



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

KS1-2

KS3

KS4+

DISCOVERY VISIT GUIDE

Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Garden

This guide provides teachers with everything they need to know about our expert-led Discovery Visits at Kenilworth Castle. With something for every key stage, our hands-on sessions are a great way to bring history to life and support your teaching for KS1-4.

GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EDUCATION
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Share your visit with us on Twitter [@EHEducation](https://twitter.com/EHEducation)



Step into England's story

WELCOME

This guide for Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Garden has been designed to support teachers and group leaders on a Discovery Visit at the site. We know that each class and study group is different, so we have collated all the information into one guide so you can prepare for your upcoming Discovery Visit.

For practical information and activity ideas to help support a free self-led visit, download the Teachers' Kit on our **Schools page**. Here you can also find ready-made Risk Assessments for your Discovery Visit and general Hazard Information for the place you are visiting.

We hope you enjoy your visit and that you find this Discovery Visit Guide useful. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of our team either via bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk or on 0370 666 0303.

English Heritage Learning Team

ICON KEY

The icons below will help you quickly identify which key stage each Discovery Visit is for.



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SUMMARY

LIFE IN A CASTLE

KSI-2

Recommended for

KSI-2 (History, Geography, Drama)

Learning objectives

WHAT: Understand that we can use historical buildings to find out about life in the past. Identify key people and events associated with Kenilworth Castle. Notice some similarities and differences between ways of life in different time periods.

HOW: Explore the castle and investigate objects to find evidence that it was once a strong fortress and eventually became a luxurious palace.

OUTCOME: Develop a greater awareness of the past, using physical evidence to show understanding of what life was like at Kenilworth Castle.

Duration

75–90 minutes

DISCOVERY VISITS AT ENGLISH HERITAGE

Our Discovery Visits are award-winning, hands-on, expert-led, site-based activities, which combine inspiring experiences with quality learning outside the classroom. At just £100 a session at selected sites, these visits are delivered by our experts and have been designed to meet the needs of different groups across the key stages. Led by specialist educators, site staff and volunteers, with knowledge and expertise across the curriculum, these visits enable students of all ages and abilities to step into England's story.

LIFE IN A CASTLE DISCOVERY VISIT

What was life like for the people who lived and worked at Kenilworth Castle? Find out by taking part in an interactive tour of the buildings, taking on the role of history detectives on a mission to gather evidence about the past. Work out how each part of the castle was used by exploring curious architectural details, taking part in imaginative role play and looking closely at historical objects. This Discovery Visit is excellent value for a class of up to 30 students.

To **see this Discovery Visit** in action, watch our YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/PP3a8zjz9XU>

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

We recommend you do the following before the Discovery Visit:

- Use the Historical Information, Timeline and Glossary resources in the Teachers' Kit (on our **Schools page**) to introduce students to the history of the castle.
- Use the pre-visit activity in the Teachers' Kit called 'Why Build Here?' to discuss how geography played an important part in the building of Kenilworth Castle.



Key Stage 1 students taking part in the Life in a Castle Discovery Visit.

SUMMARY

MEDIEVAL CASTLE QUEST

KS2

KS3

Recommended for

KS2 and KS3 (History, Geography)

Learning objectives

WHAT: Investigate Kenilworth Castle's medieval architecture and learn about the history of attack and defence at medieval Kenilworth.

HOW: Gather clues around the castle on a quest to find out how it was used in medieval times. Explore the defensive architecture and tactics of the medieval period.

OUTCOME: Discover and identify key defensive and domestic features at Kenilworth. Imagine what it was like to prepare for a medieval siege. Develop skills of historical enquiry, observation and inference.

Duration

75–90 minutes



Key Stage 2 students being taught about medieval life by an English Heritage expert.

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MEDIEVAL CASTLE QUEST DISCOVERY VISIT

Studying attack and defence in the medieval period? Let us help you with this interactive session, perfect for a class of up to 30 students. Led by one of our experts, go on a quest to discover how the buildings and people worked together to defend against attack during a medieval siege. Work in teams as you explore the castle and replica objects, completing hands-on challenges to answer questions about attack and defence in the medieval period.

You can choose to extend this Discovery Visit so your class can enjoy a full day of expert-led activities. The longer session explores the story of the great siege of 1266 in depth, on the spot where it happened. Find out more about the extended Discovery Visit on [page 5](#).

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

We recommend you do the following before the Discovery Visit:

- Divide your class into six groups. The session leader will ask you to help sort the class into these groups at the beginning of the Discovery Visit.
- Use the information and activities in the Teachers' Kit (on our [Schools page](#)) to introduce students to the history of Kenilworth Castle.
- Check students' understanding of key terminology related to attack and defence in the medieval period, e.g. siege, keep, bailey, curtain wall, gatehouse, trebuchet.

SUMMARY

MEDIEVAL SIEGE EXPERIENCE

KS2

KS3

Recommended for

KS2 and KS3 (History, Geography, English, Drama)

Learning objectives

WHAT: Explore the people, buildings and battles of the medieval period at Kenilworth Castle. Learn about the key people, weapons and tactics involved in a medieval siege and step into the story of the great siege of 1266.

HOW: Handle replica costumes, inspect the castle defences and work in teams to bring to life the story of the 1266 siege.

OUTCOME: Develop an in-depth understanding of medieval siege warfare and understand how the buildings and people worked together to withstand attack during a siege.

Duration

Full day

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MEDIEVAL SIEGE EXPERIENCE DISCOVERY VISIT

Let us help you inspire and engage your students for a whole day at Kenilworth Castle. Extend the Medieval Castle Quest Discovery Visit so your class can enjoy a full day of expert-led activities: inspect the castle defences, recreate the story of the 1266 siege and get hands-on with replica clothing worn by medieval soldiers, including helmets, armour and surcoats. At £200 this extended Discovery Visit is great value for a class of up to 30 students to learn from our experts for a full day.

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

We recommend you do the following before the Discovery Visit:

- Divide your class into six groups. The session leader will ask you to help sort the class into these groups at the beginning of the Discovery Visit.
- Use the information and activities in the Teachers' Kit (on our **Schools page**) to introduce students to the history of Kenilworth Castle.

FOLLOW-UP LEARNING

At the end of the Discovery Visit, you will be given a set of character cards for use in the classroom. Photocopy them, cut them out and use them to explore the 1266 siege in more detail. Ask students to write and perform a monologue in role as one of the characters, describing the sights and sounds of the siege of 1266. You can share students' work with us on Twitter @EHeducation and @EHKenilworth.



During the session, students will get hands-on with the clothing worn by these 13th-century characters.

SUMMARY

OCR GCSE TOUR

KS4

Recommended for

KS4 (OCR GCSE History A or B)

Learning objectives

WHAT: Understand the structural development of Kenilworth Castle through time from the 12th to the 16th century. Observe key architectural features and identify how they were used at different times in the site's history. Consider the key historical figures and events associated with the site.

HOW: Explore Kenilworth Castle and observe its key features, led by an expert tour guide.

OUTCOME: Gain a greater understanding of the appearance and layout of the castle and how it has changed over time. Consider what the form of the buildings tells us about their function at different times in the castle's history.

Duration

1 hour 30 minutes

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GCSE TOUR DISCOVERY VISIT

Developed to support your study of the historic environment, this tour has been specially designed to meet aspects of the requirements for OCR History A and B. Let us help you give your students an in-depth understanding of the way the site has changed over time. Explore the architecture of the buildings and discover what different parts of the site reveal about changing needs and attitudes from the 12th to the 16th century.

To **find out what you can expect from this Discovery Visit**, watch our YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/lxpiSHcUAS8>

PRIOR LEARNING

We recommend you do the following before the Discovery Visit:

- Use the Historical Information, Glossary and Timeline resources in the Teachers' Kit (on our **Schools page**) to introduce students to the key people, events and concepts associated with the castle.
- Discuss the social, historical and political contexts of the medieval and Tudor periods with students.



Year 10 students taking part in the GCSE Tour Discovery Visit.

SUMMARY

AQA GCSE TOUR

KS4

Recommended for

KS4 (History)

Learning objectives

WHAT: Learn about Elizabethan Kenilworth Castle, its key features and the people connected to the site.

HOW: Take part in an expert-led tour of the castle. Consider its location, function, structure and design.

OUTCOME: Recall and communicate key information about the site. Draw conclusions about Elizabeth I's government.

Duration

1 hour 30 minutes



Students on a trip to Kenilworth, exploring the Elizabethan gardens created for Elizabeth I by the Earl of Leicester for her visit in 1575. The gardens were reinstated by English Heritage in 2009.

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AQA GCSE TOUR DISCOVERY VISIT

This interactive, outdoor session has been created to support GCSE groups learning about Elizabethan England. It is particularly relevant to those studying of the AQA exam module 'Elizabethan England, c1568-1603'. Through engaging discussion and activity, students will explore key aspects of the latter part of Elizabeth I's reign within the walls of Kenilworth Castle which she granted to her favourite, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester in 1563.

Please note: this session takes place entirely outdoors, and involves a fair amount of walking, so we ask that everyone comes prepared for the weather, wearing sensible clothes and shoes.

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

We recommend you do the following before the Discovery Visit:

- Use the Historical Information, Glossary and Timeline resources in the Teachers' Kit (on our Schools page) to introduce students to the key people, events and concepts associated with the castle.
- Discuss some of the main economic, religious, political, social and cultural aspects of Elizabeth I's reign with students.

FOLLOW-UP LEARNING

After your Discovery Visit:

- Use the guidebook for Kenilworth Castle to develop your knowledge of the site and its development over time.
- Use the Teachers' Kit (on our Schools page) to critically examine source material relating to Elizabethan Kenilworth.
- Hold a debate around the question 'did Elizabeth I remain single by design or historical accident?'