

The Wonderstruck... Castles Workshop

What happens?

Pupils work in teams of three to build stone towers and demolish them with onagers and or trebuchets.

We can also include some simple make and take catapults to take home.

Who's it for?

KS1 & 2

How many can take part?

We generally run this workshop with a maximum of 60 participants.

Workshop requirements

To run the workshop we need a large space for building and knocking down towers - the school hall or a sports hall are usually the best places. We will need a fairly large outdoor space for demonstrating the trebuchet (we can adjust the range to suit most playgrounds/fields). We will need a large grass field for firing Minnie the Mortar.



WONDERSTRUCK
SCIENCE ON FIRE



‘A great cross-curricular workshop. Seeing Minnie the Mortar fired was a highlight’

KS2 Teacher

Workshop format

The session starts with a brief introduction to castles. As a group we think about what the purpose of castles was, who lived in them and when they were used.

Children work in small teams to construct their own castle tower from stone blocks and then comes the really fun part - each team is given a model onager catapult (some older children may be able to use model trebuchet catapults) and they are tasked with demolishing their tower by bombarding it with steel balls.

We also include demonstrations with a larger trebuchet and our very own black powder mortar.

The science

The STEM topics covered in this workshop are:

- Forces
- Levers
- Energy
- Chemical reactions

We can differentiate content according to age/ability of participants.

Duration

We can run the workshop with up to 60 children and it lasts about 2 to 3 hours depending on the number of participants.

‘I liked it when Peter blew up the castle.’

I enjoyed building our own tower and trying to knock it down with a catapult.’

KS1 Pupil



www.wonderstruck.co.uk

T: 0845 5193 325

E: enquiries@wonderstruck.co.uk

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Wonderstruck Ltd. Brandize Hill Farm, Petrockstowe, Devon. EX20 3HW.
Registered in England 657 7857 | VAT Registration Number 883 3214 22