

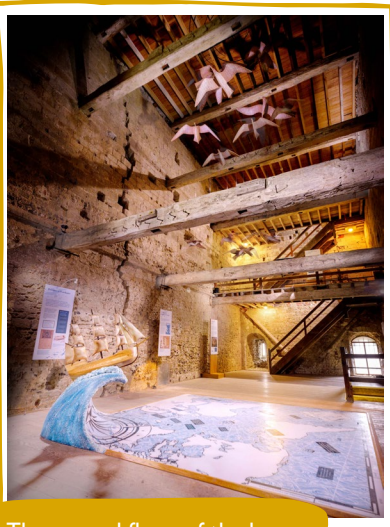
ACTIVITY 5

Recommended For

KS3 and KS4
(History, English, Citizenship)

Learning Objectives

- Understand Portchester Castle's role as a prisoner-of-war camp during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars.
- Explore Portchester Castle's international prisoner-of-war story, including facts about the African-Caribbean prisoners kept here.



The second floor of the keep.



The third floor of the keep.

Summary

Before your visit, read the sections called 'Prisoners at Portchester' and 'Black Prisoners of War' in the Teachers' Resource Pack, which you can download at: www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/portchester-castle/school-visits

To find out more, read our online history articles:

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/portchester-castle/history-and-stories

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

During your visit, gather students on the second floor of the keep (the one with a map in the centre, as seen in the photo on the left). Explain to students that they are going to find out more about the prisoners of war kept here and ask them to look at the 'Flock of Dreams' sculpture above their heads. This represents the letters to and from prisoners of war, flying over the English Channel like birds.

Split students into two groups and ask group 1 to stay on the second floor while group 2 go up the stairs to the third floor (see photo). Please ensure that both groups are accompanied by school staff. Students can explore the rooms to find answers to the questions on the next page.

Once they have completed the first set of questions, ask groups 1 and 2 to swap over and complete the three questions they haven't yet done.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Back in the classroom, students could apply their knowledge by writing a diary entry in the role of a prisoner of war, sharing their experience of being captured, transported and imprisoned at Portchester. They could choose one of these scenarios to help them get started:

- You have just been captured; it's your first day on the ship.
- You have been on the ship for two months.
- You have just arrived at Portchester prisoner-of-war camp.
- You have been at Portchester as a prisoner for six months.

ACTIVITY 5 continued

Second-Floor Questions

- 1) Look for the picture of a prison 'hulk' (a naval ship with masts removed), painted by Captain Durrant, RN in about 1810. Around 850 prisoners would be kept on one hulk. What did the Transport Office do to their clothing and bedding? Why?
A: Their clothing and bedding were dyed yellow and stamped 'TO' (for Transport Office) to stop them from being stolen.
- 2) Find the panel called 'Portchester as a Prisoner-of-War Depot'. Between 1793 and 1815, how many prisoners of war could be kept at Portchester Castle at any one time?
A: 8,000.
- 3) Look for the panel called 'Prisoners at Portchester' and read about the prisoners' daily routine. What two things happened at 12 noon?
A: French prisoners opened their stalls in the market to sell their craft objects. Food (soup and beef) was handed out.

Third-Floor Questions

- 1) Look for the panel called 'Black Soldiers at Portchester'. What happened in May 1796 on the island of St Lucia?
A: The French army at Fort Charlotte on St Lucia surrendered to the British, which led to many soldiers of African and European descent being captured and transported to Britain as prisoners of war.
- 2) Read the panel called 'Life at Portchester Castle'. What three things did the prison staff do to help the African-Caribbean prisoners?
A: Gave them extra clothing, arranged a special diet, and eventually separated them from the European prisoners to protect them from robbery.
- 3) Find the panel called 'What Happened to the Black Prisoners?' Captain Louis Delgrés was a mixed-race soldier captured in the Caribbean and brought to Portchester. What happened to him when he eventually returned to the Caribbean?
A: He fought against Napoleon's attempts to bring back slavery and led an important anti-slavery campaign, taking up arms against France. He and his followers were eventually surrounded at Matouba in Guadeloupe. On the 28 May 1802, Louis Delgrés and his followers blew themselves up rather than be captured and enslaved.

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