



Hi Kids! What do footballs, lions, and flying men have in common? Read this issue to find out!

### In a Nutshell

Stirling Castle, built in the early 12th century, is one of the largest and most important castles in Scotland. It sits high on a craggy hill overlooking the River Forth. The castle has played a notable part in the lives of some well known Scottish figures including **Mary, Queen of Scots**, **William Wallace**, and **Robert the Bruce**. There have been at least eight sieges of Stirling Castle, including some during the Wars of Scottish Independence.

Fun facts about the castle:

- ◆ The oldest surviving football (made from a pig's bladder) was discovered in the rafters of the palace and is dated from around 1540.
- ◆ A lion was possibly kept at the castle by King James V in a rectangular courtyard called the Lion's Den.
- ◆ The first Scottish attempt at flying took place at the castle in 1507 when a man tried to fly out a window with feathered wings. He landed in a dungheap and was badly injured.



Visit [www.stirlingcastle.gov.uk](http://www.stirlingcastle.gov.uk) for more interesting facts about Stirling Castle.

### Mary, Queen of Scots



What a dramatic life Queen Mary lived! She was born in 1543 to King James V of Scotland. At nine months old, upon the death of her father, she was crowned queen in Stirling Castle. A year later her mother hid her in the castle to keep her from being kidnapped by the English. At sixteen she married French king Francis II who died two years later from an ear infection. Ouch! At twenty-two Mary married her cousin Henry Stuart and gave birth to James VI in 1566. The unhappy three year marriage ended when Henry was found suspiciously dead. Her third husband was the 4th Earl of Bothwell, whom she married when she was twenty-five. Because of fighting between Catholics and Protestants, Catholic Mary was put in prison and forced to give the throne to her one year old son James VI. She escaped to England to ask for help from her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I. Elizabeth, a Protestant, was worried that Mary would try to take her throne and had Mary arrested and imprisoned in different homes and castles for nineteen years. Mary was forty-four when she had her head chopped off for treason. Yikes!



### Book Nook

*Queen's Own Fool* by Jane Yolen, Robert Harris  
(ages 10+), 400 pages

A fascinating tale of the ill-fated life of Mary, Queen of Scots is recounted by a young female jester in Mary's court.

### Did You Know?

The spiky, purple thistle became the emblem of Scotland during the reign of Alexander III (1249-1286). According to legend, the King of Norway sent his army to the Coast of Largs in the middle of the night to conquer the sleeping Scottish clansmen. In order to sneak up on the Scots, the army removed their footwear. An unsuspecting soldier stepped on a thistle and cried out in pain, waking the Scotsmen. The Scottish clansmen won the battle! The thistle was first used as a royal symbol on silver coins during the reign of James III in 1470.



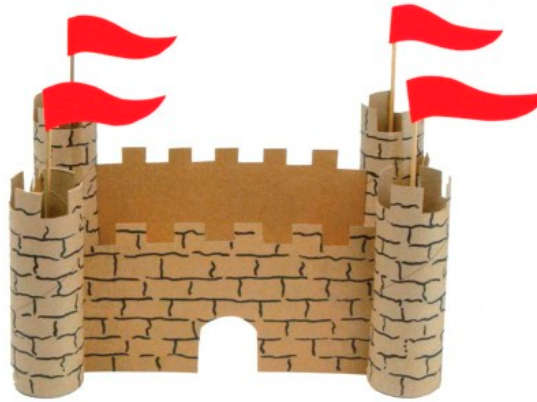
### Scottish Trees and Flowers

D A O B I R C H R Y L L O H H  
E L T S I H T R E E O X M C A  
L L E B E U L B A A V B A E W  
A J H O P I N E K B T O P E T  
V H W J H Q Y Q X P A H L B H  
F O R G E T M E N O T P E C O  
E L K C U S Y E N O H A P R R  
X W S T R A W B E R R Y S L N  
K W U X F O X G L O V E D H E

ASH BEECH BIRCH BLUEBELL CLOVER CRABAPPLE  
FORGET-ME-NOT FOXGLOVE HAWTHORNE HEATHER HOLLY  
HONEYSUCKLE MAPLE OAK PINE STRAWBERRY THISTLE

Build a Paper Castle for kids that's fit for a king or queen! Your work will pay off with hours of fun playtime when you create this fantasy paper craft.

## Paper Castle Craft



### What You'll Need:

- 2 paper towel tubes
- 4 pieces cardboard
- Red paper
- 4 wooden skewers

### Tools:

- Craft knife
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Brown marker
- Craft glue

*Note: Adult help needed.*

**Step 1:** Ask a grown-up to help you cut both tubes in half with a craft knife. Measure and mark 1/2-inch tabs around the top of each tube section. Cut out.

**Step 2:** Cut 2 pieces of cardboard to 4 x 11 inches and another 2 pieces to 4 x 8 inches. Cut tabs along the top of each piece to match the 4 turrets. Cut an arch for a doorway in the center of one of the longer pieces.

**Step 3:** Use a ruler and pencil to sketch brick shapes on the 4 walls and the 4 turrets. Trace over the pencil lines with brown marker, making some of the lines wavy to add extra detail.

**Step 4:** To attach the turrets to the walls, cut two 2-1/2-inch slits up from the bottom of each tube, spacing the slits about 2 inches apart. Make two 2-1/2-inch slits down from the top of each wall, each about 1/2 inch in from the edge. To assemble, slide the cuts in the wall pieces up into the cuts on the tubes.

**Step 5:** Cut out 8 flag shapes from red paper. Glue them together back to back in sets of 2, with the top of a wooden skewer sandwiched between each. Glue each skewer to the inside of one of the tubes.

To find these directions and other fun stuff, visit this website:

<http://tlc.howstuffworks.com/family/paper-castles.htm>

