

St Mawes Castle handling collection Teachers' Notes



This collection contains three packs of replica artefacts and notes:

1. Kitchen / tableware
2. Caps / personal items
3. Toys and games

It's suggested you divide your class into three then allow each group to explore the artefacts in a pack using the discussion questions included. Each group can feedback to the rest of the class, or you can rotate the packs amongst the groups depending on the time available.

At the end of the session please return all items so they're ready for the next group to use. If you notice any items are missing or damaged, please alert a member of staff at the castle.

Kitchen/tableware

Artefact investigation

Remember to:

- Have clean, dry hands to protect the objects.
- Use two hands to pick up and handle the objects where possible.
- Only handle objects when you are sitting down.
- Carefully pass objects between each other.
- Wash your hands after you've finished exploring the objects in the collection.

Use these questions to help you discuss what your object looks like, how it was made and how it was used.

1. How would you describe your object?
2. What materials is your object made from?
3. Was your object used by a wealthy person or a poorer person?
4. Can you see any signs of wear on your object?
5. What do you think your object was used for? Why?

Pewter goblet

Pewter is a metal made from a mixture of tin, lead and copper. It is a soft metal and can be polished easily.

This goblet was for drinking from and is a piece of tableware.

Tudor households that were moderately well-off wanted pewter tableware as it was more expensive than pottery and looked impressive.

Only the very wealthy had cups made from **glass**. Glass was mostly imported from Italy and was therefore very expensive.

Pewter and glass tableware was displayed on shelves for visitors to see when not being used.



Horn cup

Horn was used for lots of objects in the Tudor period (1485-1603) including windowpanes. It can be cut into very thin sheets and can be shaped easily when it is heated.

Cups were made by hollowing out the horn then adding a wooden base.



Wooden beaker

Wood was used for household items because it was widely available, lasted a long time and easily replaced if something got broken or lost.

Making wooden beakers like this was a skilled craft. Spoons could be carved easily. Buckets and barrels were made by fastening pieces of wood together with metal bands.



Spices

Spices are imported from countries such as Indonesia, Africa and India.

In the Tudor period (1485-1603) spices were very expensive, so using them was a way to show wealth.

To make sure spices weren't stolen or used too much, they were locked away by the head of the household.

These spices were used to flavour savoury food, sweet dishes and drinks.



Nutmeg



Cloves



Cinnamon



Star Anise

Caps/personal items

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Nit comb

Many combs like this were found on the Tudor warship The Mary Rose when it was raised from the seabed.

People lived and slept in often cramped conditions. Bathing and washing clothes wasn't done as regularly as it is now. This meant that nits and lice spread easily.



Candle stick

This is a 'pricket candlestick', a very simple holder for a candle.

The candle fits between the curved metal wings. On the other end there is a sharp metal point that can be pushed into a tabletop or a windowsill.

Cheaper candles were made from animal fat or tallow, and more expensive candles were made from beeswax.



Woman's cap

Women's caps were usually made of linen (a lightweight material).

Most Tudor women wore caps like this, although some would have covered them with more decorated headdresses.

Women usually covered their hair. It kept the hair clean, free from lice and nits and was also warm.

To wear the cap:

- 1) Place the cap on the head with the ties at the back of the neck
- 2) Cross the ties then bring up to the front of the cap
- 3) Cross the ties again and take back to the back of the neck
- 4) Tie in a bow at the back of the neck
- 5) The front of the cap should frame the face neatly. If the cap is very big, the fabric in front of the ties can be folded back to make a brim.



Man's cap and hat

The pale blue cap is made of linen (a lightweight material).

Men wore caps like this under their hats which would keep the hat clean. A linen cap can be washed easily.

A linen hat was sometimes worn in the house for warmth.

The dark blue hat is made from wool. The wool fabric made the hat warm.

This style of hat was worn by most men. It is plain but could have been decorated with feathers or jewels.

Some wealthy men preferred hats made from silk and velvet. Black velvet was the most expensive fabric, as dyeing fabric black was difficult.



Toys and games

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Wooden doll

This wooden doll could be dressed in outfits made from scraps of fabric.

Dolls like this were sometimes called 'Bartholomew babies' because they were sold at the St Bartholomew Day Fair in London (24th August).

Although travel to London took several days in Tudor times, trade with Cornwall was common. Pilchards and tin from Cornwall were highly valued across the country.



Cup and ball game

This is a very old type of game, children in ancient Greek times played something very similar.

Try to catch the ball in the cup by swinging the cup by the handle. Be careful when playing – check your surroundings before you start swinging and listen to the adult present.



Spinning top

To play with this toy, you will need a smooth flat surface.

- Place the spinning top on a flat surface
- Hold the stick between your finger and thumb, and spin the top firmly

Compete with others to see who can make the top spin for the longest.



Horn cup and dice

Dice were used in lots of games and were very common in Tudor times (1485-1603).

Try this simplified version of a Tudor dice game with your group.

- Take it in turns to shake the dice in the cup and roll carefully onto a surface.
- Add up the total score – over 10 wins, and under 10 loses.
- Roll again!



Three Men's Morris

This game is similar to noughts and crosses or tic-tac-toe. The aim is to get three in a row.

Find the game board and the rules, so that you can play the game with a partner.

You don't need to have counters to play, any small object will do.



Three Men's Morris board

The rules with the game:

- 1) Each player has three pieces.
- 2) Take it in turns to place your pieces on the board at the points where lines join.
- 3) You can move along the lines, one place at a time and land where the lines join.
- 4) The winner is the first player to have a line of three pieces on the board (this is called a mill).

