



History of real and imaginary castles and how the castles could be used today according to the fantasy of the children

A long, long time ago, before skyscrapers in big cities, people-built castles! Castles were strong stone buildings that looked like giant fortresses.

Why did people build them?

Hundreds of years ago, during the Middle Ages, knights and kings needed safe places to live. There were many battles, and castles protected them from enemies. The thick stone walls, tall towers, and deep moats made it very hard for attackers to break in!

What Were Castles Like?

There were many big castles that were like little towns inside big walls. They had everything people needed: kitchens, bedrooms, great halls for feast days, and even dungeons for prisoners. Some castles had secret tunnels and drawbridges that could be raised to keep out intruders.

Who Lived in Castles?

Kings, queens, knights, and nobles lived in castles with their families and servants. Knights trained to fight and protect the land, while servants cooked, cleaned, and took care of the horses. There were also jesters who were jokers wearing a cap with bells a professional joker or 'fool' at a medieval court, typically wearing a cap with bells.

Famous Castles

Many castles are still standing today. One of the most famous is Windsor Castle in England, where kings and queens have lived for over 900 years! Another is Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany, which looks like a fairy tale palace!

Do you remember the castle of the Beauty and the Beast movie?

The castle where Cinderella danced with the prince? Or "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves" when the evil witch says "Magic Mirror on the wall, who is the fairest one of all?"

The Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany have inspired the architecture of those castles...



In Cyprus there are many castles, we recently visited two of them: the Kolossi Castle and the Limassol Castle.

How was the Kolossi castle? Were there big rooms? And windows? Was there a fireplace? And was there a drawbridge? Can we imagine putting it up not to let anyone in and putting it down to let people go out and in? And children playing in the castle yard with their wooden swords?

What could you see from the windows? Is the Kolossi castle located in the Commandaria region of Cyprus? In this region, a wine has been produced from medieval time and it takes its name from the Grand Commander who lived in the castle. It's called 'Commandaria' and it's the oldest named wine that has kept its name for the longest time.... Richard Braveheart, King of England, who came to marry here in Cyprus in the year described it as 'the king of wines and wine of kings'.

The Grand Commander was like a General. His armies were those of the Crusaders... those who were fighting in Jerusalem... In the Middle age, wars were happening very frequently....

But the Kolossi castle was never attacked, no war took place in this beautiful area...Can you imagine princes and princesses coming to the Kolossi castle to visit the Grand Commander and his family living in the castle?



Imaginary castles

Now, let's imagine a castle not made from stones but... with something else... Glass? How would it look like?

Made of mother pearls? With luminous walls reflecting rainbow colours?

Any more ideas?

Castles today

Many old castles have been turned into museums where people can learn about the past.

How could a castle be used today? What would you do in a castle if you could organize anything you like inside it?

Would you just leave it as a museum to visit? Would you make a party every month with the children of your town? Would you project

something on a big screen inside the castle? Would organize a dance night? A sword competition?

Would you.....?

HOW ARE WE GOING TO PREPARE OUR PODCAST?

First, we tell children what a podcast is.

Then:

1. We prepare a script about the above subjects and decide which student will read and when all other children intervene
2. We decide if we need to have some music or other sound to add
3. We record our podcast

The Script:

Activity: Ask students to write three different types of introductions for the same

topic: **Talking about castles**

- An intriguing question ("What is my first thought when looking at a castle?")
- A personal anecdote ("As a child, I went with my parents to visit a castle and thought that I would love to live in a castle, so intriguing, so fascinating...")

A surprising fact ("Do you know how many castles there are in Europe?")

Try to create vivid images with words.

 Activity: Ask students to describe a scene using the five senses.

Example theme: "A storm is flying over the Kolossi castle...."

View: "Dark clouds gather on the horizon"

Hearing: "A thunder shakes the air"

Smell: "The smell of wet earth spreads"

Touch: "Cold drops slide on the skin"

Taste: "A vague taste of rain on the lips"



Practice test: Read the text and check whether listeners can "see" the scene in their minds.

- Writing Realistic Dialogues

 Activity: Write a dialogue between two children:

How many castles have you visited in your life?

Do you know why castles were built?

What is the difference between entering a castle and instead watching its images on books or on internet?

- Read it aloud again to see if it sounds spontaneous.
- Reduce unnecessary words and insert natural interruptions ("Um... well, it

depends! What do you think?").

 Record the dialogue and evaluate its pace.

The Memorable Finale

 Write an effective closing that leaves an impact.

Activity: Ask students to think of three different endings and write them down

Reflection (“I think castles need to be protected so children in the future can continue to see them and enjoy being within them”.)

Open question (“Would you like to organize activities in a castle?”)

Call to Action (“If you liked this episode, share it with a friend!”)

Practice Test: Test which closure works best by reading aloud.



Podcast Name: **PodCastle**

Episode Title: **History of real and imaginary castles and how the castles could be used today according to the fantasy of the children**

1. Introduction – Grab attention!

Start with a sentence that makes you want to listen.

Choose a way to get started:

- ☒ A Mysterious Question → “Have you ever wondered why castles have towers?”
- ☒ A short story → “Once upon a time there was a child who wanted to live in a castle...”
- ☒ A special sound → “Hear this noise... Do you know what it is?”

 Write down your introduction

2. Main Part – Tell your story!

Narration..... Interviews (questions/answers)..... Music/ Sounds.....

 Write down story and interview questions

3. Conclusion

- ☒ A question for the listeners
- ☒ A tip → “Remember: ”

☒ A thank you → “Thanks for listening! See you next time!”

 Write down the conclusion

4. Special effects and sounds

Decide which sounds to add 

Sound of birds (flying over the castle)

Sound of swords being used

Music

Sounds of glass for imaginary castles...

Funny laugh

The recording can now start