Cadw

History Explorers

Castell Conwy

Quest: Capture the Castle



Cadw MINECRAFT EDUCATION Hwb®

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Table of Contents

Learning Activity Support Guide: Quest Six – Castle Capture 2

Learning Objectives: 2

Areas of Learning and Experience: 2

Extension Areas of Learning and Experience: 2

Cross-curricular skills: 2

Extension Cross-curricular skills: 3

Integral Skills: 3

Guiding Ideas / Possible questions to ask: 3

Learning Activity Overview: 4

Learning Activity Introduction: 5

National Identity and Independence 5

Leadership and Charisma 5

Justice and Fairness 5

The Role of Myths and Legends 5

The Cost of Rebellion 6

Story Time: 7

Group Research 7

Story Planning and Storyboarding 7

Writing and Sharing Stories 7

Plenary / Reflection: 8

Extension: 8

Key Vocabulary: 9

Resources / Supporting Files: 9

Learning Activity Support Guide: Quest Six – Castle Capture

Learning Objectives:

Learners will write a creative story based on the historical event of the Welsh Revolt, specifically the attempt to take Conwy Castle, from various perspectives. This will help them understand the complexities of history and develop empathy for different viewpoints.

Areas of Learning and Experience:

- **Humanities:**
  - Enquiry, exploration and investigation inspire curiosity about the world, its past, present and future.
  - Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs.
  - Informed, self-aware citizens engage with the challenges and opportunities that face humanity and are able to take considered and ethical action.
- **Language, Literacy and Communication**
  - Languages connect us.
  - Expressing ourselves through languages is key to communication.
  - Literature fires imagination and inspires creativity.

Extension Areas of Learning and Experience:

- **Expressive Arts**
  -Exploring the expressive arts is essential to developing artistic skills and knowledge and it enables learners to become curious and creative individuals.
  - Creating combines skills and knowledge, drawing on the senses, inspiration and imagination.
- **Language, Literacy and Communication**
  - Expressing ourselves through languages is key to communication.
  - Literature fires imagination and inspires creativity.

Cross-curricular skills:

- **Literacy Framework**
  -Speaking: Clarity and vocabulary, purpose, collaborative talk and questioning
  -Reading: Understanding, response and analysis
  -Writing: Vocabulary, spelling, grammar, connectives and syntax, punctuation, planning and organising for different purposes, audiences and context, proofreading, editing and Improving

Extension Cross-curricular skills:

- **Literacy Framework**
  -Speaking: Clarity and vocabulary
- **DCF**
  -Interacting and collaborating: Communication, collaboration and storing and sharing.
  -Producing: Sourcing, searching and planning digital content, creating digital content, evaluating and improving digital content

Integral Skills:

- Planning and organising
- Critical thinking and problem-solving
- Creativity and innovation
- Personal effectiveness

Guiding Ideas / Possible questions to ask:

What does national identity mean?
What can you tell me about Owain Glyndŵr?
What have you learnt about leadership, identity, justice and resilience?
When planning a story, which elements will you need to consider?
Has writing from different perspectives changed your view of the historical event?
Which factors influence the way a story is told?

Learning Activity Overview:

This quest is focused on exploring the nuanced nature of historical narratives. Throughout history, stories have been crafted by those who lived them, and these narratives can vary greatly depending on the storyteller's perspective.

In this quest, learners will analyse a specific historical story to determine whose viewpoint it represents. Learners should be encouraged to consider the following questions: Who is the author? What might their background or experiences tell us about their perspective? How do these factors influence the way the story is told?

As learners dive into this exploration, they will develop an appreciation for the complexity of history. They will learn that understanding historical events requires considering multiple viewpoints, each of which can provide valuable insights and interpretations.

Learners will be introduced to the story of Owain Glyndŵr via the first video linked from the Quest NPC. An actor playing Owain Glyndwr's part retells the account. This video is approximately 15 minutes long, so you may want to watch it as a whole class.

Link to video Owain Glyndwr, which is embedded in the Cadw Cymru Minecraft World 14mins

Owain Glyndwr led the Welsh Revolt against English rule over Wales. This revolt was successful on many occasions but did not lead to the Welsh reclaiming independence! From the Welsh perspective, one of the successes was capturing Conwy Castle.

The story of this success is captured in the written format within a 'Signed Book' in a chest in the Prison Tower. Whose version of the story is this?

In the second video, linked from the NPC, learners are encouraged to consider how history is like a giant puzzle! It's made up of stories, different points of view, and the things people write down. They need to think about where the information comes from.

Link to video Castle Capture, which is embedded in the Cadw Cymru Minecraft World

By the end of this quest, learners will have a greater awareness of how historical stories are not just facts but are also shaped by the perspectives of those who recount them.

Learning Activity Introduction:



Prison Tower Quest NPC is located in the Prison Tower.

"Conwy Castle was seized by the Welsh on April 1, 1401, during the early stages of the Glyndŵr Rising, also known as the Welsh Revolt, a significant revolt led by Owain Glyndŵr against English rule. The seizure of the castle was a symbolic and strategic victory for the Welsh rebels.

Click on the buttons to learn more!"

After learners have watched the video retelling the story of Owain Glyndŵr and the Welsh Revolt, engage them in a discussion about this fascinating figure in Welsh history, especially around themes of identity, nationalism, leadership, and resilience. Here are some key discussion points (adjust according to age, aptitude and ability of your learners):

National Identity and Independence

- **Question:** Why did Owain Glyndwr feel so strongly about Welsh independence from England?
- **Discussion Point:** Glyndwr's rebellion was fuelled by a sense of Welsh identity and a desire for self-determination. Explore with learners what national identity means and why some groups feel strongly about independence.
- **Further Discussion:** Are there parallels in modern movements for autonomy or independence worldwide?

Leadership and Charisma

- **Question:** What qualities made Glyndwr an effective leader?
- **Discussion Point:** Discuss how Owain Glyndwr was able to unite various Welsh factions and even gain the support of some English allies. What does this tell us about effective leadership?
- **Further Discussion:** Are there other historical or modern leaders who succeeded because of their charisma or vision?

Justice and Fairness

- **Question:** How did Owain Glyndwr's sense of justice influence his actions?
- **Discussion Point:** Glyndwr believed the Welsh people were mistreated under English rule. Explore what justice meant to Glyndwr and whether his actions were justified or not.
- **Further Discussion:** Compare Glyndwr's motives with those of other historical figures who fought for justice or equality.

The Role of Myths and Legends

- **Question:** How does the myth of Owain Glyndwr shape Welsh culture today?

- **Discussion Point:** Owain Glyndwr has become legendary in Welsh history. Discuss how legends are formed and why they are essential for national pride.
- **Further Discussion:** How do myths and stories from history impact people's views on identity and pride today?

The Cost of Rebellion

- **Question:** Was the rebellion worth the cost for Glyndwr and his followers?
- **Discussion Point:** Learners could consider the sacrifices made and whether the temporary success of Glyndwr's uprising was ultimately worth it for the Welsh people.
- **Further Discussion:** Can we think of other times in history when people fought against the odds and faced enormous sacrifices for their cause?

These points help learners understand Owain Glyndwr's story and encourage them to think critically about leadership, identity, justice, and resilience in a broader sense.

Story Time:

The second video provides learners with detailed instructions on writing an account of the story of the capture of Conwy Castle as part of the Welsh Revolt.

Spend time recapping the point highlighted:

- Present a short overview of the Welsh Revolt and the importance of Conwy Castle.
- Discuss key figures in the revolt, e.g., Owain Glyndŵr and his cousins, English soldiers, castle inhabitants and their motivations.

Group Research

Divide learners into small groups and assign each group a different perspective to research:

- Welsh rebels
- English soldiers
- Local townspeople
- The castle guard
- Other castle inhabitants: servants, cooks, stable boy

Provide research materials and guiding questions to help them gather information about their assigned perspective.

Story Planning and Storyboarding

Sharing Research Findings:

- Each group presents their findings to the class. Encourage discussion about how each perspective shapes the understanding of the event.

Story Planning:

- Introduce story elements: character, setting, conflict, resolution.
- Have learners choose their perspective and begin brainstorming ideas for their story.

Storyboard Creation:

- Using templates, learners outline their story by creating a storyboard that includes key scenes, dialogue snippets, and character emotions.

Writing and Sharing Stories

Writing:

- Learners write their stories based on their storyboards, focusing on conveying their character's perspective while incorporating historical details.

Plenary / Reflection:

Peer Review:

- In pairs, learners exchange stories and provide feedback on clarity, engagement, and historical accuracy.

Sharing:

- Allow some learners to share their stories with the class. This could be done as a reading, a dramatic reenactment, or a visual presentation.

Reflection:

- At the end of the lesson series, have learners reflect on what they learned about the Welsh Revolt and how writing from different perspectives changed their view of the historical event.

Extension:

Learners could reproduce their story as a Machinima in Minecraft Education.

Machinima is a form of filmmaking that creates animated films using real-time computer graphics engines, often from video games, i.e. Minecraft Education.

Machinima typically involves capturing the in-game footage using screen recording software. Creators manipulate game physics and characters to act out scenes, often applying voiceovers and dialogue to enhance storytelling.

Machinima has been used to teach storytelling, filmmaking, and digital literacy concepts. It allows learners to engage with technology creatively and collaboratively.

Overall, machinima represents a unique intersection of gaming and filmmaking, allowing for innovative expressions of creativity in a digital medium.

Key Vocabulary:

Owain Glyndŵr	Justice
Welsh Revolt	Equality
Perspective	Culture
Viewpoint	Character
Empathy	Setting
Narrative	Conflict
Identity	Resolution
Nationalism	Dialogue
Leadership	Storyboard
Resilience	Machinima

Resources / Supporting Files:

- Minecraft Education app installed on devices.
- Cadw Cymru Minecraft World.

Additional optional resources:

  - Research materials (books, articles, online resources about the Welsh Revolt and Conwy Castle)
  - Storyboarding templates