

Video Zone: Windsor Castle - transcript

Narrator: Historic castle, royal palace, family home. Windsor Castle, the longest continually inhabited castle in the world, official residence of Her Majesty the Queen, and destination of a million visitors each year.

Guide: Down this hill and it will be on your right-hand side, sir.

Narrator: Just 23 miles west of London, the castle sits on its striking hilltop site, a potent symbol of the British monarchy. Built by William the Conqueror in the 11th century, Windsor has since been home to 39 monarchs, each shaped the building to their own tastes and needs, and their legacy can be seen throughout the castle.

Perhaps most notable was George IV, who in the 1820s gave Windsor its famous skyline, almost doubling the height of the castle's iconic round tower. And as kings and queens had done before him, George IV created magnificent new rooms, but his remain the most dazzling of all.

In 1848, Queen Victoria opened the state apartments to the public. They are Windsor's most impressive rooms. Furnishing the splendid interiors are some of the greatest treasures from the royal collection, assembled by kings and queens over the last 500 years. From Old Master paintings to tapestries, porcelain, furniture, even a royal doll's house and armour. As you can guess from the size of it, this suit belonged to the larger than life Henry VIII.

Windsor Castle is home to the Order of the Garter, Britain's oldest Order of Chivalry, and its annual ceremony is held at St. George's Chapel. The Garter's star and the Order's motto can be seen all around the castle. Here in St. George's Hall, the shields and armour of over a thousand Garter Knights decorate the walls and ceilings.

In 1992, a devastating fire swept through the building. It took 15 hours and 200 firefighters to bring the blaze under control, but some of Windsor's rooms were reduced to burnt-out shells. Five years later, a multi-million pound and award-winning restoration project returned the castle to its former splendour and even added completely new interiors.

Today, Windsor is one of the world's few remaining working royal palaces, and the setting for grand ceremonial and state occasions. A national monument, Windsor Castle tells the story of a thousand years of British royal history like nowhere else, and is enjoyed by visitors from all over the world.

1. Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a-h next to the number 1-8.

- 1 a monument
- 2 a monarch
- 3 an occasion
- 4 a residence
- 5 a restoration

- a. to live in a place
- b. a building where someone lives
- c. the place where someone is going
- d. a king or queen
- e. metal clothing that soldiers wore in the past to protect their bodies

1 The approximate number of visitors to Windsor Castle each year. a. 39 6

- 7 to inhabit
- 8 armour
- g. an important event or ceremony
- h. an old building or place that is important in history

2. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the best answer to these questions.

1. Which of the following is NOT a function of Windsor Castle?
 - a. The Queen's home
 - b. A restoration project
 - c. A national monument
2. Who built Windsor Castle?
 - a. William the Conqueror
 - b. Henry VIII
 - c. Queen Victoria
3. What did George IV do at Windsor Castle?
 - a. He opened the state apartments to the public.
 - b. He doubled the height of the castle's round tower.
 - c. He paid for the restoration of the castle after the fire.
4. What can you find at St. George's Chapel?
 - a. Treasures collected by monarchs
 - b. The shields and armour of over a thousand Garter Knights
 - c. The armour of Henry VIII
5. What was the result of the restoration project?
 - a. It put out the fire.
 - b. It returned the castle to exactly how it looked before the fire.
 - c. It repaired the damage and added new interiors.
6. Is Windsor a working castle?
 - a. Yes, it is the official residence of the Queen.
 - b. Yes, but only for state ceremonies.
 - c. No, it is only a museum.

3. Check your understanding: yes or no

Circle the things that can be found in Windsor Castle.

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| paintings | shells | armour | a doll's house |
| a monument | tapestries | porcelain | firefighters |

4. Check your understanding: matching - numbers

Match the numbers with the things they describe and write a-h next to the number 1-8.

- | | | | |
|---|---|----|-----------|
| 2 | The distance the castle is from London in miles. | b. | 11th |
| 3 | The century the castle was built. | c. | IV |
| 4 | The number of monarchs who have lived in Windsor Castle. | d. | 1848 |
| 5 | The monarch George who gave Windsor its famous skyline. | e. | 200 |
| 6 | The year that Queen Victoria opened the state apartments to the public. | f. | 1992 |
| 7 | The year a fire swept through the castle. | g. | a million |
| 8 | The number of firefighters it took to put out the fire at the castle. | h. | 23 |

5. Check your grammar: gap fill - active and passive verbs

Write the word or words to fill the gaps. Use the passive or active verb forms.

- 1 The legacy of each monarch can _____ (see) in the castle.
 - 2 George IV _____ (*double*) the height of the castle's round tower.
 - 3 Queen Victoria _____ (*open*) the state apartments to the public.
 - 4 The castle _____ (*restore*) after a huge fire in 1992.
 - 5 The Order of the Garter's annual ceremony _____ (*hold*) at St. George's Chapel.
 - 6 Windsor Castle _____ (*enjoy*) by people from all over the world.
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Video Zone: Windsor Castle - answers

6. Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a-h next to the number 1-8.

8.

1. b) A restoration project 4.
2. a) William the Conqueror
3. b) He doubled the height of the castle's round tower.
4. b) The shields and armour of over a thousand Garter Knights
5. c) It repaired the damage and added new interiors.
6. a) Yes, it is the official residence of the Queen.

our, a doll's house, tapestries, porcelain

: understanding: matching - numbers

8.

: grammar: gap fill - active and passive verbs

3. opened 6.
