



ALNWICK CASTLE

ACTIVITY TRAIL



ALNWICK CASTLE



Alnwick Castle is one of the largest and most famous castles in England. It was first built nearly a thousand years ago. For the last 700 years, Alnwick Castle has been the home of the Percy family, who still live in the castle today.

HAVE YOU SEEN?

☐

The State Rooms

☐

The Prison

☐

Outer Bailey

☐

Inner Bailey

☐

The Gun Terrace

☐

Artisans Courtyard

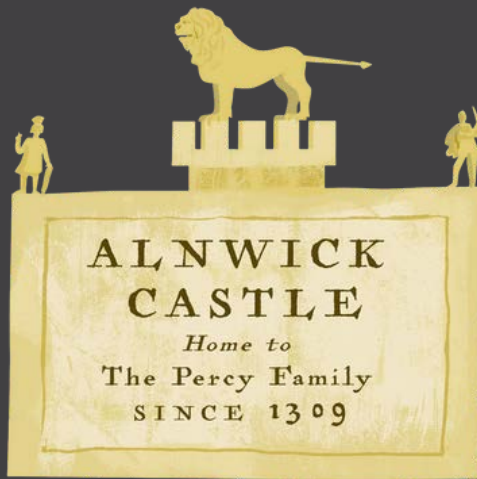
☐

The Great Kitchen

☐

The Coach House





WHO LIVES IN THE CASTLE?

The Percy family, who are now called the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland, have lived at Alnwick Castle for many hundreds of years.

In the medieval and Tudor periods, some members of the Percy family became famous for fighting against kings and queens of England and Scotland!

Later on, in Georgian times, the Percys made Alnwick Castle their main family home. In the Victorian era, they changed and restored the Castle again.

WHICH FLAG DID YOU SEE TODAY?



When the Duke is in residence, his flag is displayed.



What would your flag look like?



When the family are not at the castle the Union Flag is flown.



THE CASTLE



THE BARBICAN

The Barbican is a strong castle entrance, built more than 500 years ago. It was full of obstacles to slow down attackers. Alnwick Castle was never taken by force.

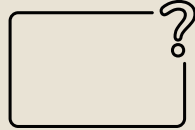
Which defence was not part of the Barbican?

A) Drawbridge B) Portcullis C) Chocolate Moat

THE OUTER BAILEY

Look up at the castle towers! About 250 years ago, the 1st Duchess of Northumberland added nearly 100 statues to the castle.

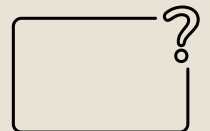
How many you can see today?
Keep count as you explore.



THE GUN TERRACE

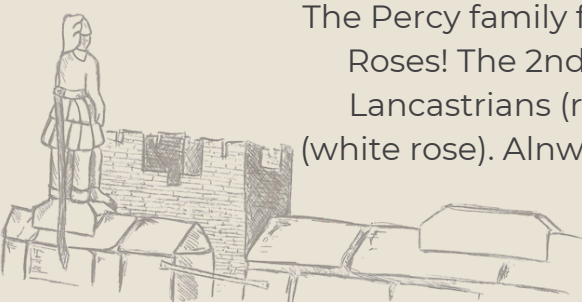
A cannon was a very effective way to attack a castle. Luckily, those on the Gun Terrace are just for decoration!

How many guns and cannons can
you count on the Gun Terrace?



DID YOU KNOW?

The Percy family fought on both sides in the medieval Wars of the Roses! The 2nd and 3rd Earls of Northumberland backed the Lancastrians (red rose), while the 4th Earl joined the Yorkists (white rose). Alnwick Castle was attacked 5 times during the wars.



THE CASTLE



THE PRISON

This part of the castle has also been called the dungeon. Look at the grate in the floor – there's another level underneath. Where do you think prisoners were kept: upstairs or underground?

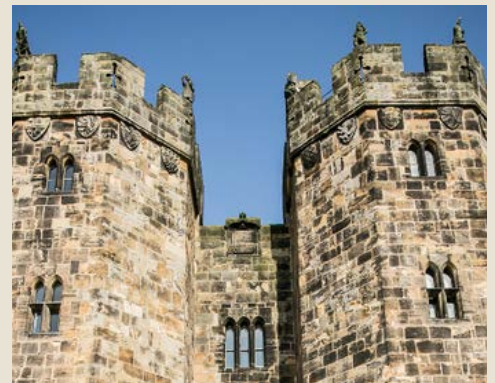
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THE INNER BAILEY

Look up at the two towers of the Inner Gatehouse – you'll see shields at the top. Each shield shows an important medieval lord or family. Which belongs to the king? *Clue: Centre stage for kings.*



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THE COACH HOUSE

This coach was used 200 years ago by the 3rd Duke of Northumberland. How would you feel riding in it? Do you think it was comfy?

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DID YOU KNOW?

More than 600 years ago, famous knight Harry 'Hotspur' lived at Alnwick Castle. Centuries later he inspired the name of a famous London football club - do you know which one?

A) Tottenham Hotspur B) Northumberland Rovers C) Fulham



THE STATE ROOMS



LOWER GUARD CHAMBER

The first room in the State Rooms has walls covered in weapons! Can you spot:

Pistols:

Horns:

Bugles:

Swords:

THE LIBRARY

The Library, in the State Rooms, is one of the grandest parts of Alnwick Castle. Every shelf is filled with beautiful books.

It would take years to read them all, but how many are there?

A) 5,000 B) 10,000 C) 14,000



THE DINING ROOM

The Dining Room is still used for grand dinners – even Queen Elizabeth II has dined here!

How many places are set at the table today?

DID YOU KNOW?

Thomas Percy of Alnwick Castle helped Guy Fawkes in the 1605 Gunpowder Plot to blow up Parliament. The plan was stopped when Fawkes was caught. When was the explosion meant to happen?

A) 14 February B) 5 November C) 31 October





THE GREAT KITCHEN

The Great Kitchen at Alnwick Castle was built in the Victorian period. Chefs and helpers cooked meals for the Duke and Duchess, their family, and others at the castle, baking bread, roasting meat, and storing food in special larders.



The first meal cooked in the Great Kitchen was for all the people working at the castle. The main course was a huge piece of roast beef that took 8 hours to cook!

Which kind of food had its own Alnwick Castle larder named for it?



Cheese



Vegetables



Fish



Bacon

DID YOU KNOW?



In 1892, when Lord Warkworth turned 21, the castle held a week of parties! The busy kitchens cooked enough food for more than 9,000 people – including a special feast for 1,500 local children.

What do you think they ate?

1066 ————— 1485

The Scottish King is
killed just outside
Alnwick Castle

The Percy family buy Alnwick Castle

Harry Hotspur rebels against King Henry IV

The Wars of the Roses

A horizontal timeline with two segments. The first segment, from 1485 to 1603, is dark blue. The second segment, from 1603 to 1714, is light beige. The years 1485, 1603, and 1714 are marked at the ends of the segments.

Percy family members rebel against King Henry VIII

The Earl of
Northumberland is
beheaded by Queen
Elizabeth I

Thomas Percy is
part of the
Gunpowder Plot

Prisoners of the
Battle of Dunbar
kept at Alnwick
Castle

1714 ————— 1837 ————— 1901

The Percys
transform Alnwick
Castle into their
family home

Hugh & Elizabeth
Percy made 1st Duke
& Duchess of
Northumberland

The 4th Duke
designs the State
Rooms as an Italian
palace

The Great Kitchen
opens with a meal
for 640 castle
workers

A horizontal timeline bar with a green gradient, starting at 1900 and ending at TODAY.

A school is evacuated to Alnwick Castle in World War II

The castle first opened its doors to visitors in May of this year

The 12th Duke and
Duchess move in to
Alnwick Castle



Create Your Alnwick Story in Words or Pictures

[illegible][illegible]