This resource has been designed to help teachers plan a visit to Deal Castle, one of King Henry VIII’s impressive Tudor artillery forts, built to protect the south coast from European invasion. Use this timeline in the classroom to help students understand the history of Deal Castle.

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Deal Castle was finished and Thomas Wingfield was made the first captain.

1538 England was under threat of invasion from France and Spain.

1600 Building work began at Deal Castle.

December 1539 Anne of Cleves landed at Deal on her way to marry Henry VIII.

1540 Deal Castle was finished and Thomas Wingfield was made the first captain.

1539 The Captain's House and part of the moat wall of Deal Castle were destroyed by German bombing.

1940 The Captain's House and part of the moat wall of Deal Castle were destroyed by German bombing.

1950s Restoration work was carried out by the Ministry of Works, restoring the castle as far as possible to its Tudor appearance.

1951 Deal Castle stopped being used as a captain’s residence.

1972 A new captain was appointed after a gap of almost 20 years. Today, the captain is always the Commandant General of the Royal Marines.

1815 Deal Castle was no longer used for active defence but still kept four heavy guns. Deal remained a military/ naval town throughout the century (until the departure of the Royal Marines in 1996).

1860 Small ornamental gardens had been created on the outer bastions.

1872 The alterations were finished, including a new house and garden for the captain.

1803–15 The Napoleonic Wars.

1792–1802 The French Revolutionary Wars.

1756 The Seven Years War began.

1727 The resident captain, John Norris Esquire, began to alter Deal Castle to make it more comfortable.

1732 The alterations were finished, including a new house and garden for the captain.

1727 Charles II was restored to the throne.

1660 Charles II was restored to the throne.

1652 The First Dutch War began.

1649 Charles was executed.

1642 The English Civil War began.

1648 During a series of mutinies and uprisings across England, Deal Castle defected to the Royalist side. A Parliamentarian force then besieged the castle. The Royalists surrendered after a relief force was beaten on its way to the castle. Colonel Rich, the Parliamentarian commander of the besieging forces, became the new captain of Deal Castle.

1700-27 The French Revolutionary Wars.

1803-15 The Seven Years War began.

1837-1901 Reign of Queen Victoria.

1914-18 First World War.

1939-45 Second World War.

1509-47 Reign of King Henry VIII.

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