

# Inspiration and guidance for Arts Award facilitators

Culture and heritage sites are really great places to facilitate Arts Awards activities with children and young people. Cadw has put this guidance together to help Arts Award facilitators make the most of the rich opportunities for participating in and exploring the arts at Cadw sites.

Cadw has created two sketchbook activities that are designed specifically to take participants through the Arts Award Discover and Arts Award Explore journeys. These are available at larger Cadw sites or can be downloaded from the Cadw website and printed in advance of a visit.

When planning a visit to a heritage site to undertake an Arts Award project, do plan to take arts materials with you. Cadw encourages all art forms, but please avoid using felt tip pens or markers indoors, or spray cans at any heritage venue or museum.

Heritage sites are naturally great places to explore a wide range of art forms. Here are some starting points for thinking about the kinds of art forms that might be linked to a site:

**Think about how the site or building (and its interior) was designed, made, built and managed.** If a building is old, then most of the trade work will have been undertaken by hand. It's likely that a range of very skilled craftspeople contributed to the building of a heritage site. For example, stone cutters, stone masons, wood workers, glass makers, ceramicist, designers, architects, joiners,

furniture makers, weavers, embroiderers, upholsterers, landscapers and gardeners.

**Think about what arts and crafts might have taken place at the site throughout its life.** If the site is large, for example a significant castle, then a wide range of arts and crafts will have been undertaken there. Prehistoric sites such as standing stones may have been a place of worship or festivity. Remember to encourage participants to think about the artistic practice of the women and men who worked, worshipped, lived and died there.

Examples might include: chanting, bodypainting, mask making, storytelling, singing, theatre and performance, writing, poetry, dancing, music, comedy, pottery, weapon making, blacksmithing/metal working, basket weaving, gardening and food growing, flower arranging, making of clothes and cloth items such as flags, armoury, animal demonstrations, taxidermy, leather working/saddlery, food preparation (some of which was incredibly grand), embroidery, painting, candle-making, wheel-wrighting, brewing, sculpture, drawing, calligraphy, paper-making and so on.

**Think about the contemporary arts practice that takes place at the site now, or has been inspired by the site.** This will vary hugely from one place to the next.

Examples might include: festivals, site-specific arts, performance, story writing and telling, poetry, film and TV, comic art and illustration, arts education, craft

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demonstrations, costumed interpreters, curating, conservation and restoration of the building and its collections, crafts for sale in the gift shop, leaflets that have been designed, visitor interpretation boards, garden design, digital design, website design, making of interpretation tools, and photography.

Many artists find inspiration in historic sites and their histories, and do significant amounts of research as part of their creative process. Think about documentaries, feature films, sci-fi, literature, fashion design, dance, games design, photography, land art, street art, music of all genres, graphic novels, contemporary art installations, community art and so on.

For more information on Arts Awards with Cadw, visit the website:  
[cadw.gov.wales/learn](http://cadw.gov.wales/learn)

**Find a place to visit:**  
**[cadw.gov.wales/visit](http://cadw.gov.wales/visit)**

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