



Long Activity
Ages 6–8
30 minutes

Build a Castle

Description

Build a castle using a variety of materials

Space Considerations

An indoor space with tables and chairs where participants can be seated to work on their castles

Competencies

- Creative and imaginative thinking
- Engineering
- Organization and planning

Materials

- Building materials: Cardboard boxes or cardboard pieces, shoeboxes, paper rolls and/or building blocks
- Scissors
- String
- Pencils or pens
- Markers
- Tape
- Glue
- Paper
- Toothpicks, popsicle sticks or wooden dowels
- Paintbrushes and paint (optional)

Preparation

- Prepare the room for a program that uses glue or paint
- Borrow library books with various images of castles, and have them on display for the program to serve as inspiration

Implementation

It is recommended that participants work in groups for this activity, as it can be quite labour-intensive.

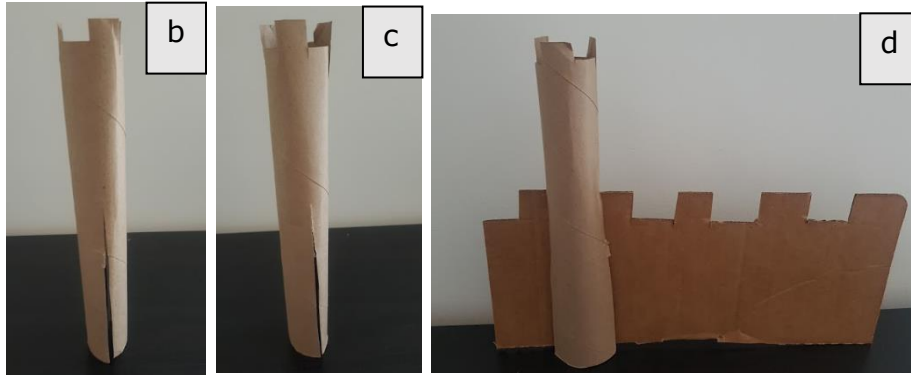
1. Groups can plan their castle designs by drawing, on paper, elements that they want to include in their castles. They can review images online or in books, including non-fiction books, for ideas.
2. Here are six elements that participants can consider for their castles:
 - a. Battlements

Castles often contain battlements at the tops of the walls, with a crenellated pattern so those inside can shoot with bows and arrows, guns and/or cannons (picture a).



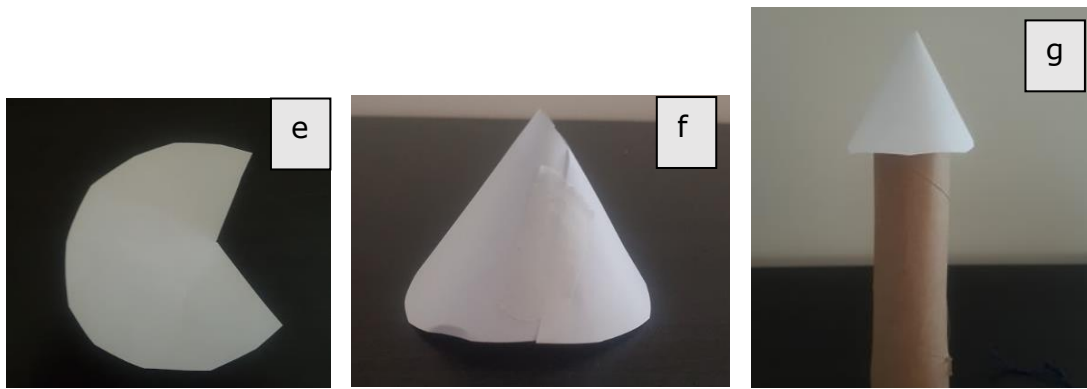
b. Turret

A turret is a small tower that projects vertically from the wall of the castle. Cut out a crenellated pattern at the top of a cardboard roll. Cut a slit from the bottom of the roll to match the height of the castle wall (picture b). Turn the roll around, and cut a similar slit on the opposite side (picture c). Then slide the slits of the tower over the castle wall (picture d). You can add as many turrets and vary the heights as desired.



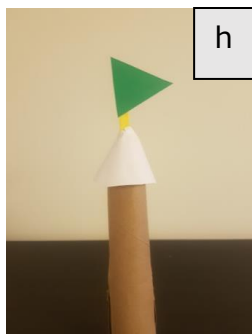
c. Spire

You may wish to add a pointed end or spire to the top of your turret rather than the crenellated pattern. To make a small cone to add to the top of the tower, cut a circle out of paper and cut out a triangle wedge from the circle (picture e). Then roll it into a cone shape, and affix the overlap with tape (picture f). Place it on top of the turret, and affix it with glue or tape (picture g).



d. Flags

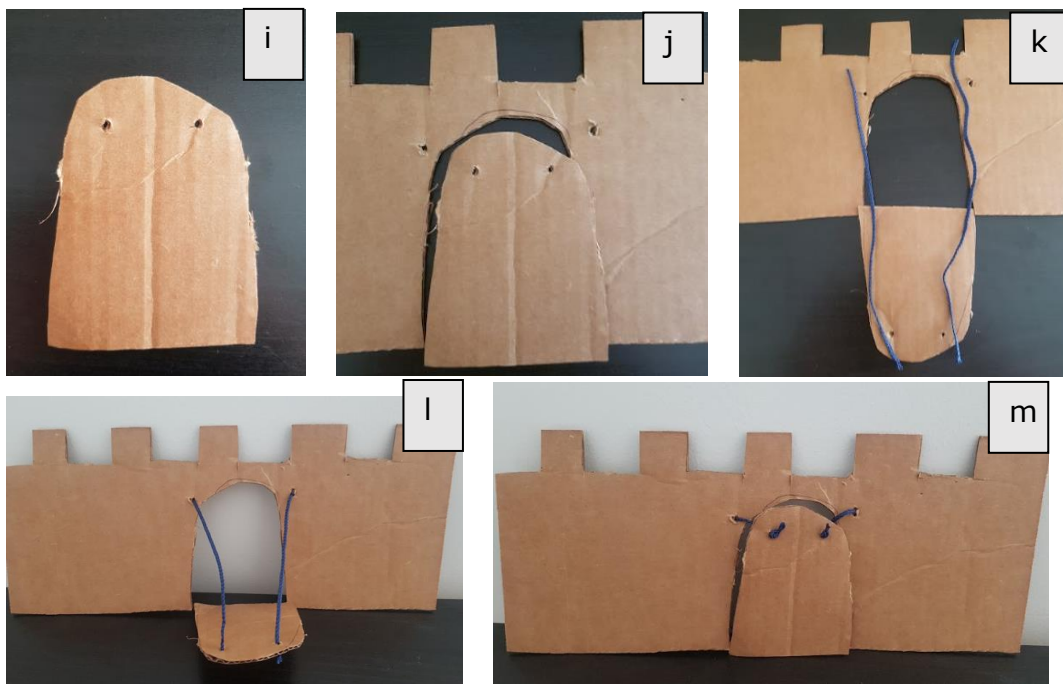
Many castles have flags. Use a toothpick, popsicle stick or wooden dowel, and affix a small paper flag to your castle (picture h).



e. Drawbridge

A drawbridge is a type of movable bridge that can be raised and lowered, typically at the entrance of a castle. Below are the steps for creating a simple drawbridge, but participants can experiment with other methods.

Draw the outline of a door frame on the front wall of your castle, and cut it out. Make a hole on both sides of the top of the drawbridge door, using a sharp pencil or pen (picture i). Punch two holes in the walls of the castle, near the door holes (picture j). Place the door down flat, and cut two pieces of string the approximate length of the holes in the castle walls to the door holes (picture k). Thread the string through each of the holes, and tie knots on the back end (picture l). Now your drawbridge can be raised and lowered as you pull on the strings from the castle wall (picture m).



f. Moat

A moat is a ditch surrounding a castle, typically filled with water and intended as a defence against attack.

Use a large piece of cardboard for the base of the castle. Trace the castle base on the cardboard. Draw a surrounding moat larger than the castle base. Paint the

moat of the castle blue, or use markers. You can paint or use markers to colour the castle base and some green grass if desired (picture n).



3. After creating all of the walls for the castle, tape them together to form a square or rectangle. Decorate with markers and/or paint.

Accessibility Considerations

- Kids should be encouraged to work in teams for this one, as it is quite labour-intensive
- Not all participants on the team have to build; for example, some participants can inform the design and help to troubleshoot
- Offer a variety of building materials
- Assist participants with cutting and gluing as needed, especially for the cardboard
- Offer easy-grip scissors

Book Suggestions

Jonathan and the Giant Eagle by Danny Christopher

Journey of the Midnight Sun by Shazia Afzal and Aliya Ghare

Once Upon a Dragon's Fire by Beatrice Blue

Images





Craft
Ages 0–3
15–20 minutes

Crown and Tiara Craft

Description

Create your own crown or tiara

Space Considerations

Any type of space where participants can be seated to do a craft

Competencies

- Artistic expression
- Development of fine motor skills
- Understanding shapes

Materials

- Printouts of the crown and tiara template
- Crayons, pencil crayons or markers
- Cut-outs of various shapes on construction paper of different colours (for decoration) (optional)
- Foam shapes or other tactile items (pompons, stickers, pipe cleaners, etc.) (optional)
- Glitter (optional)
- Scissors (adult use only)
- Glue or tape

Preparation

- Prepare the room for a program that uses glue (unless tape is used instead).
- Pre-cut crowns and tiaras if desired. Alternatively, allow caregivers to assist with this step during the program.

Implementation

1. Allow participants to choose either a [crown or tiara template](#).

2. The templates can either be pre-cut by staff, or you can distribute scissors to caregivers to cut around the templates.
3. Distribute decorative items along with crayons, pencil crayons or markers, and glue or tape.
4. Participants decorate their crown or tiara with assistance from caregivers and staff as needed. It is not necessary to decorate the straight bands of the template.
5. Once the main piece is decorated and dry (if glue is used), glue or tape one straight band behind the left edge of the main crown or tiara and the other band behind the right edge. Depending on the size of the child's head, only one band may be necessary, which can be affixed to both edges.



6. Connect the bands at the back of the child's head, using your finger to hold the bands together in a position that feels snug. Then use glue or tape to secure the bands together.

Accessibility Considerations

- Offer kids a variety of instruments to colour their crown or tiara, and encourage them to choose what they feel most comfortable with
- Have a variety of material on hand for kids of different abilities to choose from; include a variety of sizes for the shape cut-outs
- Pre-cut the templates and the shapes, or offer easy-grip scissors to all participants

Book Suggestions

Princesses Versus Dinosaurs by Linda Bailey and Joy Ang

Read to Your Toddler Every Day: 20 Folktales to Read Aloud by Lucy Brownridge and Chloe Giordano

The Amazing Zoe: A Queen Like Me! by Valene Campbell and Arooba Bilal

You Might Be Special! by Kerri Kokias and Marcus Cutler

Download Links

[Crown and tiara template](#)

Images



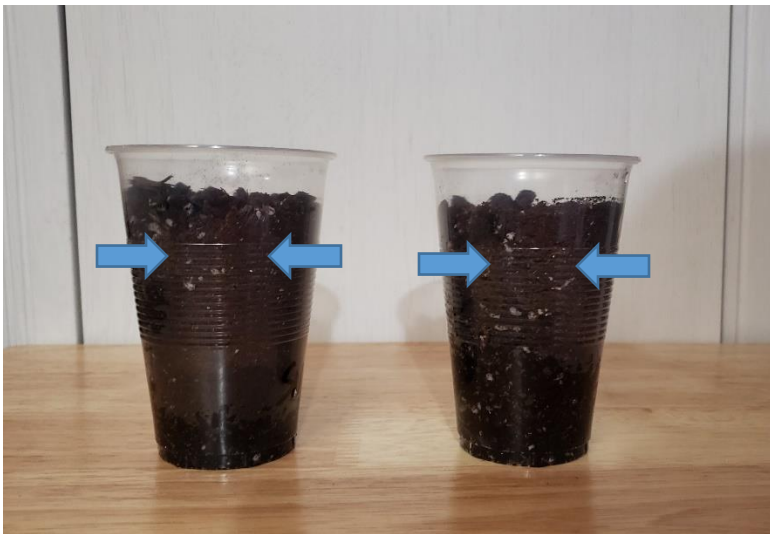
Jack and the Beanstalk Planting Activity Instructions

Planting the seed

1. Fill a cup with soil, leaving some space at the top of the cup.



2. Plant two bean seeds in the soil by using your finger to make a hole in the soil, put the seeds in the holes, then cover them with soil. Make sure to spread them out near the centre of the cup, and do not plant them too deeply in the cup.



3. Water until damp but not soaked.

Adding the castle

1. Colour the castle.

Jack and the Beanstalk Planting Activity Instructions



2. Cotton balls can be added on the bottom of the castle using glue or rolled pieces of tape; cotton pads may also be used, but they may require cutting with scissors (optional).



3. Tape the castle to a long wooden dowel or craft stick.

Jack and the Beanstalk Planting Activity Instructions



4. Put the dowel or craft stick into the soil beside the seeds.



Jack and the Beanstalk Planting Activity Instructions

5. Water the plant daily until the soil is damp, and give it lots of sunlight.



Plant care

1. Can be grown at the library near a window, or kids can take home as soon as possible
2. Leave on a windowsill to get lots of sunlight
3. Water until damp but not soaked
4. Check every day, and add water as needed to keep the soil damp

Optional: Decorating the flowerpot

1. Use medium- and large-sized flowerpots
2. Can use a paper or plastic cup so the clay can be formed around it
3. Can provide air dry clay for kids to use
4. Use more clay to transform the cup into the shapes of animals or fantastical creatures
5. Can add googly eyes
6. Flowerpots can be painted as well (optional)