Build Your Own Castle

Irish castles provided homes and protection for many people in medieval Ireland. Today, fortresses like the Belfast Castle on Cave Hill remind us of Ireland’s powerful past and culture. Follow the directions below to build your very own paper castle and become the king or queen of your own kingdom!

Materials Needed:
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Glue
- Black marker
- 4 Toothpicks
- Colored paper
- 2 paper towel tubes
- 4 pieces of cardboard (Tip: You can use two old cereal boxes if you don’t have any cardboard)

Instructions:
- Make the towers! Cut both paper towel tubes in half horizontally.
- Make the walls! Cut 2 pieces of cardboard into 4 x 7 inch rectangles. Cut the other 2 pieces of cardboard into 4 x 10 inch rectangles.
- Make the battlements! Mark ½ inch squares along the tops of your cardboard rectangles and tubes. Cut out every other square to make tabs on the top of your castle walls. (Tip: Cut an arch or two in your favorite wall to create doorways.)
- Draw the bricks! Use a ruler and black marker to make brick shapes on your towers and walls. (Tip: Use a pencil first and trace over the pencil with the marker to avoid mistakes.)
- Attach the towers! Cut two 2-½-inch slits up the bottom of each tower (space the slits 2 inches apart). Cut a 2-½-inch slit at the end of each wall (from the top, and 1/2 inch from the wall edges). Slide the slits in the walls up into the slits in the towers.
- Fly your flags! Cut 4 triangles out of colored paper and glue them to the tops of 4 toothpicks. Glue the toothpicks to the inside of each tower.
- Step back and admire your castle!

Stretch Your Green Thumb!

Ireland is a country full of beautiful forests, mountains, rivers, lakes, parks, and islands. The entire country is covered in greenery and is sometimes called “The Emerald Isle.” A common symbol of Ireland is the shamrock (or clover). Shamrocks represent luck and good fortune and are often preserved by pressing. Clovers are placed between heavy surfaces for a long period of time until the moisture is squeezed out. You can press a bunch of things!

Instructions:
- Look for flowers and leaves around your home (they can be big or small).
- Fold a paper towel in half and place the flowers inside the fold.
- Find three large books in your house, put the folded paper towel inside one of the books and stack the other two on top.
- Leave the books alone over night and the next day you will have beautiful pressed flowers! (The bigger the flower or leaf, the longer you’ll need to press it.)
- You can frame the pressed plants, display them on a table or desk, or give them to a friend in a note!
All Tied Up

The Celtic people influenced Irish language, religion, and art. One of the most famous symbols of the Celtic people is the Celtic knot. There are many different kinds of Celtic knots, each with different meanings. To find out where Sam and Sofia are headed next month, work your way through the Celtic knot maze below. The correct path will lead you to the name of their next destination!