

Recommended For

KS2 and KS3
(History, English)

Learning Objectives

- To recognise Carisbrooke Castle as a heritage tourist attraction.
- To compare the Victorian idea of tourism to what visitors enjoy today.



Tourists exploring the gatehouse in 1906. The trees and ivy were left to make the ruins look pretty.

ACTIVITY 5

Summary

In the 19th century, Carisbrooke Castle became a popular tourist destination. The Victorians loved to visit historic sites that showed off the history of their country, especially those which matched the romantic ideal.

Students can read the source below, highlighting literary devices (interesting adjectives, alliterative phrases, personification) and any words they do not understand. Go through these as a class and discuss what they mean. How does the author make Carisbrooke Castle sound romantic? How does it persuade people to visit?

On site: students write a guidebook for the 21st century about modern Carisbrooke Castle. As they walk around the site, students should think about how they would write a guidebook today:

- How would they encourage people to visit Carisbrooke?
- What did they enjoy about visiting the castle – would others enjoy this too?
- What adjectives would they use to describe what a tourist will see when they come to Carisbrooke?

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Before your visit, look at images and descriptions that explain the term 'Romantic' e.g. J.M.W. Turner's many paintings of castle ruins. It might be useful to discuss what attracts people to historic sites today and why things have changed.

'On approaching the venerable ruin, which is situated on a commanding eminence above a wooded dell, we are immediately struck with the imposing grandeur of its ancient machicolated Portal, flanked by two noble round towers, pierced with loop-holes for the discharge of arrows - their grey, weather-beaten surface partially covered with ivy... In these feudal towers we observe the finest features of the fortress, and nothing can exceed them in picturesque effect, which is enhanced by the outer walls and bastions being partly clothed with luxuriant ivy, while the green slopes, descending from the Castle to the moat, are adorned with the fir, the holly, and a variety of brushwood, the whole view being greatly improved by the broad level terrace of velvet grass which surrounds the Castle.'

View of the Isle of Wight by James Briddon, 1856.