



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

KS2 & KS3

STUDENT ACTIVITY SHEETS

Deal Castle

This resource has been designed to help students step into the story of Deal Castle, one of King Henry VIII's impressive Tudor artillery forts, built to protect the south coast from European invasion. Give these activity sheets to students on site to help them explore Deal Castle.



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Step into England's story

DEFEND THE CASTLE!

DISCOVER OUR TOP 10 THINGS TO SEE

In 1539, King Henry VIII was in big trouble. He'd upset the Catholic rulers of Europe when he destroyed Catholic monasteries all across England and divorced Catherine of Aragon. Henry was in a rush to guard England's borders from European invasion so he built Deal Castle to protect this part of the coast.

Explore the castle in small groups and complete the challenges to make sure the castle defences are ready for war.



1 GATEHOUSE

This is the highly defended entrance to the castle. It used to have a drawbridge that could be raised in an attack. The gatehouse has five 'murder holes' in the ceiling, used by soldiers to drop objects onto the enemy.

 **WHERE IS IT?**
At the front of the castle

DID YOU FIND IT?



DID YOU KNOW?



The moat you can see from the drawbridge is a dry moat, which means it was never filled with water. The steep slopes were enough to slow the enemy down.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Spot the deep slot just in front of the gates that would have been used to raise and lower a type of gate called a 'portcullis' from the room above.



2 COURTYARD

Soldiers used the paved courtyard to move between the strong core of the castle and the outer bastions. During an attack, it became a killing zone where soldiers in the bastions could fire down at enemy soldiers in the courtyard.

 **WHERE IS IT?**
All around the castle

DID YOU FIND IT?

DID YOU KNOW?



The two massive entrance gates aren't lined up with one another, to make it harder to get into or fire into the courtyard.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Walk around the courtyard and **count** the number of inner bastions arranged around the keep.

3 TUDOR PARAPET

The roofs of the keep and inner bastions used to be gun platforms. Along the edge of these were low protective walls called 'parapets'. The parapets continue above the line of the roof, acting like a shield for soldiers to hide behind.

 **WHERE IS IT?**
The outer bastion with the flagpole

DID YOU FIND IT?



DID YOU KNOW?



In Tudor times, the parapets were rounded. People believed that cannon balls would bounce off a rounded parapet instead of destroying it.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Notice the difference between the rounded Tudor parapet and the crenellations (repeated rectangles) that were added to the others.

4 CANNONS

Henry VIII wanted Deal Castle to be full of cannons, pointing in all directions, in case the enemy tried to attack from land or sea. The four cannons on the outer bastions were made in the 1800s and could fire as far as 1.6 miles.

 **WHERE ARE THEY?**
On the outer bastions

DID YOU FIND THEM?



DID YOU KNOW?



In Tudor times, the largest cannons had a maximum range of about a mile.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Find the four 32-pounder cannons pointing out to sea. **Imagine** the booming sound you might hear if you fired one of these guns.

5 LEVELS OF DEFENCE

In Tudor times, cannons could be fired from five different levels at Deal Castle: the keep roof, the inner bastion roofs, the inner bastion rooms, the outer bastions and the moat. The castle was designed to have top-to-bottom and all-round protection.

 **WHERE ARE THEY?**
All around the castle

DID YOU FIND THEM?

DID YOU KNOW?



You would have to keep your head down if someone on the level above you was firing a gun!

CHALLENGE TIME!



Deal Castle isn't a very tall building. **Decide** why you think Henry VIII designed the castle to be low to the ground.





6 SHOT FURNACE

The 18th-century furnace was for heating cannon balls until they turned red. This red-hot shot was then loaded into the cannon with special iron ladles. It was a powerful weapon, easily setting fire to wooden warships and their sails.



WHERE IS IT?

On the north-east bastion



DID YOU FIND IT?

DID YOU KNOW?



A chain shot (two balls linked together with a chain) could be fired from a cannon to break ships' masts and rigging.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Decide whether an iron shot would do any damage to a more modern, iron warship.

7 EMBRASURES

There are openings built into the outer wall of the inner bastions called 'embrasures'. In Tudor times, these were just holes in the wall, with no glass. Soldiers would have stood in these openings with handguns.



WHERE ARE THEY?

Ground floor of the keep



DID YOU FIND THEM?



DID YOU KNOW?



In the ceiling above each embrasure there are circular holes that allowed gun smoke to escape through vents in the roof.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Stand in one of the embrasures and **imagine** an enemy soldier running past – you'd have to be quick to shoot him from this position!



8 BASEMENT

The straight staircase is the main way in and out of the basement. Soldiers had to protect the heart of the castle at all costs. If the enemy managed to reach this stairway, the only option would be hand-to-hand fighting at close quarters.

 WHERE IS IT?
Inside the keep

DID YOU FIND IT?

DID YOU KNOW?



The well at the bottom of the stairs was a vital source of water if soldiers ended up trapped inside the castle during a siege.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Count the number of steps as you walk down the stairs into the basement.
Imagine being an armoured soldier rushing down these stairs during an attack on the castle.

9 GUNPOWDER MAGAZINE

One of the smaller rooms in the basement is the called the 'magazine', used for storing barrels of gunpowder, which was the powerful explosive used to fire guns. Gunpowder was useful to have but also put the castle at risk of unplanned explosions.

 WHERE IS IT?
In the basement

DID YOU FIND IT?



DID YOU KNOW?



The magazine still has its copper-coated door. Unlike iron, copper didn't cause a spark if accidentally struck, which removed the risk of explosion.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Stand inside the the gunpowder magazine and **imagine** the room stacked from floor to ceiling with gunpowder barrels.

10 THE ROUNDS

The Rounds are a dim, narrow passage built within the thickness of the outer bastion walls, forming an unbroken circuit around the castle. There are 53 openings (embrasures) in the wall, which soldiers could stand in with handguns to protect the moat.



 **WHERE IS IT?**
In the basement

DID YOU FIND IT?

DID YOU KNOW?



There are small rectangular cupboards built into the inside wall that were used to store ammunition.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Imagine trying to defend the moat from the Rounds. It would have been dark, dingy and smoky. How easy would it be to see what you were doing?

WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

We think the best thing to see at Deal Castle is:

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The most interesting thing we have learnt today is:

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We want to know more about:

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Draw a picture inspired by your visit to Deal Castle: