

Concentric Castles

Name: _____

Date: _____

Concentric Castles

Concentric castles are considered to be some of the strongest, most well defended castles ever designed. Concentric castles have two walls, one built inside the other. The outer wall is shorter than the inner wall, and sometimes slants inward. The inside wall is the exterior of the castle. The space between the outer and inner walls prevents attackers from getting inside the castle.

The Beaumaris Castle, in South Wales, is an outstanding example of medieval military architecture in Britain.

You should look at images of castles to get an idea of their size and shape. Historically, there are many different types of castles. Below you will find instructions on how to build two models, based on the *Concentric* type.

Instructions

Materials:

- Piece of cardboard or thin wood, cut 3 feet square, for the base
- White glue
- Clear tape
- Scissors
- Brown or gray clay or Play-Doh
- Green, gray, or brown water-based paint or nontoxic washable markers
- Paintbrushes
- Two large pieces of cardboard, measuring 28 by 9 inches (for the inner walls)
- Ten paper towel tubes, each trimmed 9 inches long (for the towers and gateways)
- Two large pieces of cardboard, measuring 24 by 13 inches (for the outer walls)
- Two large pieces of cardboard, measuring 22 by 13 inches
- Optional: water-based paint, clay, and/or markers in other colors, toothpicks, and construction paper

Directions:

To make a model of a Concentric castle, your teacher will need to draw two squares on a wood or cardboard base, each centered, one inside the other. The outer square should measure 2 feet wide, and the inner square should measure 14 inches wide. You will build the inner and outer walls of your castle on these squares.

- To build the inner wall: cut two sections of cardboard, each 28 by 9 inches. Fold each section in half crosswise, and assemble the two L-shaped sections to form a square for the inner castle wall. Attach them at the corners and along the outer square you drew on the base.
- To build the towers: Trim ten paper towel tubes so they are 9 inches long. Cut four of the six lengthwise. Open the tubes slightly and fit them vertically onto each of the four corners of the inner wall. Attach with tape or glue. Cut a half-inch section, lengthwise, out of two more tubes (if you look at the end of the tube, it should have a C-shape). Using tape or glue, attach the cut edges of each of these tubes, vertically and slightly opened, in the middle of two opposing inner walls.
- To make the gateways: cut a 1-inch section, lengthwise, from each of the four remaining tubes. Tape two of these tubes together along one long edge (if you look at the ends of the attached tubes, they should form a rounded M shape). Repeat this for the two remaining tubes and attach the cut edges of these “double-tubes” vertically to the middle of the two remaining walls.
- To build the outer wall: cut two strips of cardboard, each measuring 24 by 13 inches, and two more strips of cardboard, each measuring 22 by 13 inches. Fold all four sections of cardboard lengthwise, 6 inches from each side. The cardboard pieces should now be folded into three long sections. Crease the folds and stand the four inner walls up. Assemble the four walls in place, then attach them at the corners and along the outer square you drew on the base.

The basic model of the Concentric castle is complete.

Additional Details (*optional*):

- To make your outer wall slant inward slightly, trim a half-inch from one of the long edges on each wall. Use tape, clay, or Play-Doh to anchor the walls to the base.
- Spray paint the whole castle brown, beige, or gray, then paint the base outside the outer wall green.
- Hand-paint stone shapes and windows on the walls and towers.
- Add conical tops to the towers, then add small toothpick-and-paper flags.
- Add a *turret* to one of the towers.
- Cut a saw tooth pattern (*merlons* and *crenels*) to the tops of the inner walls (*battlement*).
- Cut doors in the gateway entrances
- Add a roof, complete with *wall-walks*.
- Add a *gatehouse* surrounding one of the gateways.

Resources:

Print:

Anglo-Norman Castles

Robert Liddiard
Boydell Press, 2002

English Castles

Adrian Pettifer
Boydell Press, 2002

Welsh Castles

Adrian Pettifer
Boydell Press, 2000

The Castles of Wales

Alan Reid
John Jones Publishing, 2000

Web:

Beaumaris Castle

<http://www.castlewales.com/beaumar.html>

Concentric Castles

<http://www.castlewales.com/concen.html>