

Lesson: Medieval Weapons –the Catapult
Subject Area: Social Studies, Language Arts, and Math
Multiple Intelligences: Visual/Spatial, Bodily-Kinesthetic, Logical-Mathematics, Interpersonal
Language Learner Strategies: Hands-on activity, visuals, problem solving, evaluating, and predicting

Objectives:

Understand the importance of the tools and weaponry of the times
Design and perform an evaluation on classroom design of one weapon.
The students will recognize Middle Age weaponry in a film clip.
The students will give examples of medieval strategies.
The students will choose the weapon they think was the most effective.
The students will use the blue print to construct the catapult.
The students will choose different elements of the design that will affect its performance.
The students will rate their catapult design by accuracy and distance.

Activity:

Start the class with a review of the castles defense strategies. If needed, review with United Streaming Video
Now let's look at the attackers. How can anyone successfully attack a castle with all of its defense?
Show video clips and/ or tape focusing on the weapons used by the knights. Teacher will ask the students: What weapons did you see that were used?
Teacher will list them. Teacher will post the different weapons.
What were their strategies to overtake a castle? The teacher will list them.

Out of these weapons, which do you think was most effective in getting the men inside the castles? Why? Students choose the one weapon they believe to be the most effective by holding up their finger(s) that match their vote, i.e. one finger for sword, two fingers for battering ram, ...
The vote should go to the catapult. (If not, the teacher will explain the benefits of the catapult). A catapult destroys the walls for easier access –it got your men inside the walls with little effort.

Focus on the design of a catapult –show PowerPoint presentation showing the different styles of catapults. Discuss the parts of a catapult. What do we see about the design of the catapults? Similarities or differences

Answers may vary:

- Some are on wheels while others are not –type of launch pad
- Sling Length - tension
- Weight of Ball or object being thrown
- Counterweight used on some
- Amount of resistance used on the lever
- Angles
- Velocity