

Create a Castle!

Learning Outcomes. Key Stage 1 pupils will:

- Begin to understand historical facts relating to the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster
- Learn about historical figures featured in the permanent exhibition
- In groups, construct castles from recycled materials

Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre is on the site of the medieval capital of Ulster, the location where the O'Neills ruled as Gaelic chieftains from 1305. It is the place where the last of the O'Neill chieftains, Hugh O'Neill, ruled and led the Nine Years' War.

The Noble 99 gathered in Dungannon prior to the Flight of the Earls in 1607, and following their journey into exile in Rome, Arthur Chichester rebuilt the O'Neill castle in order to fashion his own military fort, referring to Dungannon as the "centre" of Ulster.

Create a Castle! employs storytelling and art in order to assist P3/4 pupils in their understanding of the major historical events which are associated with The Hill of The O'Neill in Dungannon:

- The pupils talk about castles (their design and construction) and their inhabitants with the Visitor Experience & Education Officer (VE&EO). They then listen to the story of the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster from a big book before taking a guided tour of the permanent exhibition.
- The group then goes outside with the VE&EO to examine Hill of The O'Neill before moving to the Arts Studio. Here the pupils make castles from recycled materials with the assistance of an artist.

The castle making workshop is facilitated by Hazel from Artikles, while the storytelling and guided tour of the exhibition and the Hill are looked after by the VE&EO.

Create a Castle! begins at 10.00am each day and concludes at 12.30pm. There will be time for a break at approximately 11.00am. As part of this activity takes place outdoors, pupils should wear appropriate clothing when visiting the centre.

For more information about *Create a Castle!* contact the VE&EO, Peter Lant:

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