



WELCOME TO BRITAIN'S ULTIMATE CASTLE, WARWICK CASTLE!

The aim of this pack is to offer you and your pupils an exciting learning experience in amazing surroundings.

This pack includes pre, during and post visit activities to enhance the understanding of Victorian Britain. It is designed to give pupils, of all key stages, the opportunity to explore history and gain an understanding of past

societies and their motivations, values and attitudes. There are also many opportunities to enhance cross curricular learning. We recommend you review these resources and select which ones are relevant to your pupils and aims

A short history of Warwick Castle

There has been a defensive outpost here on the banks of the River Avon since 978.

Warwick Castle dates from 1068 and was commissioned by William the Conqueror as he moved his power north after the Norman Conquest. The Norman structure would have been quite different from the one we see today.

A motte and bailey wooden structure was constructed on a hill rising above the River Avon. The area now known as 'The Mound' originally offered the greatest vantage point across the land and therefore was the strongest part of the Castle's defensive system.

However, as time moved on advances in defensive architecture were to dwarf this feature. By 1260 stone had replaced wood as the Gatehouse, corner defensive posts and the main building (now the site of the house) on the riverside wall of the Courtyard were built. By 1400, the huge Guy's and Caesar's Towers and the Barbican had been added. Walls were strengthened and the ditch (not moat) was dug deeper to create a real mediaeval stronghold.

If King Richard III had not been killed at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485, the Castle would have looked even more dominating. Today the small towers in the Northern Wall known as Bear and Clarence are the foundations of what would have been the highest structure of all if they had been completed. It was to be a four cornered Keep built to be secure from internal and external attack. His death halted the work, resulting in what we see today.

Later as the Castle declined in military importance, the main living quarters were converted into a residence of rich and sumptuous style that reflected the wealth and status of its owners. By the 1890s the Earl and his wife were holding high status lavish parties.

Warwick Town

The town of Warwick dates back to 914AD when Ethelfleda (daughter of Alfred the Great) established a defence against the Danish invaders on the banks of the river Avon. The old mediaeval town was restricted from later expansion by a number of common land all around it such as the Priory, St Nicholas Meadow and the Castle. A great fire in 1694 destroyed many buildings and only a few examples of mediaeval town architecture survived. These are the Guild Hall, Lord Leycester Hospital and of course the Castle.

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL VISIT

1. All school groups must be accompanied by a teacher and group sizes are restricted to a maximum of 20 people.
2. Tailor your school visit with a range of pre-bookable tours and talks. Discuss and book these extras when you make your booking.
3. Split your group into smaller groups of 10-15 when exploring the Castle. This is the best way to avoid congestion and to make sure all the group enjoy their Castle experience.
4. Take care! Certain areas of Warwick Castle, including the Gaol and the Towers and Ramparts require specific care when being explored by school groups.
5. Understanding the attractions: The Castle Dungeon is a thrill and scare based attraction that may not be suitable for those of a nervous disposition. The attraction is not recommended for under 10s.
6. Avoid disappointment by pre-booking the Castle Dungeon - the attraction is subject to availability and an additional charge.
7. Arrive at the Castle Dungeon approximately 5mins prior to your allocated show time.
8. Visit www.warwick-castle.com for seasonal events and activity.



School Groups can now book online at www.warwick-castle.com/schools

