

Objective	Key Knowledge
To understand the historical significance of Beeston Castle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prehistoric settlers chose the rocky sandstone crag, as it was naturally defended site. • During the Neolithic period, it was inhabited or used as a communal gathering place. • Bronze age community living on the Beeston crag. • Iron Age hillfort. • Medieval 1225 Ranulf de Blondville began to build the castle. • 1237 King Henry III took Beeston Castle as Earl John (seventh Earl of Chester) died without a male heir. • 1254 Henry III gave Beeston together with all the other castles and lands of the County of Chester to his eldest son Prince Edward • The English Civil War 1643-1645
To explore the early history of Beeston Castle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranulf de Blondville, the sixth Earl of Chester, (1170–1232), began to build a defence on the crag, against aristocratic rivals, on his return from the Crusades. • He built the new castle at Beeston as a symbol of his power and importance and so that he could take advantage of new castle building techniques that he had seen and heard described during his time fighting in the Fifth Crusade.
To study the role of Beeston Castle in the English Civil War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The English Civil war – 20th February 1643 - Beeston Castle experienced a final blaze of glory as an important English Civil War stronghold. It was seized by Parliamentary forces commanded by Sir William Brereton. • 13th December 1643 - Captain Thomas Sandford and eight soldiers from the Royalist army crept into Beeston at night and surprised the castle governor, Captain Thomas Steele, who was so shaken by the event that he surrendered on the promise that he would be allowed to march out of the castle with honours. Steele was tried and shot for his failure to hold the castle. The castle was brought back into military use when Parliamentarians seized the castle in and made some repairs to the fortifications. • November 1645 The Royalist garrison, remained in the castle from 1643, were forced to surrender after a long and eventful siege. • 1646 - The end of the Civil War - The castle was partly demolished in accordance with Cromwell's destruction order, to prevent its further use as a stronghold.
To understand daily life in and around Beeston Castle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The castle served as a source of protection, governance, and economic stability for the local community. • The elevated position of Beeston Castle allowed for strategic advantages in defence and communication.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The geography around Beeston Castle provided natural defences but also posed challenges for travel and agricultural activities. • Residents near Beeston Castle may have faced challenges such as access to resources, transportation difficulties, and potential conflicts due to the castle's strategic importance. • 18th century –The romantic ruin caught the attention of wealthy Victorian John Tollemache, who built striking Victorian-Gothic Peckforton Castle on the hilltop across the valley. • 1840 the castle was purchased by John Tollemache, 1st Baron Tollemache who was at that time the largest landowner in Cheshire. He planted pine trees to “improve” the appearance of the castle from his view from Peckforton Castle. He ordered the outer bailey to be terraced to enable marquees to be erected for fetes. Tollemache also promoted Beeston itself as a tourist attraction, even stocking its grounds with deer, goats and kangaroos/ • The mid-19th century - A lodge house was built by Tollemache in the 19th century. The castle was the site of an annual two-day fete, raising money for local widows and orphans and attracting up to 3000 visitors a day. The tradition of village fetes was started as early as 1951 and held around 23rd-24th June every year until 1909. • 27th October 1913 – a freak “cyclone” hit the area – hundreds of trees were up-rooted and cattle were killed.
<p>To analyse archaeological finds from Beeston Castle</p>	<p>Knowledge of different artefacts discovered at Beeston Castle and what these indicate about historical life there.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeologists have discovered Neolithic flint arrow heads and polished stone axe heads on the crag. • Late Bronze Age and early Iron Age artefacts.
<p>To examine changes and developments at Beeston Castle over time</p>	<p>Understanding of how Beeston Castle has changed architecturally and functionally over time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communal gathering area in the Neolithic period. • Bronze age round houses/Iron Age hillfort. • Medieval times- ‘Castle of The Rock • Fourteenth Century, kept in good repair. • Fifteenth, the castle fell into a gradual decline • Sixteenth Century, the castle was of no further use to the crown. Sir Hugh Beeston of Beeston allowed poorer members of his family to live in parts of the castle and use the land for farming. • Civil war • Eighteenth Century, the site was used as a quarry until it became a ruin and John Tollemache purchased the castle in 1840.

<p>To investigate key historical figures associated with Beeston Castle</p>	<p>Knowledge of key figures in Beeston Castle's history and their impacts on the castle and wider historical events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranulf de Blondesville • King Henry III • Sir Hugh Beeston of Beeston Hall • John Tollemache 1st Baron Tollemache
<p>To evaluate the impact of geographical features on Beeston Castle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beeston is located on a hill. • Geographical advantages include strategic positioning for defence and good visibility. • Hilly terrain provides natural barriers against attacks. • The forests may have provided resources for construction and shelter. • The River Gowy may have provided transport and supplies.
<p>To explore the myths and legends associated with Beeston Castle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard II- It is rumoured that treasure belonging to the king lies undiscovered in the castle grounds, but many searches have been carried out and have failed to find any trace of it.
<p>To present findings from a project on Beeston Castle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to synthesise information learned throughout the lessons and effectively communicate their understanding and findings.