



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

KS2

KS3

DISCOVERY VISIT GUIDE

Melodrama at Portchester Castle

This guide provides teachers with everything they need to know about our expert-led Melodrama at the Castle Discovery Visit at Portchester Castle.



GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EDUCATION BOOKINGS TEAM:

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Share your visit with us on Twitter @EHEducation

Step into England's story

WELCOME

This guide has been designed to support teachers and group leaders on the Melodrama at the Castle Discovery Visit at Portchester Castle. We know that each class and study group is different, so we have collated all the information into one guide so you can prepare for your upcoming Discovery Visit.

For practical information and activity ideas to help support a free self-led visit, download the Teachers' Kit on our **Schools page**. Here you can also find a ready-made Risk Assessment for your Discovery Visit and general Hazard Information for the place you are visiting.

We hope you enjoy your visit and that you find this Discovery Visit Guide useful. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of our team either via **bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk** or on 0370 333 0606.

English Heritage Learning Team

ICON KEY

The icons below will help you quickly identify which key stage each Discovery Visit is for.

 KS1-2 KS3

SUMMARY

MELODRAMA AT
THE CASTLE

KS2

KS3

Recommended for

Upper KS2-KS3 (Drama, English, History)

Learning objectives

WHAT: Students are learning to understand the experiences of the prisoners of war at Portchester Castle in the 1800s, and to consider the role that theatre played in their lives. To realise that new source material can be discovered and change existing knowledge.

HOW: By doing, by exploring, through source materials and practical activities, the style of theatre produced by the prisoners (19th century melodrama: stock characters, plot, costume, acting style, use of music).

OUTCOME: So that they can, analyse the themes, characters and plot of *Roséliska*, and experiment with staging a short scene. Use a variety of sources to draw conclusions about the past.

Duration

75-80 minutes

DISCOVERY VISITS AT ENGLISH HERITAGE

Our Discovery Visits are award-winning, hands-on, expert-led, site-based activities, which combine inspiring experiences with quality learning outside the classroom. At just £100 a session at selected sites, these visits are delivered by our experts and have been designed to meet the needs of different groups across the key stages. Led by specialist educators, site staff and volunteers, with knowledge and expertise across the curriculum, these visits enable students of all ages and abilities to step into England's story.

MELODRAMA AT THE CASTLE DISCOVERY VISIT

Portchester Castle was used to hold prisoners of war as early as 1306, making it the oldest regular war prison in Britain. Recent research has highlighted the story of the black Caribbean prisoners who arrived in October 1796. You can discover more about this story using the Teachers' Kit on our Schools page, our website or by listening to episode 2 of our Speaking with Shadows podcast.

The focus of this session will be on the French prisoners of war who were kept in Portchester Castle in the 1800s. Your students will explore the story of the prisoners, using their theatre, and having a go at creating and performing some pieces in a melodrama style, so that they can understand one of the ways they passed their time and consider what the theatre meant to them.

PRIOR LEARNING

We recommend you do the following before the Discovery Visit:

- Use the information and activities in the Teachers' Kit (on our Schools page) to introduce students to the historical context for the Discovery Visit. They will learn about the Castle's long history from Roman fort to royal residence and prison.
- Explore the story of the black prisoners of war at Portchester Castle on our website or by listening to episode 2 of our Speaking with Shadows podcast.
- Watch Portchester Castle: Recreating the Prisoners' Theatre on our website or YouTube channel to find out more about the context to the prisoners' theatre and hear some of the music from 'Roseliska', the play written by French prisoners of war at Portchester Castle.