



# KING JOHN'S CASTLE

Bringing our history to life  
In the Heart of Limerick City



# King John's Castle Junior Cycle History Sample Projects



## Strand One – The History of Ireland

### The Nature of History

**1.1** Develop a sense of historical empathy by viewing people, issues and events encounters in their study of the past in their historical context.

*How did people live in King Johns Castle from the 13th century onwards. The site itself dates back to the Viking settlers and modern houses occupied by a former Barracks and council houses until the late 1980's. Investigate the site and discover over 1000 years of habitation.*

**1.3** Appreciate their cultural inheritance through recognising historically significant places and buildings and discussing why historical personalities, events and issues are commemorated.

*Potential personalities associated with King John's Castle include King John and Patrick Sarsfield. Potential events include the Sieges of 1642 and 1690/1691, the subsequent broken treaty of Limerick and its relation to the Battle of the Boyne and the Flight of the Wild Geese.*

**1.4** Demonstrate awareness of historical concepts, such as source and evidence, fact and opinion, viewpoint and objectivity, cause and consequence, change and continuity, time and space.

*King John's Castle has been the site of many sieges and battles. What is the evidence of this on the ground? How did these affect the castle and the surrounding city? Did anyone benefit from these sieges? How has the function of the castle change since it was first built?*

### Working with evidence

**1.5** Investigate the job of the historian, including how s/he finds and uses evidence to from historical judgements which may be revised and reinterpreted in the light of new evidence.

*There are many sources of evidence at the Castle itself. Hear the stories from the masons about building the castle, the soldiers involved in one of its sieges or investigate the pre castle ruins under the courtyard.*

**1.6** Debate the usefulness and limitations of different types of primary and secondary sources of historical evidence, such as written, visual, aural, oral and tactile evidence; and appreciate the contribution of archaeology and new technology to historical enquiry.

*How can the interpretive centre, new archaeological discoveries and visitors centre improve your knowledge on the history of the castle?*

**1.7** Develop historical judgements based on evidence about personalities, issues and events in the past, showing awareness of historical significance.

*The Siege of Limerick 1690/ 1691. The Williamites and the Jacobites, what were the events leading up to this siege and who were the key characters involved? What is the broader Irish significance of this event.*

**1.8** Investigate a repository of historical evidence such as a museum, library, heritage centre, digital or other archive exhibition

*The interpretive centre at the castle and archaeological exhibition in the visitors centre provide ample historical evidence to be investigated.*

### Acquiring the Big Picture

**1.9** Demonstrate awareness of the significance of the history of Ireland and of Europe and the wider world across various dimensions, including political, social, economic, religious, cultural and scientific dimensions.

*The Viking History to the Normans to the British King John giving the funds for the castle. This site is immersed in European history.*

**1.10** Demonstrate chronological awareness by creating and maintaining timelines to locate personalities, issues and events in their appropriate historical eras.

- For example – 1210 Castle is completed.
- 1642 Siege and undermining
- 1691 Siege of Limerick
- 1922 Castle Barracks Destroyed in Civil War
- 1990 Archaeological excavations begin



## Strand Two – The Nature of History

### Recognising Key Change

**2.1** Recognise a pattern of settlement and plantation influenced identity on the island of Ireland, referring to one example of a pattern of settlement, such as the growth of towns, and one plantation.

*How did the settlement of Vikings, Normans and building of the Castle influence the development of Limerick City.*

**2.3** Explore how the physical force tradition impacted on Irish politics, with particular reference to a pre-twentieth century example of a rebellion.

*The Siege of Limerick 1690/1691, The Flight of the Wild Geese and the Broken Treaty of Limerick*

### Applying Historical Thinking

**2.13** Analyse the evolution and development of Ireland's links with Europe.

*Investigate the historical links with Europe through the Vikings, Normans and British nobles.*



## Strand Three - This History of Europe and the Wider World

### Recognising Key Changes

**3.1** Investigate the lives of people in one ancient or medieval civilisation of their choosing, explaining how the actions and/or achievements of that civilisation contributed to the history of Europe and/or the wider world.

*Using King John's Castle as an example of a medieval Castle.*

### Exploring People Culture and Ideas

**3.6** Explore life and death in medieval times.

*Applying Historical Thinking*

**3.14** Illustrate patterns of change across different time periods in a chosen theme relating to life and society (such as Crime and Punishment, Food and Drink, work and leisure, fashion and appearance, health and medicine)

