



Activity 7. Be a Reporter for the Day

Use a video recorder or your phone and make a live report from the Castle. It could be a report on your visit for friends or other family members. You could be a reporter describing events as they happen back in history.

As a family, post it on your facebook, YouTube or email it to the castle website (see back of leaflet)..



Activity 8. Make Up a Poem

While you visit, or after you get home, you and the family might like to make up some poems about your visit to the castle. They can describe your visit or be imaginative. See our website for some poems about the castle.

Castle

*Thick walls battered by waves and wind
Protecting all, whoever within
Torches breaking the darkness of night
Music fills the air with delight
Hunters surround the slaughtered beast -
Delicious smells of the roasted feast
The Royal Court fills the room with cheers
Of the castle here for six hundred years.*

Nikola Gibson & Beth Currie

About Portencross Castle

Portencross has been inhabited for thousands of years. An archaeological dig found evidence of an Iron Age settlement on Auldhill, just behind Portencross Castle. The Iron Age lasted from around 800 BC to 100 BC.



Portencross Castle was constructed in three phases starting in 1360. It was the home of a branch of the Boyds. The lands around Portencross were given to the Boyds of Kilmarnock by King Robert I as reward for their help at the Battle of Bannockburn. A number of Royal Charters were signed at the castle and it had close links with King Robert II during that period.

After the 1600s, it was occupied by local fishermen. The roof was destroyed in a gale in January 1739. By the 20th century, the Adams of Auchenames owned the castle. It became a scheduled ancient monument in 1955.

Friends of Portencross Castle

This leaflet was produced by Friends of Portencross Castle (FOPC).

FOPC is a recognised Scottish Charity (No. SC028181) dedicated to conserving the castle and providing access to the building.

In 2007 FOPC was awarded grant support from The Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland and the Architectural Heritage Fund. With additional support from local charities, North Ayrshire Council and many individuals, FOPC was able to raise just over £1 million pounds for the costs of the project.

Grant support does not include maintenance. As a result FOPC has to raise costs for staff, maintenance, education materials, website and overheads. We will remain open with the help of donations and by having events and functions at the castle

Please donate if you can. You can become a Guardian of Portencross Castle. Find out more from our web site www.portencrosscastle.org.uk or pick up details at the castle during opening hours.

Credits: Portencross from Auldhill (Photograph by Alan Hodgkinson. Courtesy of West Kilbride Civic Society); The Castle by Sharon McBride and Seaside Centaury by Kerry Nimmo (From a joint FOPC and West Kilbride PS family learning project); Portencross (Painting by William Young, 1886. Courtesy of East Ayrshire Council).



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FAMILY LEARNING ACTIVITIES AT PORTENCROSS CASTLE



www.portencrosscastle.org.uk

Activity 1. Taking Photographs

Photograph the family as they get ready to visit the castle. Everyone can join in as a photographer. Take photographs of the journey there. Photograph interesting things you see on the way.

And take plenty of pictures when you arrive – even of your picnic, if you have one. Do the same on the journey home, including arriving home and unpacking after the trip.

Get everyone to choose their favourite picture that tells part of your visit to the castle. You can then:

- Upload the pictures to your favourite website.
- Print your favourites and ask all the family to help to make a picture poster. You can even have it framed!



Activity 3. Make a Comic Strip

Take your pictures and make a comic strip. You can find free software available on the internet to help – www.toondoo.com is one example.

Activity 4. Make Up a Story

While you visit, or after you get home, you and the family can make up some poems about your visit to the castle. They can describe your visit, or be made up. You might tell the story of 'What the Castle Cat Saw' or 'The Kitchen Boy's Story'.

Activity 5. Drawing or Painting

Get up close to the castle and do a drawing of one of the stone blocks that make up the castle. You can use colour felt tips, or a pencil. Or some chalk on paper. Go further away and draw the castle.

Maybe you always wanted to be an artist! Maybe you really want to paint or to encourage your kids to paint. Join in together – it's fun. Paint a scene of the castle on different days, or at different times of the day. You choose when you think the light is interesting.

Remember you can take a picture of your finished work and send it to us. See our web address on the back of this leaflet.



Activity 2. Make a Picture Story

Using the photographs you have taken, print them and stick them onto a poster in the order of your trip. You can use the back of an old piece of wallpaper (if it is not pasted). Draw speech bubbles and ask the family to make up the words that will go in the speech bubbles.



Activity 6. Make Your Own Castle

Look at the plans and drawings on our website. Build your own castle from things like old bits. Take a picture and send it to us.