

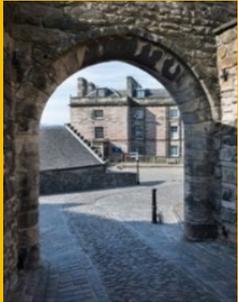
Build your own castle features

Can you build your own castle features at home?

Use what you have – Lego and blocks, pillows and blankets, or cereal boxes and yoghurt pots. You could even build a castle online using games like Minecraft to create your own castle features.



Are you a member of Children's University Scotland? Don't forget to search for 'Castle Features' on www.CUS-Aspire.com to log your credit online.



Can you build an arch?

Use what you have: Coins, boxes, books, biscuits

Arches are often used for gates in castles because they are very strong shapes. Can you find out why they are so strong?

Can you build battlements?

Use what you have: Lego, sofa cushions, egg boxes, sand, playdough

Battlements have high parts called merlons and low parts called crenels. Why do you think they were built this way?



Can you build a drawbridge?

Use what you have: cardboard, ice lolly sticks, ribbon, string, pillows and scarves

A drawbridge is a bridge that can be raised or lowered over a moat. Can you make a working one?





Can you build a portcullis?

Use what you have: strips of paper, pens and pencils, lolly sticks, garden sticks, string

A portcullis is a heavy grille made of metal or wood that can be lowered to stop enemies getting into your castle. Can you make yours slide up and down?

Can you build an arrow slit?

Use what you have: cardboard boxes, books, biscuits or other food

During an attack, archers would use arrow slits to fire on enemies outside the castle. They were wide on the inside and thin on the outside, why do you think that is?



Can you build a fireplace?

Use what you have: blocks, playdough, cardboard, styrofoam

Fireplaces were used to heat rooms in castles and to cook food. The ones in castles are often much bigger than fireplaces we see in houses today. Royal fireplaces would be decorated beautifully. Kitchen fireplaces would be simple but sometimes they were huge, big enough to cook a whole cow!



Can you build a spiral staircase?

Use what you have: cardboard tubes, blocks, books, boxes

Some spiral staircases in castles turn clockwise and almost as many turn anti-clockwise. They allowed people to go very high without needing much space. Can you remember seeing spiral staircases in other buildings? Sometimes they're used as fire escapes outside buildings.

