

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

TOP THINGS TO SEE



Recommended for

KSI-2 (History)

Learning objectives

- Explore key architectural features at the castle and understand their significance.
- Interpret key points in the castle's history through sensory learning and role play.

Time to complete

Approx. 60 minutes



Countess Isabella's window.

SUMMARY

This activity encourages students to look closely at nine key locations around the castle that represent key moments in its history. Through exploring handling objects and taking part in role play, students will make connections between the feature and the people and events associated with it.

You can guide your class around the nine locations or set students off with copies of the activity sheets to complete the challenges in smaller groups. Depending on their ability, students can use the activity sheets on pages 24–28, or complete the shorter tick list on page 29.

MAIN ACTIVITY

Please print enough worksheets for your class and bring clipboards and pencils to use around the castle. Students should record their progress by ticking off each location/feature/activity as they find or complete it. The labelled map included on p.30 will help with orientation.

The first stop in the activity is De Heynoe's loop. You can find the nine 'things to see' in any order, but we have recommended a logical route around the castle. Please note that the wheel-chair accessible version of this route is labelled with a wheelchair icon on the map.

Please be aware of other visitors as you do the activities and supervise students closely at all times.

DISCOVERY BAGS

The handling collection associated with this activity must be booked in advance of your visit. Please contact our Bookings Team on 0370 333 0606 or email: bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

KS2

TOP THINGS TO SEE

EXPLORE CARISBROOKE
CASTLE

Explore the castle in small groups.
See if you can find all of these
places and complete each challenge!



1 DE HEYNOE'S LOOP

In 1377 Carisbrooke Castle was under siege by the French. The commander of the French army was shot and killed by an arrow. We think the arrow was shot by the archer Peter de Heynoe from this arrow loop in the wall walk.



WHERE IS IT?

Up the steps past the visitor centre. Look up to the top of the wall.



DID YOU
FIND IT?

DID YOU KNOW?



The lower wall here was built by the Saxons. They built a bank of chalk and later strengthened it with stone. The Normans built their castle on top.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Think about the shape of a bow and arrow.

Talk to a partner about why the arrow loop is in a cross shape.

2 SOUTH-WEST BASTION

The artillery bastion (platform) was built around the south-west tower in the 1500s. It was built to hold new, big, heavy guns that could aim at the enemy coming towards the castle.



WHERE IS IT?

Keep the curtain wall on your left, down the grassy slope



DID YOU

FIND IT?



DID YOU KNOW?



Another name for a bastion is a 'knight'.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Discuss why the bastions aren't tall towers, like the keep. Why are they low to the ground?



3 GATEHOUSE

This has been the entrance to the castle for the past 900 years. It would have had a drawbridge that could be raised in an attack. The platform between the towers has holes in so that soldiers could drop things on the enemy.



WHERE IS IT?

Back at the visitor centre



DID YOU

FIND IT?

DID YOU KNOW?



In 1380, gun ports (like upside-down keyholes) were added to the top of the towers to hold early handguns.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Why are the drum towers circular? **Decide** how this could help during an attack.



4 CAREY'S MANSION

Sir George Carey built the mansion house between 1584 and – 1586. As a cousin of Elizabeth I, the mansion showed off his wealth and power. The house had 13 rooms. Look out for fireplaces and slots for floor beam joists.

 **WHERE IS IT?**
Inner bailey,
on the left

☐ **DID YOU FIND IT?**



DID YOU KNOW?



The house has a long gallery (like a long, wide corridor) where people walked up and down for daily exercise.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Discuss what you would find in the house of an important, rich person living today.



5 ISABELLA'S WINDOW

Before this area was Sir George Carey's Elizabethan mansion, it was the medieval great chamber of Countess Isabella. At this time, wealthy people wanted private rooms. The steps up to the window allowed Isabella to see far off into the distance over her lands.

 **WHERE IS IT?**
Inner bailey, on the left

☐ **DID YOU FIND IT?**

DID YOU KNOW?



Glass was very expensive in medieval times. To have a window in her room showed that Isabella was very rich.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Look closely at the windows. Why are they much smaller than the frame around the edge? Why are there sloping walls on either side?

6 CHARLES I'S ESCAPE

Charles I was kept prisoner at the castle from 1647 to 1648. One of his bedrooms was in the chamber block of the great hall. On 20 March 1648 he tried to escape from here but got stuck in the window. The window was replaced in 1901 by the one you see now.

 **WHERE IS IT?**

Inner bailey, on the outside of the great hall



DID YOU KNOW?



Charles's page, Henry Firebrace, wrote that Charles practised putting his head through the window, so he thought the rest of his body would fit through.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Imagine you were the constable of the castle when Charles I was here. How would you feel about keeping the king as a prisoner?



DID YOU FIND IT?



7 KEEP

The keep stands on a motte. The motte is built from layers of chalk and stone. The motte could not hold a tall, heavy tower, so a shell keep was built – a wall around the top of the motte with lean-to buildings inside.

 **WHERE IS IT?**

Along the wall walk, past the mansion

DID YOU KNOW?



The well in the keep is 48 metres deep. Look out for sockets in the wall that were used to winch up the water.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Find the garderobes (toilets). Why are they built in a tower that leans over the edge of the keep wall?



DID YOU FIND IT?



8 DONKEY CENTRE

Donkeys have lived at Carisbrooke Castle for hundreds of years, operating the treadwheel in the well house. All the donkeys' names start with the letter 'J'—the letter that Charles I used as his secret signature at the castle.

 **WHERE IS IT?**
At the bottom of the keep stairs, go left

☐ **DID YOU FIND IT?**

DID YOU KNOW?



It takes up to 18 months of training for a donkey to be ready to move the treadwheel. They work for up to six minutes a day.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Can you discover why a donkey's body shape makes it powerful?

9 ST NICHOLAS'S CHAPEL

There has been a chapel or church on roughly this site ever since the Norman Conquest. You can see the foundations of the medieval chapel at the base of the walls. The chapel you see today was built in 1904 to commemorate the execution of Charles I (in 1649).

 **WHERE IS IT?**
Inner bailey, opposite the mansion



DID YOU KNOW?



The woodwork in the chapel is from a ship, the **HMS Nettle**. It was one of the last wooden warships to be built, and first set sail in 1831.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Today the chapel is a memorial to the men from the Isle of Wight who gave their lives in the world wars. **Discuss** why we have war memorials.

☐ **DID YOU FIND IT?**

TOP THINGS TO SEE

EXPLORE CARISBROOKE
CASTLE

KSI

SEND

See if you can find all of these things.
Tick each one off as you find it.



1 HEYNOE'S LOOP

☐

Saxon wall ☐



2 BASTION

☐

I imagined cannons booming! ☐



3 GATEHOUSE

☐

Drum towers ☐ Gun ports ☐



4 CAREY'S MANSION

☐

Fireplaces ☐



5 ISABELLA'S WINDOW

☐

I looked through the window ☐



6 CHARLES I'S ESCAPE

☐

1901 window ☐



7 KEEP

☐

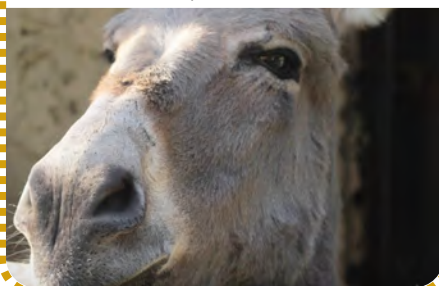
Well ☐ Garderobe ☐



8 DONKEY CENTRE

☐

I saw a donkey ☐



9 CHAPEL

☐

I sat quietly to remember ☐



TOP THINGS TO SEE MAP



Not all the stops on this route are suitable for people in wheelchairs or with limited mobility. Please see page 31 for an alternative accessible route.



1 DE HEYNOE'S LOOP

4 CAREY'S MANSION

7 KEEP

2 SOUTH-WEST BASTION

5 ISABELLA'S WINDOW

8 WELL HOUSE

3 GATEHOUSE

6 CHARLES I'S ESCAPE

9 CHAPEL

HINT

After the last stop at the Chapel, why not explore Princess Beatrice's beautiful garden?



TOP THINGS TO SEE ACCESSIBLE MAP



1 DE HEYNOE'S LOOP

2 SOUTH-WEST BASTION

3 GATEHOUSE

4 CAREY'S MANSION

5 ISABELLA'S WINDOW

6 CHARLES I'S ESCAPE

7 KEEP

8 WELL HOUSE

9 CHAPEL

HINT

After the last stop at the Chapel, why not explore Princess Beatrice's beautiful garden?

WHAT I'VE LEARNT

I think the one best thing to see at Carisbrooke Castle is:

The most interesting thing I learnt today is:

I want to know more about:

Draw a picture inspired by your visit to Carisbrooke Castle.

