

Urquhart Castle: Learning about a Castle and Its Workers

Author	Gale Ekiss and Carol Warren
Grade Level	6
Duration	1-2 class periods

National Standards

GEOGRAPHY

Element 1: The World in Spatial Terms

3. How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth's surface

Element 2: Places and Regions

4. The physical and human characteristics of places

AZ Standards

ELA

Reading

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

Language

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

6.L.6 Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

Arizona Social Science Standards

GEOGRAPHY

Examining human population and movement helps individuals understand past, present, and future conditions on Earth's surface.

6.G3.1 Analyze how cultural and environmental characteristics affect the distribution and movement of people, goods, and ideas. Key concepts include but are not limited to language, land and sea transportation and trade routes
6.G3.2 Analyze the influence of location, use of natural resources, catastrophic environmental events, and technological developments on human settlement and migration. Key concepts include but are not limited to development of early river civilization, pastoral societies, rise of cities, innovations in transportation, and collapse of empires

HISTORY

The development of civilizations, societies, cultures, and innovations have influenced history and continue to impact the modern world.

6.H1.1 Compare the development and characteristics of historical cultures and civilizations from different global regions within designated time periods.

Overview

Students are becoming familiar with the roles played by different kinds of workers during the primary grades—policeman, mailman, postal worker, etc. But what about the roles played in the years past?

Purpose

This lesson will have students learning the roles of the people living in the castle or its surrounding area. The students will also gain knowledge of how location can benefit human activities.

Materials

- Urquhart Castle reading
- Castle Urquhart map
https://geoalliance.asu.edu/sites/default/files/maps/Castle_Urquhart.pdf
- Role Cards (laminated and cut apart) (if more are needed, add soldier, page, knight, cook, etc. since castles had more than one of these)
- Assessment Worksheet on Urquhart Castle and Answer Key
- Minute timer
- Urquhart Castle PowerPoint
- The Location of Loch Ness in Scotland and the United Kingdom map
<https://geoalliance.asu.edu/sites/default/files/maps/>

Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. identify ways that the castle dwellers depended on the land and water
2. identify Scottish terms for geographic features
3. identify the names of the workers who completed certain tasks in a castle environment
4. identify how castles were built in places which provided easy defense

Procedures

1. Ask the students if they have ever seen or been to a castle. Have them describe the castle they have visited or seen. As the students are responding, write the common descriptions on the whiteboard. (high walls, drawbridge to enter, towers, stone walls, moat, etc.)
2. Project the The Location of Loch Ness in Scotland and the United Kingdom map https://geoalliance.asu.edu/sites/default/files/maps/Loch_Ness.pdf State that today we will be learning about a castle in Scotland which typifies many castles of the time and place. It is called Urquhart. [ur-kert, -kahrt]
3. Write Land and Water on the whiteboard. Then show them the picture of Urquhart castle. <https://www.authenticireland.com/blog/urquhart-castle-highlands-highlight/>
4. Read the selection on Urquhart Castle to the class. While reading the selection, discuss how the land and water provided resources for the people. Record the ideas on the whiteboard under the appropriate category.
5. Discuss the Scottish terms for land and water features. Write loch under Water and glen and ben under Land. Show Slide 1 and 2 from the Urquhart Castle PowerPoint. Point out the valley (glen), the lake (loch), and the mountain (ben).
6. Now discuss how the castle would have looked from above. Show Slide 3 of the PowerPoint. This is an artist's idea of how the castle would have looked. Now show the Castle Urquhart map on Slide 4.
7. Read the roles from the various Role Cards on

Slides 5-7). As the roles are read, have students decide in which part(s) of the castle the worker would have been located. It might be helpful for students to try to think of current day workers that do the same jobs to reinforce vocabulary. (chaplain = priest, minister, etc.)

8. Explain how charades is played (Slide 7): no words can be spoken or written—only gestures can be made. Clarify that a team must get the answer in one minute. If the team doesn't get the answer in one minute, then the other team can make one guess. If they correctly guess the role, then they get the point. They also get to act out the next role.
9. Divide the students into two groups. Flip a coin to choose the first player. Hand the student one of the cards. Give him/her time to whisper questions to you that he/she might have about how to act out the castle role. Keep score.
10. Show Slide 8. Have the students compare the two images. Are the boundaries the same, different? Have students describe the land (Is it elevated or lowlands?). Why would building a castle near water be a good idea? Refer back to the list on the board about Land and Water. Add any new ideas.

Assessment

The Assessment Worksheet on Urquhart Castle can be graded for social studies and reading comprehension. Mastery will be considered 80% or higher on the worksheet.

Extensions

Have the students read books about castles. Have them add to the list of jobs that were given with this lesson.

Have students compare the jobs of cooks or other workers mentioned in the lesson—what was the job like in the past compared to the job in the present. Which of these jobs are still relevant?

Sources

Gravett, Christopher. *Eyewitness Castle*. Dorling Kindersley, 2002 ISBN 075134740X