The pack is extremely good value for money, and is worth robbing the library funds not just because it contains good teaching materials, but also because it increases one’s own learning curve.

Liz Hollinshead
Regional Education Officer Midlands
English Heritage

Shipwrecks: learning through underwater archaeology
National Maritime Museum, 1993
£9.99 or £12.63 by post
Available from the National Maritime Museum Bookshop, Greenwich, London SE10 9NF

This is a cross-curricular resource for teachers focusing on science, technology and geography. It consists of a 16-page full colour booklet, an attractive colour wall chart, four activity sheets and a video. It is aimed at teachers of the KS2 age range, but most of it could be easily adapted for use by older pupils.

The booklet has an interesting well-written text, illustrated by photographs, diagrams and line drawings, and is divided into sections neatly designed to offer ideas for different curriculum areas. For example, the first chapter on how ships are wrecked concentrates on relevance to the geography curriculum, looking at some of the common causes, like sandbanks or rocky coasts. It shows how these were originally formed and why they are a danger, quoting the appropriate Arraignment Targets and level. Other chapters cover the changes that take place to materials in the sea (science); how wrecks are investigated (technology); how finds are recorded (maths); the use of evidence in establishing our knowledge of life at sea (history), and lastly accounts of shipwrecks that can be used to stimulate work in English. All the chapters are well illustrated with case studies, which keep us in touch with the human dimension.

The video is 27 minutes long and is riveting to watch, with sections of archive film homing in on problems of underwater archaeology, from the most basic, like how breathing is facilitated, to less obvious ones like raising heavy cannon to the surface.

Now Then Digging Up the Past
Francis Pryor
Barford, 1993
ISBN 0-7134-7290-1
£12.99

Written to accompany Now Then, the BBC TV series, Digging Up the Past provides the reader with a basic introduction to archaeology. The book is arranged chronologically, covering the palaeolithic to the post-medieval periods, each period discussed and illustrated by a key site or sites in Britain. Each section gives a wealth of information about the site, the period, and architecture in general. Inset within the text are brief descriptions of significant archaeological terms and scientific techniques - discovery, dating, etc. Most of the sites discussed can be visited, and the authors provide details at the end of the book. In general, the level of the text is straightforward (sometimes rather simplistic); some concepts, however, are complex and the terminology is occasionally inconsistent.

Visually, the book is very attractive, containing photographs of sites and finds from the series as well as several archaeologically-based reconstructions which depart from the tradition of the club-wielding prehistoric man! A valuable addition to any school library.

Caroline Overy
The Welcome Institute for the History of Medicine

Be a Church Detective: A Young Person’s Guide to Old Churches
Clive Hewin
Cartoons by Taffy Davies
National Society and Church House Publishing, 1992
ISBN 0-7515-4790-0
£4.95

‘Once started on your career as a church detective, you’ll end up with a wealth of knowledge that you could never have learned at school. You might even succeed in getting your parents hooked, if they’re not church crawlers already. And they could prove useful when you need transporting to other churches. After all, every Sherlock Holmes needs a Watson!’

I do like books for children where the author addresses the readers directly. The whole book is set in a way which is delightful and ready to read and make you want to get on to the next chapter. Clive Hewin encourages the reader to look at buildings in the right way - look at the outside first, for example. The cartoons and the clear-cut drawings make the book fun and useful. The book also lives up to its title (not all books do) - it is about detecting clues in church buildings.

The book is sensibly divided into sections, such as ‘Ceilings and Roofs’ and ‘Fonts, Rood, Cells and Mice’. In each section there are Fact Boxes which are mostly used to list the best, or most interesting, examples of building types, such as hammerbeam roofs, or features, such as misericords. But is this a book for the school library? Yes, it’s so full of useful information that it will provide an excellent resource for pupils doing project work at Key Stages 2 and 3.

Mike Corbishley
Head of Education
English Heritage

A summary

Streetworks

A summary of the changes in the 1850s. Looks at the original
streetwise

A summary of the changes in the 1850s. Looks at the
original
streetwise

A summary of the changes in the 1850s. Looks at the
original
streetwise

A summary of the changes in the 1850s. Looks at the
original
streetwise

Beware of the Visual Image

So called reconstruction drawings and historic prints and engravings are often used to illustrate what particular place was like in the past. However, such illustrations are full of dangers for those who treat them as faithful mirrors on the past.

Reconstruction drawings are intended to help us begin understanding what life in the past may have been like. Unfortunately, the very name by which they are generally known is extremely misleading. No one can 'reconstruct' the past however much they try or however much they rely on the most up-to-date archaeological or historical information. Such illustrations are impressions of what the building or site may have been like - impressions that are based more and more on guess work the further back into the past you go. You should always ask pupils to look critically at such artist's illustrations, checking for anachronisms, unjustifiable preconceptions, potentially misleading artistic techniques, or illustrations that do not seem to match with the real evidence. In much the same way historic prints or engravings must always be treated with caution - does a print illustrate what was really there or rather some idealised view of what the artist (or the person who commissioned the artist) thought should be there?

A comparison between a photograph of the site (or better still, the site itself) and an historic illustration can identify a range of differences. Are these differences the result of building alterations after the artist worked, or mistakes by the artist, or deliberate choice by the artist to depict a different 'reality'? Just how safe is it to rely on artist's illustrations and historic illustrations to understand the past?

Peter Stone
Regional Education Officer South West
English Heritage

Rosemary Cooper
Museum Schools Officer
Cornwall Castle Museum, Isle of Wight

Pyramidal Castles

A view of Pendennis by the Buck Brothers, 1764. The print shows a mast and other features that are not present today. How many were really there and how many were the BUCKS' deliberate misrepresentations?

Please show this illustration drawn in the 1960s by the artist Alan Searle with the Buck print set and modern aerial photographs. What impression does the dark overcast weather give to someone looking at the picture?

All you need to know about castles....

We have produced a wide range of teaching resources to give you the perfect start in any study of castles, including books, videos and posters. Some examples are shown on this page and you will find full details in the 1994 Resources catalogue in the centre pages of this issue of Remnants.

Wherever you live there is bound to be a castle within travelling distance. By taking your pupils on a visit you can cover several curriculum subjects, not only to study Medieval Realms in history but also geography, science, technology and English, amongst others.

What more concrete introduction to the power politics of a seemingly remote period can there be for pupils than to see for themselves the defences of a stronghold built to protect the territory of a high-ranking baron? Or to stand in a great hall and imagine the scene where the same lord administered law and order to a (probably reluctant) audience?

Free Educational visits

There are over 100 castles or fortified sites managed by English Heritage to which educational groups can make free visits, ranging from northern border defences to the Key of England, Dover Castle in Kent and to Pendennis Castle in far flung Cornwall. Our Free Educational Visits booklet tells you all you need to know. For a free copy fill in the coupon on the back page.

Using Castles £5.95

This teacher's guide suggests educational strategies for studying medieval castles. It is packed with practical suggestions for work on site and in the classroom. It includes case studies of how castles worked; how to use pictorial and documentary sources; a bibliography and list of useful resources.

Looking at Castles Poster Pack £3.95

This is a new pack of six A3-size posters with lively drawings and descriptive text which bring to life aspects of medieval castles such as: Building a castle; The Keep; Attacking a Castle; Defending a Castle; Living in a Castle and Looking at Castles including artists' impressions showing different stages in the development from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries.

Aerial view posters £2.50

We have also eight aerial colour view posters of castles and forts, each with notes for teachers on the back.

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We have produced teacher's handbooks for twenty castles which are intended to help teachers plan site visits. They combine historical background with possible study approaches, documentary sources, photocopiable activity sheets for classroom and on-site work and practical information about the sites.

Discovery Packs £2.50

Written primarily for adults visiting sites with children, these packs are also useful resources for teachers. Each contains two activity cards encouraging observational skills on site and a 'walk about' with practical things to do and make back in the classroom.

Videos £11.95

Our videos introduce the study of sites through investigative approaches. They can be linked to visits to individual sites or used as part of a general study of castles. There are a dozen videos which feature castles, all available on free loan to teachers. These include Learning from the Past an introductory video, Looking at Castle, and others such as our Teaching on Site videos which include visits to castles relating specifically to National Curriculum Programmes of Study in history, geography, maths, science, technology, art, music and English.
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A pattern can be made up of the same shapes over and over again, like this.

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Audley End House and Park is a palatial Jacobean country mansion set in magnificent parklands landscaped by Capability Brown. It is located 1m W of Saffron Walden on B1363. OS map 154, ref TL 52388. Boscobel Castle in Shropshire is a seventeenth-century hunting lodge, where the fugitive King Charles II hid from Cromwell's troops after the Battle of Worcester in 1651. It is 8m NW of Wolverhampton on an unclassified road between A41 and A5. OS map 127, ref SJ 837083. For details of opening hours and free educational visits to any of these sites tel 0604-703020. A teacher's guide to Using Historic Houses, £5.95 and A teacher's handbook to Audley End, £5.95 are both available from English Heritage.