



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Conisbrough Castle

The Castle near to you. Key Stage 2

A study of a castle near to where they live, will involve pupils in many aspects of the history of their local area. Castles have been a part of the British landscape since the 11th century and have had a direct effect upon the communities that surround them. From the dark days of feudalism, through to the tourist attractions that they are today, the history of a castle is the history of Britain. Conisbrough Castle can be used as a focal point for study; pupils can consider the forces that drove its development from a timber castle in to one of the finest examples of military architecture of its day, owned by one of the most powerful families in England, and then on into early ruin and neglect as military technology and government of the country changed forever. As England moved from a society based on agriculture to one based on industry, Conisbrough Castle was fortunate enough to become a star of romantic fiction and with the coming of the railways, an early tourist attraction.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Through means of a guided tour be introduced to new ways of finding out about the distant past.
- Discover briefly about the Norman invasion of 1066 and the “Harrying of the North” in 1069, also why castles were built in Britain.
- Learn that the Castle has changed throughout time, from a wooden “motte and bailey” castle, through to the ruined stone castle that they will see before them and why.
- Be asked to consider what it may have been like to live close to the castle when it was in full use.
- Consider what it would have been like to attack Conisbrough Castle and whether this would have been easy or difficult.
- Be encouraged to imagine the inner bailey of the castle and what activities would be taking place during medieval times.
- Through personal experience, discover what living conditions were like inside a medieval castle.
- Be given the opportunity to ask questions relating to their new experience.

Learning Options

Students who are studying Local History will also:

- Discover how Conisbrough Castle has affected people living in the immediate area over time.
- See how the castle is of benefit to local trade and tourism today.
- Realise the importance of a building that they have taken for granted so far in their lives.
- Begin to realise the benefits of having a historic building on their doorstep.

Curriculum links

The content of the session mainly focuses on the History areas of study:

History

Students will develop their skills in all five main areas:

- Chronological understanding
- Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past
- Historical interpretation
- Historical enquiry
- Organisation and communication.

Duration

60 Minutes