

Old Sarum and the Normans

Salisbury Museum's Wessex Gallery showcases over 2,500 rare objects which tell the story of early Britain from the mathematical genius of the ancient Britons and Beaker people through to the Roman invasion and the Norman Conquest including artefacts from archaeological excavations on Old Sarum.

A standard class visit of up to 35 children will include led activities and exploration in the gallery.

The session is designed to be compact and with a pace to keep a class motivated and engaged. Additional student numbers and additional activities can be discussed with the Learning Officer before your visit and will mean extending your museum day beyond lunch time.



What will we achieve?

To Learn about the move from Old Sarum to the City of Salisbury

To discuss why this big change was made by using information from the time

To find out about life in Norman times.

To look at Norman stonemasonry and how they did things

To design and make gargoyle models in clay.

To feel like a Norman in a museum costume provided.

The Normans and Old Sarum What do you know?

Very brief recap of existing knowledge.

Activities:

1 Old Sarum

A brief timeline of its history up to the creation of Salisbury.

Whole class discussion.

2 Why leave Old Sarum?

A look at primary evidence from the old castle.

3 Why would you leave Old Sarum for a new city?

Groups are given characters to take on and decide the pros and cons of life on Old Sarum.

4 Design your new city

Groups are given a blank map and list of city facilities for it to accommodate.

5 Salisbury Cathedral

The building project. Brief introduction.

6 Gargoyles

Brief introduction and demonstration of how to carve a design from clay.

7 Clay Gargoyle making

If time -

8 Costumes

Each child is given a Norman costume to try. Teacher to record. Possibility for Norman role play. - Class split into groups in costume and given task of creating and performing a 3 minute playlet to the class using their costume characters.



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Pre and Post visit activities

Pre Visit

Your visit to the museum focusses on the reasons for and results of the move from Old Sarum to the site of the city of Salisbury today. The following activities are suggested before your museum visit.

Post Visit

Follow on activities and research to build on what your class have learnt about the Normans.

Timeline

Looking back at where the Normans fall on a timeline and what came before. Thinking about how domestic life has changed and improved over that time and what the world would have looked like in Norman times.

Book

A Street Through Time:
A 12,000-year Journey Along the Same Street by Dorling Kindersley

BBC British History TimeLine

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/interactive/timelines/british/index_embed.shtml

BBC History Normans

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/normans/>

Hands on History

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/anglo_saxons/normans/includes/activities/pdfs/a_castle_eye_spy.pdf

A visit to Old Sarum

This could be a free self-led visit around the outside of the castle or you could arrange a visit with English Heritage who manage the site.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/old-sarum/>

A visit to Salisbury Cathedral and the city

www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/visit-groups-and-travel-trade/group-booking-form

Walk around Salisbury following the old street plans and looking at the walls of The Close which are made from stones from the Old Sarum Cathedral. Some stones have features on them.

<http://www.walkinginwiltshire.org.uk/salisbury.php>

Build your own Old Sarum castle

Materials could be sand, paper mache, card...

Cathedral building competition

Using set amounts of newspaper and sticky tape divide the class into groups and in a limited time set them the challenge to build a cathedral each. Judge in categories including most attractive and tallest.

Look at the Portable Antiquities Scheme and see how finds are recorded and what has been found near you

<http://finds.org.uk/>

'Rot or Not'

Make a selection of objects ranging in material and bury in various situations in the school. Try different soil types and moisture and maybe somewhere that is walked over and somewhere that is undisturbed. Record the objects before and after they are buried.

Rubbings

Go on a walk with paper and chunky crayons and record different relief features from around you ranging from stone engraving to service covers in the pavement. Who can find the oldest one?