

Educational Workshops at Berkeley Castle

All workshops £2 per child, each workshop 30 mins

History Detectives (Key Stage 1, 2, 3)

Calling all curious minds! In this exciting session, children will become history detectives—investigating real castle artefacts, using their historical skills, and uncovering clues about life in the past.

This hands-on workshop gives young participants the chance to examine genuine historical objects up close. Through guided exploration and discussion, they'll uncover the stories these artefacts have to tell.

Investigating Tudor Archives (Key Stage 3)

Uncover the fascinating lives of the Tudors in this interactive workshop, where children will explore real Tudor documents from Berkeley Castle's archive to learn what life was like in the 16th century.

The session focuses on letters personally signed by Tudor kings and queens, exploring their contents and taking a closer look at the distinctive royal signatures they contain. Children will also be introduced to an Elizabethan ledger book, offering a glimpse into the daily life of the past — including what Lord Berkeley had for his dinner!

Create Your Own Stained-Glass Window (Key Stage 1 & 2)

Step into the colourful world of stained glass! In this fun and creative workshop, children will design their very own stained-glass window, using colours that reflect their personality and imagination.

An engaging introduction will reveal how colours were used in stained-glass windows to convey powerful meanings. Then, it's time to get hands-on—children will choose their colours and create unique designs to take home.

Create Your Own Coat of Arms (Key Stage 1, 2 & 3)

Discover the world of knights and noble families! In this exciting workshop, children will design their very own coat of arms, just like the knights of old, using colours and symbols to represent who they are.

The session begins with an introduction to the meanings behind the colours, animals, and symbols on a coat of arms. Then, children will create their own unique emblems - perfect for showcasing their personal identity and values.

HISTORICAL HYSTERICAL CRITTERS

Tudor Character Workshops with Animals

1 Hour (2 x 30-minute Workshop) £120 (maximum 60 children)

2 Hours (4 x 30-minute Workshop) £180 (maximum 120 children)

Mondays and Wednesdays, subject to availability

* A minimum of 2 x 30 min sessions required for booking to go ahead *

Life as a Tudor Peasant

Meet our lively Tudor peasant! Discover life in the Tudor times—rubbish-filled streets, dangerous diseases, and strange treatments. School's a luxury, children work young, and even drink ale! Harsh punishments await those who step out of line.

| Animal | Link with History |
|---|---|
| Rat | Rats were everywhere and assisted in spreading disease |
| Spider/Frog (in box) interchangeable | A Tudor wise woman cure for asthma - swallow a frog and a spider! |
| Giant Snail | Sea snails were used to create the Royal colour purple |

Audience with Queen Elizabeth I

Our Queen of the Golden Age shares tales of her reign, her famous portraits, and her vanity. She talks of her father, Henry VIII, and her mother, Anne Boleyn, her victory over the Spanish Armada, and how she survived smallpox. Learn why she paints her face, why her teeth are black, and the story behind her visit to Berkeley Castle in 1574.

| Animal | Link with History |
|-------------|---|
| Rat | Rats were everywhere and assisted in spreading disease |
| Snake | As Royalty, holding a serpent gave the impression you were wise |
| Giant Snail | Sea snails were used to create the Royal colour purple |

^{*}Curriculum links available on request*