

ACTIVITY 4

Recommended for

KS2 & KS3
(History)

Learning Objectives

- Understand the role of the captain at Deal and how this has changed over time.
- Explore different characters to find out about their role at Deal Castle.



The captain was in charge of the Tudor garrison at Deal Castle.



The porter worked for the captain and was responsible for castle security.

Summary

During your visit, take students to the first floor of the keep, where the captain's apartments used to be. Notice the diagram on the wall at the top of the stairs, which shows the structure of the Tudor garrison at Deal Castle. You can use this and the version provided on the next page to explain the castle hierarchy to students.

You could divide students into six groups and ask them to use the portraits and information on the walls to become 'experts' on one particular captain.

Give each group a different captain to focus on:

Thomas Boys (Captain 1550–5)

Thomas Boys, a soldier and Crown servant, served in Calais when it was a fortified English possession. He was probably part of the expedition of Henry VIII to take Boulogne from the French in 1544.

Sir William Batten (Captain 1643–8) and Thomas Rainsborough (Captain 1648)

The English Civil Wars (1642–51) were about who would govern England: King or Parliament. Sir William Batten and Thomas Rainsborough both fought for Parliament. In 1648, Rainsborough held the more extreme opinion of removing the king from government. Batten did not agree, changed sides and lost the captaincy.

Sir John Norris (Captain 1720s)

Sir John Norris was a fighting sailor for 64 years, beginning as a boy of ten and eventually becoming Admiral of the Fleet.

Robert Smith, Lord Carrington (Captain 1803–38)

Lord Carrington was a banker who spent time at Deal in the Napoleonic Wars and was nominally in charge of volunteer soldiers in that conflict.

John French, Lord Ypres (Captain 1923–5)

John French, Lord Ypres, also knew France – when it was no longer English and in danger of becoming German. He fought there in the First World War, in a conflict of enormous scale, when he commanded the British Expeditionary Force 1914–16.

ACTIVITY 4 continued



The master gunner was responsible for all of the big guns at Deal Castle.

Now ask students to pair up with someone from a different group. They could get in role as the captain they studied and pretend they are meeting the other captain for the first time. During the conversation, each person should find out their partner's name, when they were captain of Deal and one other fact.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Explain to students that there is still a captain of Deal Castle but there is no longer a residence. Nowadays, the captaincy is a ceremonial position always held by the Commandant General (commanding officer) of the Royal Marines – celebrating a Royal Marine connection with Deal going back to the 1660s.

Students could research the local and national history of the Royal Marines. We recommend starting here:
www.royalmarinesmuseum.co.uk/research-and-collections

Deal Castle Garrison

The Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, appointed by monarch or government, was responsible for defending the coast of east Sussex and south-east Kent, and for the garrisons of Deal, Sandown, Walmer, Dover, Sandgate and Camber castles. He appointed the captain and garrison of Deal Castle. In 1603, this was the garrison of 21 men.

The rooms on this floor were originally the quarters of the captain and probably the lieutenant.

