

---

# The H.O.T. Spot

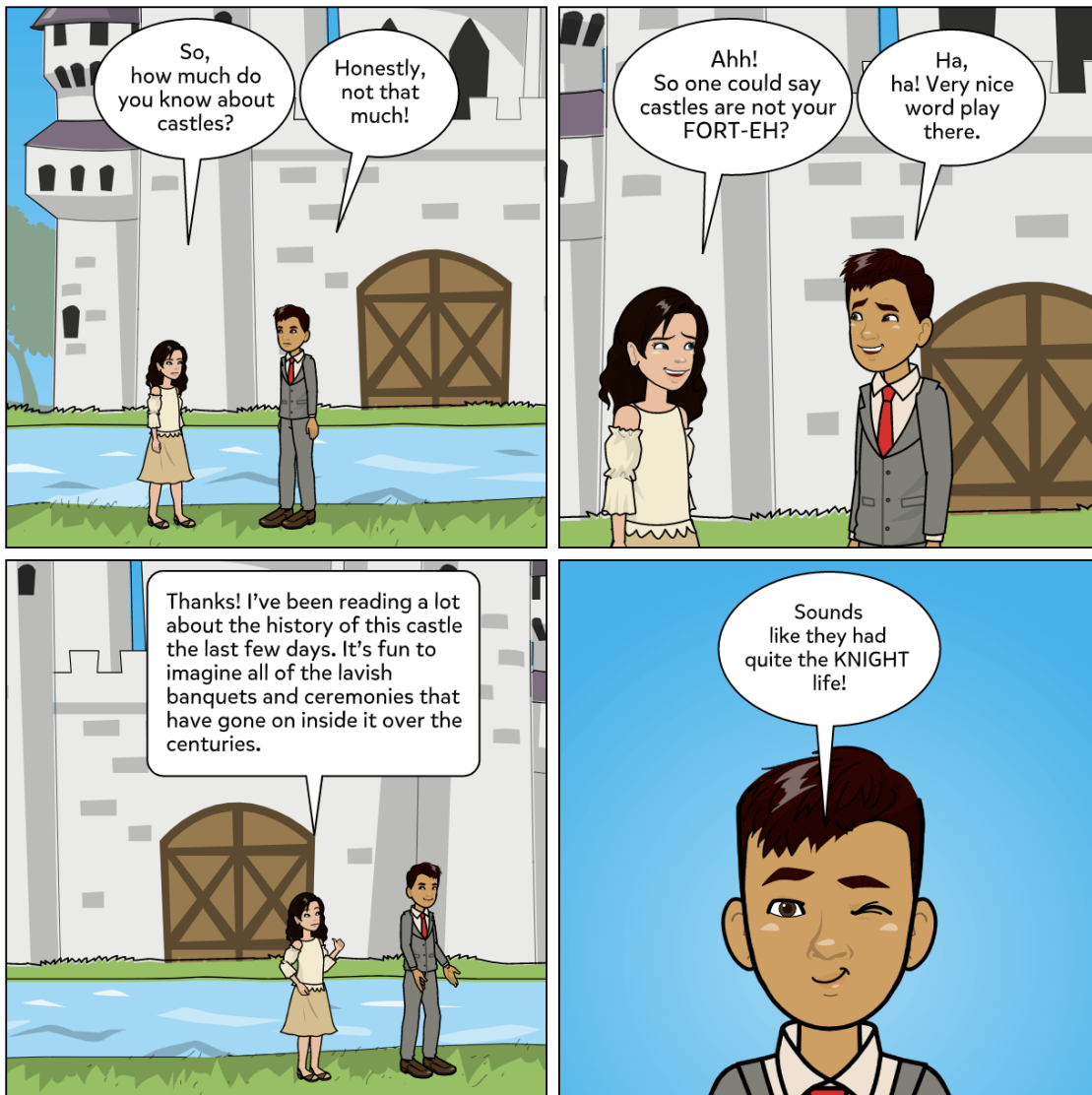
By Jason S. McIntosh, Ph.D.

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION FOR CURIOUS KIDS

Issue #13 (September 23, 2020)

CAUTION: Participation may lead to a lack of boredom and a tired brain!

FEATURED TOPIC THIS WEEK:  
**Castles: Old & New**





# Castles: Old & New

## Did You Know?

There is an old saying that says, “A man’s home is his castle”. But, what really is the definition of a castle? The Meriam Webster dictionary defines a castle as *a large, fortified building or imposing house used as a retreat that is safe against invasion*. This would mean the old notion of castles only being big stone buildings built in the medieval times by Kings, Queens, and other powerful people might not be completely correct.

(Click here to read about the history of castles -> [LINK](#)).

What do you think? How do you define a castle?

## Help Wanted

A person who designs buildings (including castles) is called an *architect*.

### *Requirements*

- Hold at least a Bachelor’s Degree in Architecture
- Participate in an internship
- Earn an architecture license by passing an exam

### *Necessary Skills*

- Ability to visualize things and be creative
- Communicate well with others
- Patience and attention to details

### *Daily Tasks*

- Draw plans
- Meet with clients
- Visit construction sites

## Bio-Profile



**George Vanderbilt II** built the largest castle in America. It is known as the Biltmore Estate and is located in Asheville, North Carolina. Work on the 175,000 square foot castle began in 1898. You can learn more about the history of this home by clicking the word ‘link’ →

[LINK](#)

## Mystery Picture of the Week

What is the name of this unusual castle found in Arizona?  
After doing your research, turn your paper upside down to check your answer.



This castle is called *Mystery Castle* and was built by one man by himself in the 1930’s. It is located in the foothills of South Mountain Park in Phoenix. You can find out more by going to [www.mymysterycastle.com](http://www.mymysterycastle.com)

## Virtual Field Trip

Take a Tour of Windsor Castle in England:

<https://www.royal.uk/virtual-tours-windsor-castle>

## Would You Rather

Would you rather be the sand castle or the wave?



What do you think the featured topic should be next week? Email your teacher with your thoughts.

## Project-Based Bonanza

Choose one or more of the projects below to complete this week.

### **CHOICE A**

Draw or use materials you have at home to build a model of a castle you would like to build for yourself. Take a picture of it and share it with your teacher.



### **CHOICE B**

Compare and contrast a castle to one or more of the structures listed below:

- Yurt (Central Asia)
- Hogan (Navajo/Dine)
- Turf Houses (Iceland)
- Adobe House (Mexico)
- Izba (Russia)
- Courtyard House (Syria)
- Rondavel (Botswana)
- Gunyah (Australia)
- Mapuche (Chile)
- Etc.

### **CHOICE C**

Take the drawing you made from *Choice A* and add measurements to each room (ex. The Great Hall is 200 ft. by 75 ft.). Next, calculate the square footage of your entire castle. Remember, you can calculate the square footage for a square or rectangular room like so:

$$L(\text{length}) \times W(\text{width}).$$

How would you calculate the square footage of a round turret?

## Story Starters

Many fairy tales and fables, as well as modern stories for children and young adults, feature a castle prominently in the plot. Just think about stories like Cinderella, King Midas, or even Harry Potter as examples. Write your own story that takes place within the walls of a castle **of the future**. Include many details so that the reader can envision how castles built 50 or 100 years from now are different from today's.



## Digging Into Depth and Complexity

In past issues, we have learned about the Kaplan Depth and Complexity Model icons *unanswered questions, ethics, change over time, rules, trends, multiple perspectives, patterns, details, language of the disciplines, and big ideas*. Another important icon is **across the disciplines**.



A discipline is an area of study such as math, science, social studies, or ELA. When you see this icon, your teacher wants you to think about how the topic you are learning about connects to different subject areas. Let us use Windsor Castle as an example. We could explore the history of the castle and who lived there –OR– the mathematical principles that keep its large ceilings from collapsing in on itself –OR– read a poem written in the 1800's about someone's experience seeing the castle for the first time –OR– study a painting of the castle and how to replicate it, etc.

Now it is your turn! Think about something you have been studying in class. Brainstorm all the connections you make to other disciplines and topics you have been learning in school!

## Brain Teaser of the Week

With a halo of water and  
a tongue of wood, stone  
as skin long I stood.  
What am I?