



Teacher's Guide for Treehouse Tours

The Castles and Legends tour will introduce students to the fun of classic legends through exploration of the Museum's *Days of the Knights* exhibit, and through stories, art and artifacts.

Prior to Your Visit, We Suggest You:

Introduce students to legends by reading stories about King Arthur, Robin Hood, Ivanhoe, and others. You may want to make these stories and legendary figures familiar to your students by setting up a classroom display of books and images. Talk about the fantasy in legendary stories and contrast about the truths and possible historical facts behind legends. There are some beautifully illustrated books out now, including:

Arthur of Albion by John Matthews and illustrated by Pavel Tatarhikov

Arthur and the Sword retold and illustrated by Robert Sabuda

Gawain and the Green Knight retold by Mark Shannon and illustrated by David Shannon

Ivanhoe adapted by Marianna Mayer and illustrated by John Rush

Robin Hood retold and illustrated by Margaret Early

Visions of Adventure by N.C. Wyeth

These are some "just for fun" books about knights and castles:

King Bidgood's In the Bathtub by Dawn and Audrey Wood

The Knight Who Was Afraid of the Dark by Barbara Shook Hazen and illustrated by Tony Ross

The Knight and the Dragon by Tomie dePaola

Small Knight and George by Ronda Armitage and Illustrated by Arthur Robins

The Castle Builder by Dennis Nolan

Talk about castles with your class. We really love the book *Castles* by David Macaulay. Explain the structure of castles and the men and women who lived and worked there.

During Your Visit:

Students will explore Treehouse's *Days of the Knights* exhibit through a brief discussion of artifacts and the world of the medieval knight. Additionally, tour guides will conduct a castle tale ParticiPlay™ activity in the Treehouse Theater, and an art activity inspired by heraldry. Your visit will also include up to 25 minutes of exploration time for students to explore the Museum's exhibits in small groups with their adult chaperones.

After Your Visit we Suggest You:

1. Have a castle building contest. Encourage your students to be creative and construct a castle out of any material they can think of. Require that the castle be made up of all requisite parts: a moat, a drawbridge, turrets, inner curtain, outer curtain and any others you might want to highlight.
2. Encourage students to write a modern legend, either their own or a modernized version of one they enjoy.
3. Have a class Legends party, where students come dressed (or make their own mask or hat) to be a character in a legend and every one else must guess who they are.
4. Further explore the medieval royal court by learning about the game of chess, and how and each player moves and why.

Treehouse School Tours are designed to assist teachers in meeting state and national core objectives in Fine Arts, including Theater and Visual Arts, Language Arts, and Social Studies. Please contact us if you have questions about how Treehouse's curriculum meshes with your curriculum.



Treehouse Museum is a nonprofit, educational organization whose mission is to be the magical place where children and families "Step into a Story."

Elizabeth Stewart Treehouse Museum

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