

PROJECTS & CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES



1. Hold a complimenting contest in your classroom. Students create their own compliments, then select an opponent. The more elaborate the compliment, the better, and the last person to run out of compliments wins. (Renaissance-style compliments compare the subject to beautiful things. One of the richest sources for inspiration is Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.)



2. Design and build a model of a castle. Due to the utilization of gunpowder and cannons during the Renaissance, castle design was radically different from medieval castles. They were circular or semi-circular. Medieval castles were, for the most part, square or rectangular. Rounded walls gave Renaissance castles a more deflective surface against cannon fire for the guns and cannon inside the castle. Castles also had a low profile (less a target for a cannon) and thick walls.



3. Research and create a menu for a King's banquet. Discuss table manners, utensils, decorations, entertainment, etc.

4. Have your class practice greeting one another in 16th century style.

5. Create a broadsheet (small newspaper) for your class and include stories regarding various political, military, religious, theatrical or scientific happenings of the Renaissance.



6. Create a pirate treasure map.



7. Write a postcard home from a pirate sailing in the waters around the New World.



8. Give your students an era-and age-appropriate spelling test. No matter how they spell the words-they'll be correct! There was no standardized spelling at the time. People often spelled their own names differently from time to time.

9. Create your own raiment (clothing). Have your class design and/or make their own 16th Century clothing. (Please wear the costume on your visit to the Renaissance Festival.



10. Coats of Arms were symbols that families, towns and even governments rallied around. Create a coat of arms for your class or school. Or do research to see if your family has its own coat of arms. If not, create one. (An excellent source is *A Complete Guide to Heraldry* by A.C. FoxDavies.)



11. Create a poster of an historic figure during the Renaissance or a scene from daily events of a noble or peasant.

12. Have students write a story about their experience after they visit the Pittsburgh Renaissance Festival.

13. Have students write a story as told from the perspective of a person living during the Renaissance.



14. Have students write a sonnet in the style of Shakespeare.