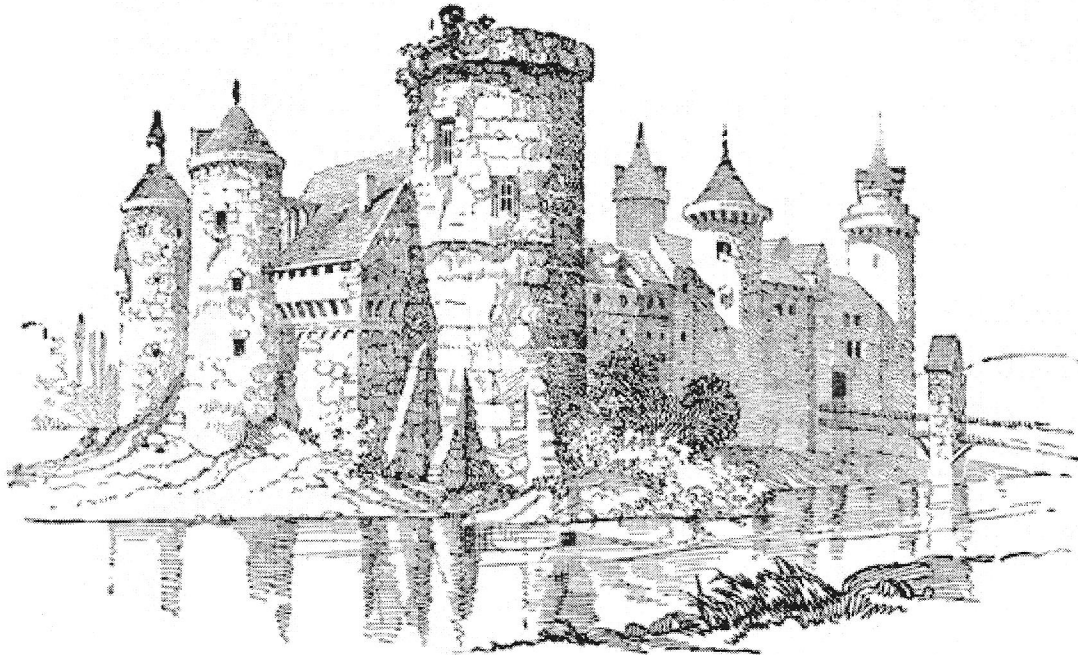


MEDIEVAL CASTLES

Art Appreciation



Today your child participated in a PTA art appreciation lesson. We learned about Medieval Castle Architecture. Here are some interesting facts about castles we discussed today.

- Castles are a type of architecture. “Architecture” is the art of designing buildings and houses.
- Castles were built as fortresses to protect the people who lived there.
- Castle walls were made of stone. The gatehouse was a strong tower or set of towers beside the castle gate to control entrance to the castle.
- Some castles were surrounded by moats. Ask your first grader what a moat is and why they were built.
- Castle walls were “crenellated” which means they were notched. Your first grader knows why they were built this way.
- The tall towers at the corners of the castle walls or on top of another tower are called turrets. They were used as “lookout towers” where the guards kept watch to regulate who came inside.
- It was very damp, dark and cold inside the castles. Windows were small and the stone was thick. Tapestries and rugs were hung on the walls to insulate. Fireplaces or open fires were used to heat the rooms.

We made our own picture of a castle using paint and sponges. Your child can continue to glue on cut out paper pieces to make windows, and flags and even a moat at home.