



A Modern Castle for Rapunzel

Introduction

Objective:

Student will step into the shoes of *Rapunzel*, and create a modern-day castle to live in, protected from outside influences.

Academic Content Standards:

- ❖ National Standards for the Social Studies Curriculum Standards: I. Cultures:
 - *The study of culture prepares students to ask and answer questions such as: What are the common characteristics of different cultures? How do belief systems such as religion or political ideals, influence other parts of the culture?*
- ❖ National Standards for the Social Studies Curriculum Standards: III. People, Places and Environments
 - *The study of people, places and human-environment interactions assists learners as they create their spatial views and geographic perspectives of the world beyond their personal locations.*
- ❖ Ohio Academic Content Standards for Social Studies: People in Societies
 - *Students use knowledge of perspectives, practices, and products of cultural, ethnic, and social groups to analyze the impact of their commonality and diversity within local, national, regional and global settings.*
 - *Benchmark: A (6th Grade)*
- ❖ Ohio Academic Content Standards for Social Studies: Geography
 - *Students use knowledge of geographic locations, patterns and processes to show the interrelationship between the physical environment and human activity.*
 - *Benchmark: C (6th Grade)*
- ❖ Ohio Academic Content Standards for Social Studies: Skills and Methods
 - *Students collect, organize, evaluate, and synthesize information from multiple sources in order to draw logical conclusions.*
 - *Students communicate this information using appropriate social studies terminology in oral, written, or multimedia form and apply what they have learned to societal issues in simulated or real-world settings.*
 - *Benchmarks: A, B, C and D (6th Grade)*

(Note: For grades 4 and 5 emphases is on the development of the state of Ohio and the United States as a country.)

Getting Started

Materials:

- Collection of books about the Medieval Period and castles
- Poster board
- Scissors
- Glue

Vocabulary:

- Glossary of castle terms <http://www.castlesontheweb.com/glossary.html>
- Parts of a Castle <http://www.castles.org/kids/>

Technology:

- Internet access for research.
- Authoring software for electronic presentations.

Web Links

- <http://www.castlewales.com/siege.html>
- http://www.castles.org/Kids_Section/Castle_Story/parts.htm
- <http://www.castles-of-britain.com/castlesi.htm>

Lesson

Orientation Activity:

Towers were just one architectural structure built onto castles during the medieval era. Towers often served as a place of protection, and too, as a place of solitary confinement for punishment.

The teacher will introduce to students the purpose of research to learn of the architectural components of a castle, inside and out, which served to provide protection. Students will consult the above listed web links to learn more about the defensive architecture of a castle. The class will also review architectural terms for castles.

Learning Activity:

If possible, the class will view the video, or the teacher may read aloud the book, Castles by David McCaulay. During the medieval era castles were susceptible to attack by outside forces. Using the Internet or print resources, students will locate at least three visuals of castles they feel are best designed to protect inhabitants from outside forces. Students will print out the visuals, cut out each castle and paste it to their poster board. The castles are then labeled. Students will also include a brief explanation for their choices and add to their poster board. Visuals and information found is later infused into student castle designs.

Assignment: Students are to step into the shoes of *Rapunzel* and design a modern castle that includes a tower to keep Rapunzel in, and other people out! Students will draw a picture of their castle, combining elements of architectural design from the medieval era with elements of architectural design from modern times. Students are encouraged to incorporate any modern technological advances that might aid in providing protection to the castle. Students will keep in mind that the main goal of the castle is to protect those who live in it, including Rapunzel.

Evaluation and Follow-Up

Assessment Tools and Methods:

Castles are judged based on the quality of coverage for the following emphases.

- Research on the background of medieval architectural styles
- Creativity, the inclusion of strong defensive features in the design
- Incorporation of modern architectural style elements
- Incorporation of modern technology
- Castle's structural ability to protect Rapunzel

Interdisciplinary Connections:

Reading: Read other fictional books about castles, such as A Castle in the Attic by Elizabeth Winthrop. Ask these question prompts to students: What kind of story is the reader expecting when the story setting is in a castle? Discuss how a castle can affect the mood of a story.