



HEVER CASTLE
& GARDENS

CHILDHOOD HOME OF ANNE BOLEYN

CASTLE TUDOR HISTORY TRAIL



This trail has been created for teachers, group leaders and parents to use with young visitors whilst exploring the Castle.

We recommend allowing 1 hour for your Castle visit (20 minutes per floor). Visitors require a Castle entry ticket to complete the trail.

The trail is intended to spark imagination and to encourage discussion. There are no right or wrong answers.

The Castle contains some small and narrow areas that can sometimes become quite busy, therefore you may find it easier to discuss the rooms as you visit, rather than to complete worksheets.

If you require further information or assistance, the Visitor Experience Assistants will be happy to help you.



1. CASTLE GATEHOUSE

Find the Castle Gatehouse. It was built in 1270 by the de Hever family. In 1462 Anne Boleyn's great grandfather, Geoffrey, bought the Castle and built a manor house inside the Castle walls.

Try to decide why a castle was built in this location. *Clue: have a look at the surrounding landscape.*

Imagine the Castle being invaded by the enemy. What defences can you see?

Walk across the drawbridge and down the steps into the Courtyard

2. CASTLE COURTYARD

Find the fifteenth-century timber framed manor house. Can you also see the thirteenth century gatehouse?

Try to think about which parts of the Castle have stayed the same since the thirteenth century. Which parts have changed?

Imagine visiting the Boleyn family at the Castle. How would it make you feel?

Once you have shown your ticket at the Castle Entrance, walk through the big archway and turn right into the Drawing Room



3. DRAWING ROOM

Find the beautiful wooden panelling. Does it remind you of a jigsaw puzzle? Can you see any birds in the patterns?

Try to discover the purpose of this room in the Tudor period. Why do you think this would have been a good room to store food? *Clue: have a look at the low ceiling and windows.*

Imagine what this room would have looked like filled with food. What sorts of things would you find in here?

4. INNER HALL

Find the big portrait of Henry VIII.

Try to think about how rich Henry VIII was. How does the painting show his wealth?

Imagine what it would have been like when Henry VIII came to visit the Boleyn family. Can you see Henry's emblem, the Tudor Rose? *Clue: look up!*



5. DINING HALL

Find the pewter plates above the fireplace. Important guests would eat from these plates. Less important guests would eat from a slab of bread called a 'trencher'.

Try to think about what mealtimes were like in the Tudor period. The rich could buy or hunt for a wide range of meats such as peacock and swan. The poor had very little meat. Why?

Imagine guests dancing in this room after their meal. Imagine the music and the colours of people's clothes.

Have a look at the Entrance Hall and Library on your way to the Morning Room

6. MORNING ROOM

Find the fireplace. What date can you see?

Try to decide which Tudor monarch died in this year. *Clue: Henry VIII's youngest daughter.*

Imagine a priest hiding in the little cupboard in the corner. A Catholic family lived in the Castle after Henry VIII's reformation of the Church. They hid their priest from Elizabeth I's men when Catholicism was against the law.

Climb the 13 spiral steps to Anne Boleyn's Bedroom

7. ANNE BOLEYN'S BEDROOM

Find the painting of Anne Boleyn. How can we tell it is Anne?

Try to think of some ideas to explain why there is a half-domed ceiling in this small room.

Imagine what it would have been like to live here as a child. Do you think this is a bedroom fit for a future queen? Why do you think this?

8. BOOKS OF HOURS' ROOM

Find Anne Boleyn's prayer books in the cabinets. The books are made from vellum which is dried animal skin.

Try to discover who would have written these books. Most village children did not go to school and rarely had books. Richer children could be sent away to schools run by monasteries until Henry VIII closed them when he started a new church, the Church of England.

Imagine what it would have been like to go to school in the Tudor period. There were no summer holidays and school lessons started at dawn and finished at sunset!

Walk out of the Books of Hours' Room and
turn right into the Queens' Chamber



9. QUEENS' CHAMBER

Find the paintings of Henry VIII's six wives. Are they displayed in the correct order?

Try reciting the rhyme to remember the fate of each of the wives. *Clue: divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived.*

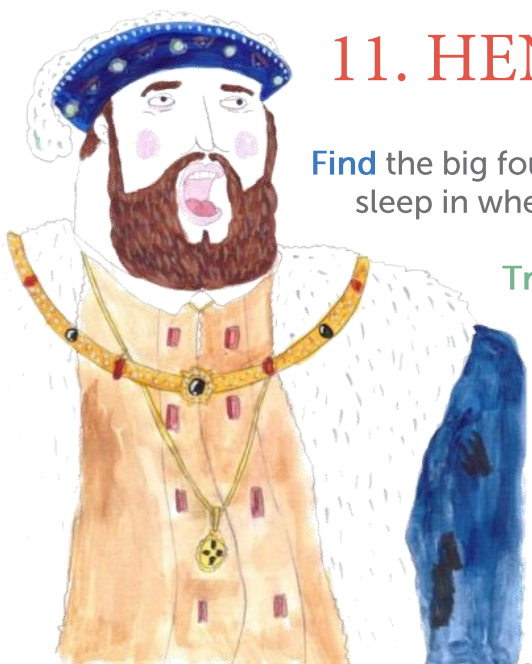
Imagine how Anne of Cleves felt when she came over from Germany to marry Henry VIII. Would she feel nervous moving to another country? Would she be able to speak the language?

10. STAIRCASE GALLERY

Find the paintings of Henry VIII's three children. Can you see Henry's only son, Edward? He became the king at the age of nine.

Try to think about what responsibilities you would have if you were a king or queen. Would they be different if you were an ordinary person living in a village?

Imagine being a king or queen at the age of nine. Do you think you would enjoy it?



11. HENRY VIII'S BEDCHAMBER

Find the big four poster bed. This is the sort of bed Henry VIII would sleep in when he came to visit.

Try to decide what the brass warming pan by the fireplace was used for. *Clue: in the Tudor period they did not have hot water bottles.*

Imagine how Henry VIII felt when he came to visit the Boleyn family. Is Hever Castle different to Henry's palaces?

12. WALDEGRAVE ROOM

Find the chest at the end of the bed. What do you think it was used for? *Clue: can you see a wardrobe in this room?*

Try to decide why the secret chapel in the corner of this room was built. *Clue: it was built by a Catholic family who lived in the Castle after Henry VIII's reformation of the Church.*

Imagine what it would feel like to practice your religion in secret.

Walk out of the Waldegrave Room, turn right and climb the staircase to the Long Gallery

13. LONG GALLERY

Find the letters 'AB' and 'HR' in the plaster ceiling. Whose initials are these?

Try to think about why this room is so long. It was used for entertaining guests, exercising and displaying art collections.

Imagine what it was like when this room was filled with people and music. Music played an important role in the lives of both the rich and poor in the Tudor period.

Have a look at the Astor Suite on your way to the
Council Chamber



14. COUNCIL CHAMBER

Find a beheading sword. Anne Boleyn was granted death by the sword rather than the axe, which could be very drawn out.

Try to decide what the masks in the cabinet were used for.
Clue: look at the mask with the long nose or the mask with the long tongue.

Imagine what it was like to wear a suit of armour. Jousting was popular in the Tudor period and was a sport that Henry VIII really enjoyed. Can you think of some other Tudor pastimes?

You have completed your Tudor History Trail

We hope you enjoyed it!

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