ENGLISH HERITAGE
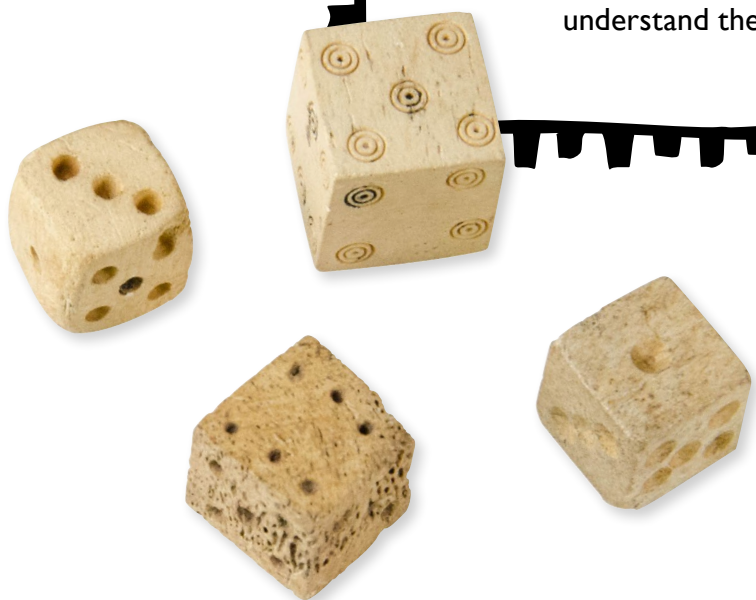# EDUCATION

TIMELINE

Portchester Castle

This resource has been designed to help teachers plan a visit to Portchester Castle, which provides essential insight into over 1,700 years of history. It was a Roman fort, a Saxon stronghold, a royal castle and eventually a prison. Use this timeline in the classroom to help students understand the history of Portchester.

Get in touch with our Education Booking Team:

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Don't forget to download our **Hazard Information Sheets** and Discovery Visit Risk Assessments to help with planning:

• **In the Footsteps of Kings**

• **Big History: From Dominant Castle to Hidden Fort**

Share your visit with us **@EHEducation**

Step into England's story

EVENTS IN ENGLISH HISTORY

AD 211 Roman Britain was divided into two separate areas: Britannia Superior (Upper Britain), with London as its capital, and Britannia Inferior (Lower Britain), with its capital at York.

AD 306 Constantine (r.AD 306–37) became Roman emperor.

AD 314 Constantine ended the punishment of Christians in the Roman Empire and Christianity was made legal.

AD 410 The Romans left Britain. Anglo-Saxon people began to settle.

AD 450 Britain was divided up into the Seven Kingdoms: Northumbria, Mercia, Anglia, Wessex, Essex, Sussex and Kent.

1066 The Normans invaded England, led by William the Conqueror, and won the Battle of Hastings.

1087 William Rufus (son of William I) became king (r.1087–1100).

1154 Henry II (r.1154–89) became king.

1181 Portsmouth was founded. It became a busy town and navy base.

1199–1216 Reign of King John, who visited Portchester Castle regularly.

1296 The Wars of Scottish Independence between England and Scotland began.

1337 The Hundred Years War between England and France began.

1415 Henry V (r. 1413–22) and his English army won the Battle of Agincourt, defeating Charles VI of France.

1455–87 The Wars of the Roses between the Yorkists (supporting Richard, Duke of York) and the Lancastrians (supporting King Henry VI).

1533 King Henry VIII (r.1509–47) split from the Catholic church and became Supreme Head of the Church of England.

1588 Elizabeth I became queen. The Spanish Armada was defeated by the English fleet in the Channel.

1604 England made peace with Spain.

1642 The English Civil War began.

1649 Execution of Charles 1 (r.1625–49).

1660 Restoration of Charles II (r.1660–85).

1714–27 Reign of King George I.

1756 Start of the Seven Years War.

1803–15 The Napoleonic Wars were fought against France.

1837 Victoria became queen.

1901 Queen Victoria died.

1914–18 First World War.

1939–45 Second World War.

Timeline: AD 200 · AD 300 · AD 400 · AD 900 · 1000 · 1100 · 1200 · 1300 · 1400 · 1500 · 1600 · 1700 · 1800 · 1900 · 2000

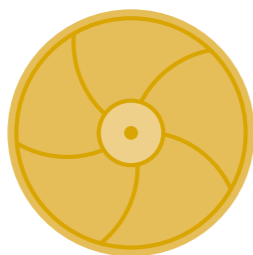## PORTCHESTER CASTLE THROUGH THE AGES

AD 285–90 The Roman fort at Portchester was built by Marcus Aurelius Carausius, the local naval commander.

AD c.350 New roads were built inside the fort, possibly by Emperor Constans (r.337–50) when he visited Britain in AD 342.

AD 904 The Bishop of Winchester gave the fort to Edward, king of the West Saxons (r.AD 899–924). It became an Anglo-Saxon burh, used to protect Wessex from Viking attack.
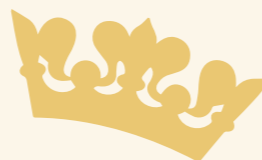
1086–1100 The castle was built by William the Conqueror.

1100–31 King Henry I (r.1100–35) frequently stopped at Portchester on his travels to Normandy, in France.

1154 King Henry II took over the castle and used it as a royal stronghold.

1174 The castle was armed with catapults and a garrison of ten knights was put in place.

1214 King John brought his hunting dogs to Portchester for hunting in the nearby Forest of Bere.

1216 Prince Louis of France invaded England and Portchester was surrendered to him.

1217 Portchester Castle was taken back by Henry III (r.1216–72).

1346 King Edward III (r.1327–77) gathered his army at Portchester before sailing to France, where he won the Battle of Crécy.

1369–99 Richard II (r.1377–99) improved the buildings and built his palace.

1415 Henry V used Portchester to prepare his army for the Battle of Agincourt.

1445 Portchester was chosen as the landing place for Henry VI's (r.1422–61) French bride, Margaret of Anjou.

1535 King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn visited Portchester Castle.

1563 Portchester Castle was used as a military hospital for the sick and wounded from the French wars.

1583 Portchester Castle was made ready for a Spanish invasion.

1665 Portchester was used to house 500 prisoners captured during the Second Dutch War.

1794 11 new wooden houses were built inside the walls, so Portchester could house more prisoners of war.

1796 Portchester took in prisoners of war from across the globe, including 2,080 black and mixed-race prisoners from the Caribbean.

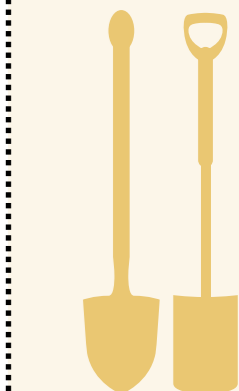**1811** More French prisoners of war arrived at Portchester, including some who formed a theatrical troupe.

1811–14 French prisoners created a theatre on the ground floor of the keep.

1814 The last prisoners of war left the castle.

1961–79 Archaeological digs were carried out at Portchester Castle.

1984 English Heritage took over the running of Portchester Castle.

Century labels: 3RD CENTURY · 4TH CENTURY · 5TH CENTURY · 10TH CENTURY · 11TH CENTURY · 12TH CENTURY · 13TH CENTURY · 14TH CENTURY · 15TH CENTURY · 16TH CENTURY · 17TH CENTURY · 18TH CENTURY · 19TH CENTURY · 20TH CENTURY

PORTCHESTER CASTLE TIMELINE