

# PIRATE THEME

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**Have fun conducting the following activities. From storytelling, to dressing up in pirate outfits and playing games, this is a favorite theme for young children. Add a pirate ship cake, loot bags and hide clues for a treasure hunt and you can also create the perfect birthday party theme.**

## **Idea Web**

**Introduce and explore the following topics to expand and inspire new activity ideas.**

- ✓ **Ships**
- ✓ **Flag Design**
- ✓ **Peter Pan**
- ✓ **Blackbeard & other famous pirates**
- ✓ **Treasure & Treasure Hunts**
- ✓ **Jewels**
- ✓ **Maps**
- ✓ **Ocean and Seas**
- ✓ **Caves and Coves**
- ✓ **Costumes**

## **Vocabulary**

**Introduce the following words to children during this theme**

- ✓ **Bandana**
- ✓ **Binocular**
- ✓ **Compass**
- ✓ **Grog**
- ✓ **Jolly Roger Flag**
- ✓ **Parrot**
- ✓ **Plunder**
- ✓ **“Swab the deck”**
- ✓ **Telescope**



## **Art:**

### **Pirate Boats**

**Materials:** a clear balloon, water, funnel (you can make one by making a cone out of paper), plastic container and a small toy ship.

**Directions:** Put a toy ship through the opening of the balloon. Use a funnel to add 1-2 cups of water (depending on the balloon's size) into the balloon. Blow up the balloon and knot it. Set your balloon on a holder (margarine or yogurt containers work well depending on the size of the balloon). You can paint your holder for a nicer look or cover it with construction paper.

### **Walnut Boats**

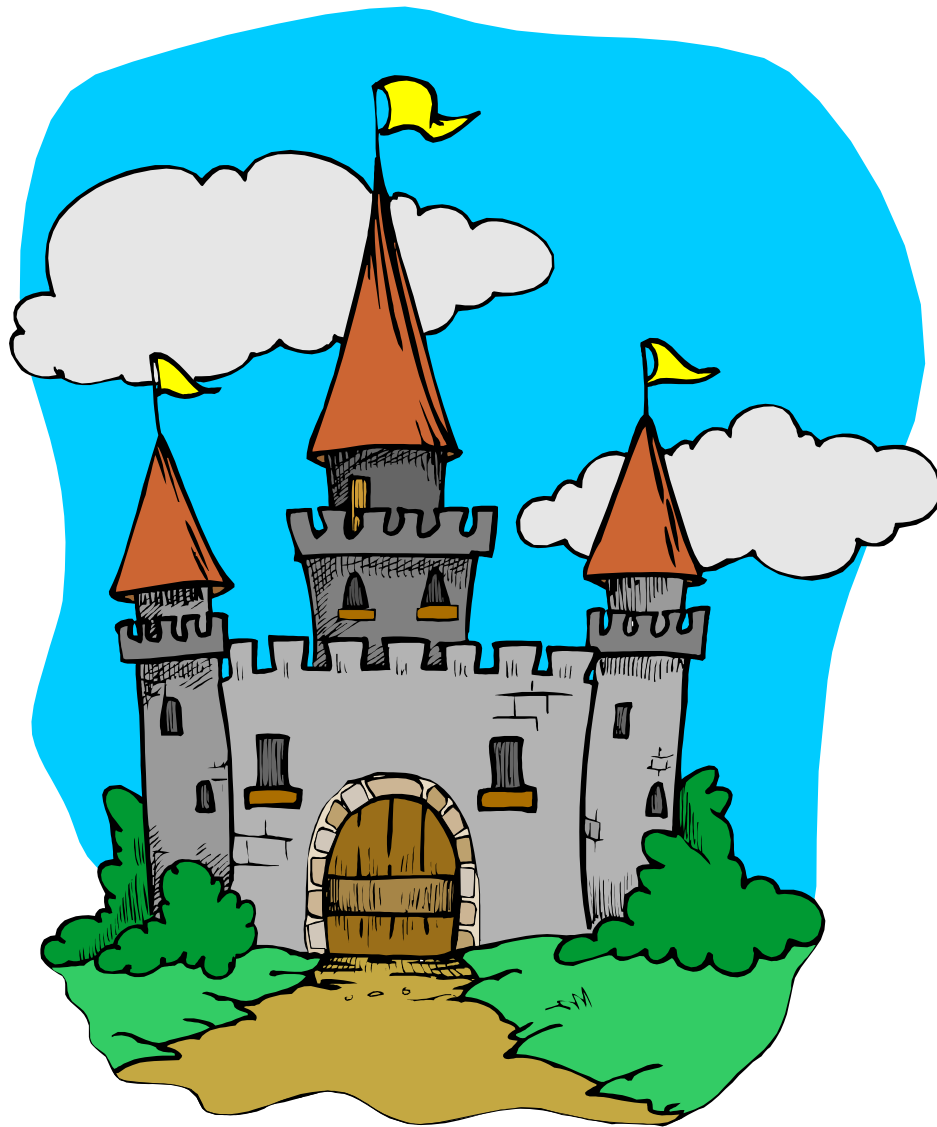
Make little pirate boats out of a 1/2 a walnut shell. Insert clay in the bottom then attach a toothpick with a little paper sail. Make several for pirate ship races.

### **Grotto Goodies**

Form a cup-shaped cave from modeling compound, creating a lip around the top. Press rocks, shells, and beads into the back of the cave and around the lip. Let cave air dry. Fill it with treats.

# Medieval Times

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*Have fun conducting the following activities. From storytelling, to singing songs and playing games, this is a favorite theme for young children. Add a castle, loot bags and dressing up you can also create the perfect birthday party theme.*

## **Idea Web**

Introduce and explore the following topics to expand and inspire new activity ideas. Use this theme to expand children's vocabulary and knowledge of history, and geography.

### The People

- ❖ King
- ❖ Prince
- ❖ Knight
- ❖ Wizard
- ❖ Dragon
- ❖ Princess
- ❖ Queen
- ❖ King Arthur
- ❖ Sentries
- ❖ Archers
- ❖ Noble Girls
- ❖ Pages
- ❖ Court Jester
- ❖ Commoners
- ❖ Monks
  
- ❖ Their Costumes
  
- ❖ The Castle

### The Activities

- ❖ Songs
- ❖ Food & Feast
- ❖ Jousts & Tournaments
- ❖ Toys
- ❖ Weapons & Toys



## **Art:**

### **Design a Castle fit for a King!**

To design the perfect Castle takes some time to investigate what makes a castle unique. Sketch, draw, collage, and photograph buildings in your neighborhood that remind you and your child of Castles. Look in magazines and books for the different details, materials used, and reasons why Castles were built. Find photographs of Castles in England, Germany, or Scotland. Experiment with different materials, building techniques, and fantasy play!

### King Arthur's Castle

Start collecting boxes of every shape and size, flat bed sheets, and paper tubes of all sizes. Ask at Supermarkets and other stores for the boxes they throw away. Once you have collected all your cardboard, gather your tools and other supplies - wide silver duct tape, a knife, a ball of heavy twine, a steel ruler, a screwdriver, and a pencil.

Construction Ideas: Join boxes together with duct tape, cut connecting passageways with knife, use flaps of boxes as secret doors, create lookouts, cut out slots for spy holes, make a tunnel to a secret room, use cardboard tubes as spy holes or flag poles, attach towers and add flags. To add a drawbridge, draw a rectangle on the front of a large box and cut on three sides (leaving the bottom edge still attached to the box). Make a hole with a screwdriver in each top corner of the drawbridge and a matching one just above it in the box wall. Cut two pieces of twine (about 4 feet) and thread each piece through one drawbridge hole with a knot on the outside. Then pull it through the hole in the box and tie knot in the ends. Pull to raise the drawbridge; push to lower it.

### The Grand Castle

Design a castle for your favorite toys and make up stories about the people who live there. Use a shoe box and repeat some of the construction ideas from "Castle fit for a King". Try to include some these construction ideas as well: glue one cardboard tube to each corner of the shoe box, glue torn pieces of construction paper to the shoe box for stones, cut out four 4 inch circle from construction paper and cut a pie shaped wedge out of each circle. Bring the ends together and overlap slightly to make a cone shape. Leave a small opening at the top of the cone. Tape edges to hold. Tape cones on top of each paper tube. Push one flag through each the hole in the top of each hole. To make flags, use