Blenheim Palace and the 1st Duke of Marlborough

1. Blenheim Palace was built for the 1st Duke of Marlborough.

What is a duke?

A duke is a nobleman. The most important nobleman is a king.

Do you know another duke?

2. The 1st Duke of Marlborough was a soldier.

What is a soldier?

A soldier is a person who protects and defends a country on land, at sea and in the air.

Do you know another soldier?

3. The 1st Duke of Marlborough fought during the War of the Spanish Succession.

What is war?

A war is a conflict between groups of people because they have a disagreement.

Do you know another war?

4. The 1st Duke of Marlborough won the Battle of Blenheim in 1704.

What is a battle?

A battle is a fight between groups of people at a specific time and place.

Do you know another battle?



5. Queen Anne rewarded the 1st Duke of Marlborough with money to build Blenheim Palace in 1705.

What is a palace?

A palace is a residence where a nobleperson or a Church of England bishop lives.

Do you know another palace?

Blenheim is not a castle

1. William the Conqueror came to England in 1066. He built castles to keep control of the land.

Answer the questions.

What is a castle? A castle is a defensive building.

a. Where were castles built?

b. What were the first castles built with?

c. What were the main castles built with?

d. The main castles had a main tower. What was it called?

e. The main tower had an outer gate. What was it called?

f. Where were motte-and-bailey castles built?

g. What was the bailey was made from?

A keep | Stone | Barbican | Wood | Wood and earth

In towns and at river crossings, not on top of hills and mountains | On a mound and surrounded by a stockade

2. In London, he built the Tower of London. Around Oxford, he built Wallingford Castle and Oxford Castle.

Complete the sentences.

What other features a castle might have?

a. A castle would not have windows, but it might have .....

b. A castle might have a drawbridge and a .....

c. A castle might have turrets, but a palace might have .....

d. For defence, a castle might have a catapult called a .....

Trebuchet | Columns | Arrow slits | Portcullis

3. Blenheim is not a castle. Blenheim is a palace.
A palace is a home.

Describe Blenheim Palace.

What is a palace? A palace is a home.

a. What colour is it?

b. What is it made of?

c. What shapes can you see?

Blenheim is a palace

1. Blenheim Palace is the home of the 12th Duke of Marlborough.
It's a big house. Blenheim has a Great Hall.

Do you have a hall at home or at school?

Describe the hall at Blenheim.

Describe the hall at home or at school.

Blenheim has a Long Library.

Do you have a library at home or at school?

Describe the library at Blenheim.

Describe the library at home or at school.

2. Blenheim Palace was built over 300 years ago. It's an old house. There was no central heating.

How do you think people kept warm?

There was no electricity.

How do you think people lit the rooms in the house?

There were no toilets or bathtubs or shower.

How do you think people kept clean?

3. Blenheim Palace belonged to the same family for 12 generations. There are paintings and photographs of all the family members.

Are there images of your family at home? Where are they kept?

Coming to Blenheim

1. Today, visitors come to Blenheim by all sorts of means of transport. Many visitors come by car or public bus, and group visitors come by coach.

List all the modes of transport you see today at Blenheim.

2. About 300 years ago, the main mode of transport was **horses and carriages or coaches**. The **roads** in Britain were built for this type of transport.

The 1st Duke made sure all the horses and carriages had a convenient shelter.

- Horses, carriages, and coaches were kept in the stables. Visit the Stables Exhibition to find out more.
- Horses' hooves made a loud noise when passing on gravel under archways. Spot the wooden cobbles that helped deaden the noise.
- Travellers stopped at coach inns to rest from their journey. Spot old coach inns in Woodstock. They are now hotels.

3. About 200 years ago, the first **steam train** and the first **railway** line in Britain were built.

The 8th Duke commissioned a railway line, and the train station was built in front of the main gates. The line was open from 19 May 1890 to 27 February 1954.

- The steam engine was called Rosamund.
- The train station was called Blenheim and Woodstock Station.
- The railway line became part of Great Western Railway.

4. Over 100 years ago, the first **petrol-motorised car** was invented. **Motorways** in Britain were built from 1959.

What type of vehicles do you have at home? Describe all the modes of transport your family uses.

The 9th Duke bought a petrol-motorised car in 1902. His wife Consuelo had an electric car.

The Dukes of Marlborough and Woodstock

1. The 4th Duke paid for the construction of the Town Hall in Woodstock.



A town hall is a building used for the administration of the local community.

Today, the town hall is still used for public local administration.

Where is the town hall nearest to your home or school?

2. The 4th Duchess paid for the construction of alms-houses.



Are there alms-houses near your home or school?

Alms-houses are houses founded by charity for poor people.

Today, the building is a sheltered housing.

3. The hotel at 26 Oxford St was renamed the Marlborough Arms in the 18th century when Blenheim was built.



Can you spot old coaching inns near your home or school?

The original building was built in the 12th century. It was remodelled in the 15th century as a **coaching inn.**

A coaching inn was a pub and hotel where travellers stopped to rest on their journey. We can see the coach and carriage entrance for horses and coaches.

4. Find this building. It has bricked up windows. Hope House was built in 1708 for a local councillor who collected the taxes to pay for the Palace.



Can you see bricked up windows at Blenheim?

How many **windows** did it have on this one side?

In 1796, the British Prime Minister William Pitt increased the tax on windows. The more windows, the more the owners paid. Many owners did not want to pay the tax, so they bricked up windows.

Blenheim and Woodstock during the First World War

1. There was a global conflict in **1914**. The war ended at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month in **1918**. It was decided to end the war with a truce, which means there was no winner or loser. The 11th of November is known as **Armistice** Day.



As a sign of respect to those who served and died during the war, people around the world hold a **two-minute silence** on the 11th of November at 11.00am. It's called **Remembrance Day**.

In the UK, services are held in churches on the nearest Sunday to Armistice Day. In London, thousands of servicemen and women march past a memorial called the **Cenotaph**.

2. People wear **poppies** as a symbol of remembrance of the past and as a symbol of hope for the future.



A Canadian soldier, John McRae, was inspired by the red poppies growing on the **battlefields** in Belgium. He wrote a poem which started like this, "In Flanders Fields, the poppies blow, between the crosses, row on row..."

People started wearing poppies to mark Remembrance Day in 1921. Today, the British Legion raise money for the wounded soldiers and the families of soldiers who have died in service by selling these poppies.

3. Many millions of soldiers died during the four years of war. Many of them were buried on the battlefields.



There is a **war memorial** in every village/town /city in Britain to pay tribute to townspeople who died in service during the First World War. Amongst them were people who worked at Blenheim Palace. Subsequently, names of those who died in the Second World War were added.

Where is the nearest war memorial to your house or your school?

4. Blenheim became a convalescent hospital during the First World War.



The 9th Duke converted the Long Library into a hospital.

Many stately homes in Britain were converted into hospitals.

Are there any buildings near where you live that have been used during the First World War?

Blenheim and Woodstock during the Second World War

1. There was another global conflict that started in 1939. The war ended on the **8th of May 1945** at 23.00. This day was called VE Day: **V**ictory in **E**urope.



While many countries fell to Germany, Britain was the only fighting country in Europe that had not been invaded by the enemy. Britain survived the **Battle of Britain** and the **Blitz**, but Britain was badly damaged.

Ask the older members of your family how the war affected their lives.

2. British Prime Minister **Winston Churchill** announced the victory via the radio at 15.00.

Churchill appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace with the King and Queen, and their two daughters Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret. People throughout the country celebrated with **street parties**.



Were there street parties in 1945 in your community?

3. Evacuees came to Woodstock when war was declared.



Fearing that cities would be bombed, children who lived in cities were evacuated to the countryside for safety.

Over 300 children were evacuated to Woodstock and stayed with local families.

How did your community contribute to the war effort?

4. Blenheim was requisitioned for the duration of the war.



The 10th Duke accepted to lodge 400 boys from Malvern College who were evacuated from their own school.

Are there any buildings near where you live that have been used or damaged during the Second World War?

Winston Churchill at Blenheim

1. Winston Churchill was famous for having been the British **Prime Minister** during the Second World War.



He was best known for rallying the country in the darkest times with his **war speeches**.

"I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

"We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds. We shall never surrender."

2. Winston Churchill was related to the Dukes of Marlborough at Blenheim.



The 7th Duke was his grandfather. The 8th Duke was his uncle. The 9th Duke was his cousin and best friend.

The link between Churchill and Blenheim was immortalised on the 2017 **£5-note.**

Ask an adult to show you a £5-note. On the side of Churchill's image, you'll see in the top right corner a circle that symbolises the Marlborough Maze.

3. Winston Churchill was born at Blenheim Palace.



He was born on 30th November 1874.

He spent many of his school holidays at Blenheim.

4. Winston Churchill spent a lot of time at Blenheim Palace.



He proposed to his wife in the garden at the Temple of Diana.

He spent long periods of time reading and writing in the Long Library. He wrote a biography of the 1st Duke of Marlborough.

He also enjoyed painting. Some of his paintings are displayed in the room where he was born.