

Hearst Castle Project Kit

Congratulations! You're going to Hearst Castle! Use these project ideas to enrich your educational experience. Read through them before you go to make sure you understand the terms and concepts, and to help you determine if you want to expand upon any of them. **You'll find fun facts and printable worksheets at the end of this packet.**

a- elementary level activity b- middle school level activity c- high school level activity

Language Arts

Hearst Castle inspires the imagination. What would it have been like to live there? Or even just visit as a guest of the house? What sort of events happened in the house? Can you imagine any controversy, or excitement, or maybe just a peaceful stroll on a quiet day? Use your surroundings and your imagination to create a piece of fictional writing.

- a. Draw a storybook or write a short story with illustrations inspired by Hearst Castle.
- b. Write a short story inspired by your visit to Hearst Castle, including a main character and the main elements of a story (setting, plot, conflict, and resolution).
- c. Choose between writing a fictional first-person narrative or a screenplay inspired by your visit to Hearst Castle.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil

Submission: A copy of your writings/drawing, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Applied Math

The engineering and design of Hearst Castle are absolutely stunning. Everywhere you look there is visual math. Notice the geometry in the designs, the accuracy of the engineering, and all the application of math all around you. Every artisan who worked on the estate had to be proficient in math. Find applications for mathematical thinking and calculation all around you.

- a. Go on a shape hunt. Draw and label the shapes you find. Also, draw a representation of at least two patterns you find.
- b. Look closer at one aspect of the castle. It can be anything: room design, general layout, a tapestry, a bookcase, etc. Detail the math it would take to create it. Try to identify at least one part of your chosen area which would require math or skill beyond your current understanding. What could you do to learn that skill?
- c. Math is everywhere. Imagine you are one of the artisans working at the castle. Describe your project and what you would need to know and do to complete it. Choose at least one application of math that you see, estimate measurements, and use calculations to show how the artisan designed and created that element.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil, calculator or smartphone (optional)

Submission: Your calculations, estimations, and conclusions, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Science

Art mirrors the beauty of science, and this can be seen all throughout the Castle. Take a closer look at the tapestries, rugs, carvings, sculptures, paintings, and designs. What representations of science can you find? Can you see their reverence for astronomy, anatomy, biology, physics, etc. in their work?

- a. Inspired by a science-related work of art at the castle, design and draw/build your own art. Make sure to include aspects of science and aesthetics in your piece. If you could display your piece anywhere in the castle, where would you display it? Why?
- b. Draw a picture of one of the pieces of art you found which depicts science. What is it showing? Why do you think the artist chose to represent that particular aspect of science through their artwork?
- c. Identify a representation of science at the castle. Describe what is being represented. Try to find and describe differences in what they understood about science when the piece was created and what we know now? How does this piece and its science add to the beauty and wonder of the castle.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil

Submission: A copy of your drawings, diagrams, or designs, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Social Studies

Hearst Castle has a rich and vibrant history! Visit hearstcastle.org/history-behind-hearst-castle/ and learn more about the castle's history. When was it built? How long did it take to build? Who originally owned it and why did he build it? How has it been used over the years? Has anything interesting happened here?

- a. Write or draw about the beginnings of Hearst Castle and what it might have looked like during its building phase.
- b. Choose one person who was influential to the history of Hearst Castle and detail who they were and their importance to the castle.
- c. Choose one area of the castle to study. Detail its significance and its history, including individual aspects of its design and art.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil, smartphone (optional)

Submission: A copy of your writings/drawings, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

FUN FACTS

- William Hearst and Julia Morgan worked for 28 years on the castle, spending \$6.5 million on the building and \$3.5 million on fantastic art from all over the world to fill the rooms.
- The outside, with the palm trees and the views of the water, are all California. But the interior rooms are so strikingly similar to European castles that the set designers for Harry Potter used Hearst's dining hall as inspiration for the one at Hogwarts.
- Hearst Castle featured one of the world's largest private zoo. It featured grizzly bears, lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars, cougars, chimpanzees, orangutans, zebras, monkeys, and an elephant. There are still cows, goats, and zebras living on the property.
- Hearst had 100 different telephones placed around the premises so he was never out of touch. He even had one installed behind a tree out on the trail so he could get game scores and news when he was out horseback riding!
- In addition to his successful business endeavors, Mr. Hearst amassed a vast and impressive art collection that included classical paintings, tapestries, religious textiles, oriental rugs, antiquities, sculptures, silver, furniture and antique ceilings. Much of this collection found its home at Hearst Castle.
- Hearst's collections include 4th century Roman sarcophagi and 3rd century mosaics. Can you find some of them?

Hearst Castle

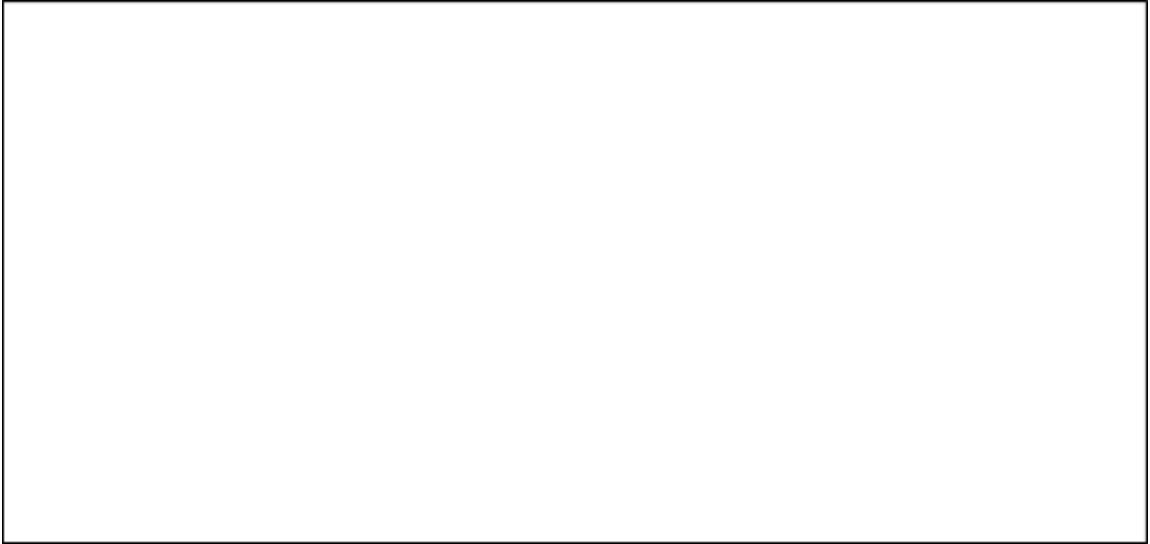
1. Draw a picture of your favorite piece of art at the castle.



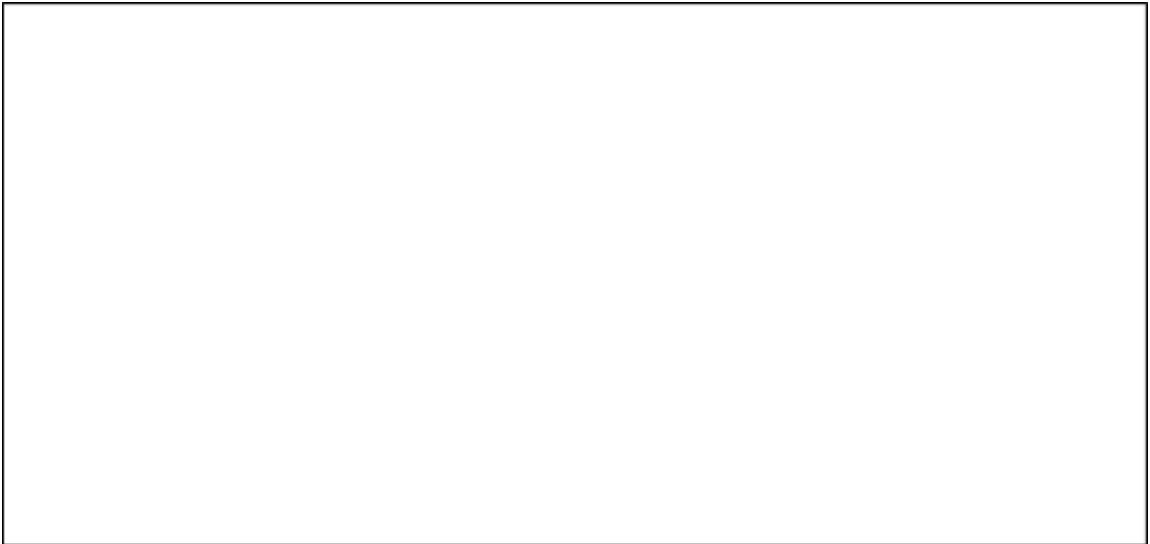
2. Describe your favorite art and why you love it.

3. What is one thing you learned about Mr. Hearst?

4. Draw or describe a sculpture or statue you saw.



5. Describe or draw a fountain or other water feature you saw.



6. What is the oldest thing at Hearst Castle and how old is it?

BONUS:

Hearst Castle Scavenger Hunt!

- Something with real gold _____
- Something that you can eat on _____
- Something that hangs _____
- Something over 500 years old _____
- Something smaller than your hand _____
- Something larger than your car _____
- Something from the 1800s _____
- Something that holds water _____
- Something with triangles _____
- Something made out of wood _____
- Something made out of glass _____

