

Athlumney Castle Navan Education Centre Trail



Equipment needed:
Clipboard, paper, pencil, worksheet

Activity 1

Stand outside and look at the castle buildings. **On a piece of paper sketch what you see at the front.**

General Information

Athlumney (from Áth Luimneach, the ford of the bare spot of land) was seen as a place of importance by the Normans when they arrived in Ireland in 1169. They initially built a motte and bailey overlooking the Boyne and then, in the 1400's, The Lord of Athlumney built a castle (the part on the right). Later in the 1600's, the Dowdall family added on the Tudor style Manor house to the left. At one stage the estate was made up of the castle, church, several residences, a flour and a flax mill and 2453 acres of land. There are two theories as to why the castle was destroyed when it's owners fled— that it would be of no use to William of Orange after the Battle of the Boyne or Oliver Cromwell after the sacking of Drogheda during the Plantations.

Activity 2

The castle was built in two parts. **Can you see them both? Which part do you think is the oldest and give 3 reasons why?**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

How many windows can you see at the front of the castle ?
Answer _____

Activity 3



Enter the castle building and turn left
What was this room used for ?

How many floors were in this building?

What are the openings at the sides of the big fireplace for ?

What was cooked here?

Estimate the height of the chimney

Answer _____

Activity 4

Cross the main room, walk under the two archways and stop
Find evidence that there was a roof on this building.

Why are the windows on the wall on your right so small ?

Activity 5

Curriculum Links

Science - Science and the Environment, Materials
Geography - Human Environments
History - Local Studies, The Normans
Maths- Measures
English - Competence And Confidence Using Language
Visual Arts -Drawing

Fun Fact



The hole above this door was used to pour hot oil on enemies!

Why do you think the castle is kept locked ?

