

A Fortress for a Tortoise!

Make and play ideas to help you explore
Bernardo Bellotto's painting
The Fortress of Königstein from the North



Bernardo Bellotto (1722–1780)

The Fortress of Königstein from the North

About 1756-8

Oil on canvas 132.1 × 236.2 cm

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Look really closely at the painting...

What is the first thing you spot? Who can you see?



What do you think they are doing?

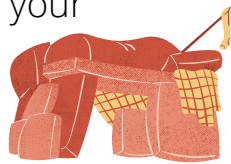
If you were in the painting... What do you think you might hear?

Where would you most like to explore?

More ideas you might like to try...

Build a cushion fortress

Can you build a fortress big enough for you to fit inside? You could build it with pillows, sofa cushions, blankets, sheets... Maybe some special toys could join you in your fortress too!



Sock characters



Find a sock and put it on your hand. If you open and close your hand it looks like a mouth! Use your new sock puppet to pretend to be some of the people and animals you can see in the painting. What do they sound like? What about people or creatures we can't see? Who are they and where might they be hiding?

Make a mini recycled fortress inside



Have a dig through your recycling for building materials. Cereal boxes make great fortresses. What could you use for a tower? What could you use for a door? Can you build a really tall fortress?



Create your own magnificent artwork of your home



Bernardo Bellotto painted a very grand picture of the Königstein Fortress and the land around it. Draw a picture of your home, the people who live in it and important things that are nearby. Maybe everyone in your home could have a go!

Make a mini stick fortress outside

When you are on a walk or in your outside space, collect up some natural building materials. Sticks are great for this and leaves are good too but please make sure you are careful and respectful of your environment when you are collecting. Can you make a mini home or fortress with what you collect?

