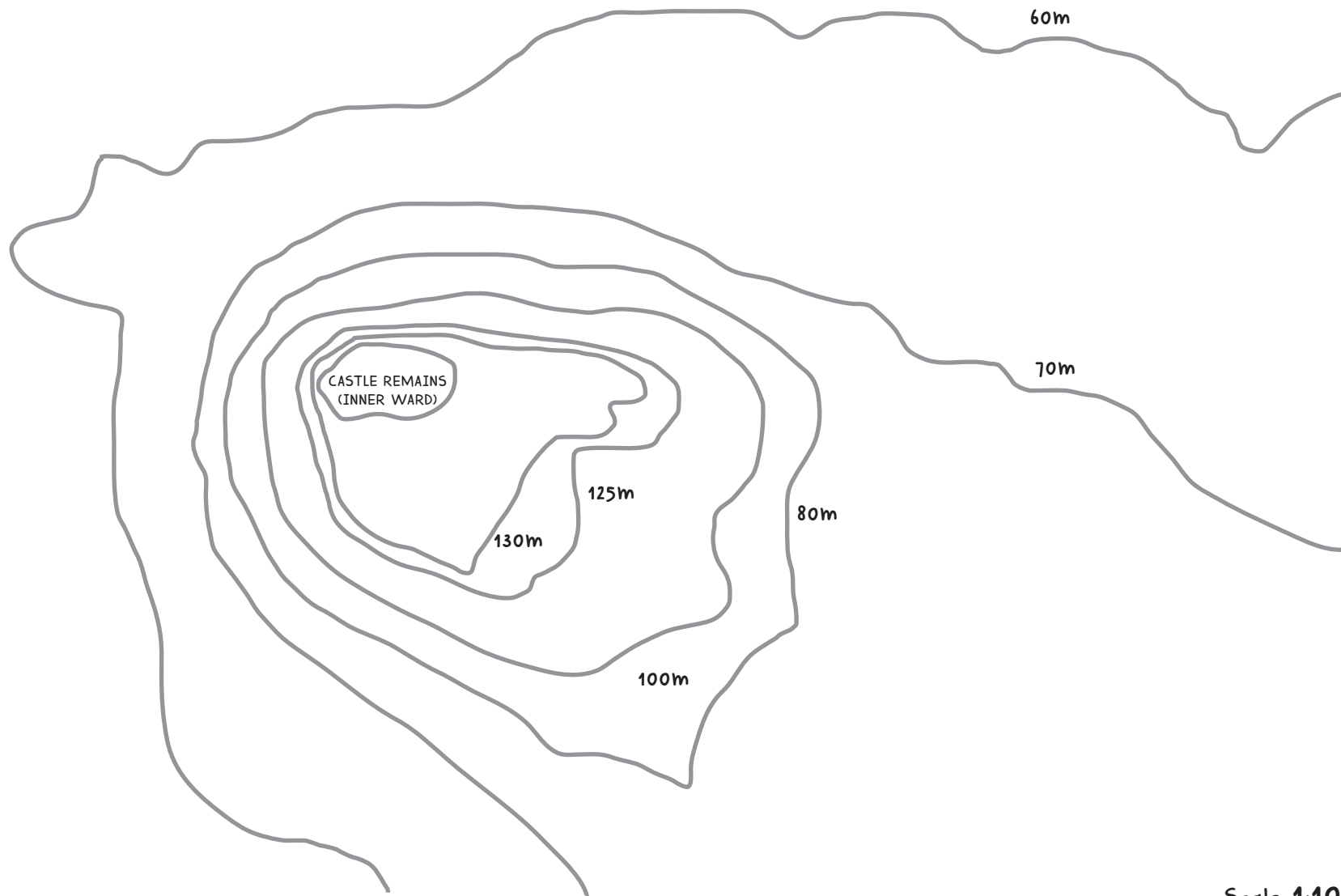
- e) **Stick** each of the layers on top of each other, lowest height to highest to re-create the crag. Don't forget your castle remains on top.
- f) **Decorate** each level by colouring in (if you haven't already) and make sure you have a key.
- g) **Add** details such as the castle's outer curtain wall, trees, the picnic area etc. Try to use the map symbols you learnt earlier to do this.
- h) Stand back and admire your great work. Well done! **Discuss** with a partner what you notice about the shape of the land.

# CONSTRUCT A CRAG



## KEY

60m
70m
80m
100m
125m
130m



Scale 1:100m