



# Bunratty Castle Module

## Activities Guide

### Individual Activities



#### Follow Along

Use the Follow Along page for students to complete during the slide show. Review the answers after to ensure all students understood the material, or use it later as a test.

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#### Occupation Story

Using the handout, each student chooses an occupation from the Castle or Village jobs list and fills in the answers on the sheet. Students can use the internet, library or other resources to help them construct their answers. When complete, ask for volunteers or choose students to share with the class.

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#### Castle Map

Each student draws a map of their own Irish Castle and surrounding areas, labeling each building.

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#### Creative Writing - Story

Write a story between 3-5 pages occurring in or around an Irish castle. Components must include:

1. At least three buildings/locations around or in the castle
  2. Have at least three characters with differing titles/jobs in the story
  3. Explore some aspect of castle and/or village life
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#### Creative Writing - a Day in the Life

Each student writes a "day in the life" of one character in castle or village life using the list provided. Start from the time they wake up until the time they go to bed. Students can utilize the internet, libraries, or other resources to research their character.



## Individual Activities, cont.

### Drawing – Castle Room

Draw a favorite room in the castle. Share with the class and explain why or write a paragraph to go along with the drawing.

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### Design a tapestry

Using the template provided students design and draw a tapestry to hang in the Nobleman's quarters. Tapestry must include:

1. Irish Knot work
  2. Character from Irish Mythology
  3. Family Crest
  4. At least three different colors
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### Battle Shield Design

Using the template provided, design a soldier's shield. Include at least one of the following:

1. Family crest
2. Celtic lettering
3. Celtic symbols



## Small Group Activities



### Ten Questions

Assign each student a position / job either in the castle or in the village from the Occupations Castle Job list. No one is to know who they are except the student. When you say go, students try and guess who the other characters are in their group by asking up to ten yes or no questions. After ten minutes, see which group guessed the most characters.

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### Surrounds of an Irish Castle

Divide the class into groups. Each group determines which buildings they will have in their village based on the supplemental Buildings list, and then determines who will draw each one. Once complete, the group then presents their village to the class and explains why they chose the buildings they did as well as answers any questions the other students have about their village.

The class votes on (or the teacher chooses) the best village (and explain why they voted the way they did) which is then posted on a viewing board in the classroom, or the teacher chooses one or two components from each group to go in the classroom.

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## Acting / Story

Divide the class into groups and have each come up with a story to act out in front of the class. The stories must show one of the following topics:

1. Castle attack / defense
  2. Building the Castle
  3. Village Life
  4. Trade / Mercantile
  5. Noble Family
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### Defensive Fight

Show why corridors always were counterclockwise up by staging a “fight”: Choose right handed students to demonstrate. Make several groups of stacked chairs in a curved motion at the front of the class. Add a step stool or box as if the stairs are going up. Using the center of wrapping paper rolls, give each student a “sword”. In slow motion, step by step demonstrate who has the literal upper-hand and why it is such an advantage.



## Entire Class Activities

### Build an Irish Castle

Build a 3D Irish Castle using cardboard, popsicle sticks, sugar cubes, wood, Styrofoam, clay, etc. This activity can also be done in groups.

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### Create a Castle & Surrounds

Create an Irish Castle and surrounds complete with every building on the supplemental lists. Either create via drawing or build in 3D using cardboard, popsicle sticks, sugar cubes, wood, Styrofoam, etc. Paint the buildings and add in the trees, water, landscape with construction paper, twigs, etc. This activity can also be done in groups.

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### Cut Away Castle

Using Styrofoam create a castle complete with cut out windows, doors, mote, etc. Leave one wall open so you can see in. Add in the furniture and tapestries, etc. Students take turns helping to put it together.

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### Write and Act Out an Irish Play

Have the kids create a story with characters. Assign each student a part and read through or let students “try-out” for different parts. Perform the play in the class, or make an entire production including sets, costumes, memorized lines to perform in front of parents and friends.