

The Castle of Guimarães

Birthplace of the Portuguese nation

Guidelines for educators

- **Context and the area of cultural heritage:** This worksheet explores Portuguese tangible cultural heritage and it focuses on the Castle of Guimarães, which in Portuguese culture is considered to be the birthplace not only of the first Portuguese king but also of the identity of Portugal as a country.
- **Description and justification:** This worksheet contains 3 exercises focused on the castle of Guimarães, which aim to work on the students' communication skills, knowledge of verb tenses and vocabulary about castles, while finding out more about the origins of the Portuguese identity.
- **Duration:** 45 minutes
- **Language level:** B1
- **Prior knowledge:** Students must have at least a pre-intermediate command of the target language and have enough vocabulary to give their opinion
- **Thematic area, grammatical and syntactical phenomena (learning objectives):** In this worksheet students will learn about the history surrounding the origin of Portugal as a country. They will learn useful vocabulary to share their opinion and practice verb tenses, namely Simple Present and Past Simple. There will also be a focus on reading comprehension and vocabulary.
- **Skills developed (or benefits for students):** At the end of this worksheet, students will have practiced their Speaking skills, namely when it comes to sharing their opinion and talking about historical facts. The students will also improve their command of the Present and Past verb tenses. They will also work on their reading comprehension and they will learn how to identify the parts of a castle.

- **Material needed:** Computer with internet access, if the class is face-to-face, a projector to show the video would be a bonus and a whiteboard with markers and eraser, to write down the students' ideas during brainstorming.

- **References and resources:**

www.padlet.com (can be used for brainstorming and building a timeline in a virtual class – exercise 1, task 1 and 2)

[https://www.castelosdeportugal.pt/castelos/Castelos\(pre\)SECXII/guimaraes.htm](https://www.castelosdeportugal.pt/castelos/Castelos(pre)SECXII/guimaraes.htm)
| (thorough information about the castle of Guimarães)

[https://www.infopedia.pt/\\$batalha-de-s.-mamede?uri=lingua-portuguesa](https://www.infopedia.pt/$batalha-de-s.-mamede?uri=lingua-portuguesa)
(Information about the battle of S. Mamede)

<https://ensina.rtp.pt/artigo/tratado-de-zamora/> (Information about the Treaty of Zamora)

https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Condado_Portucalense

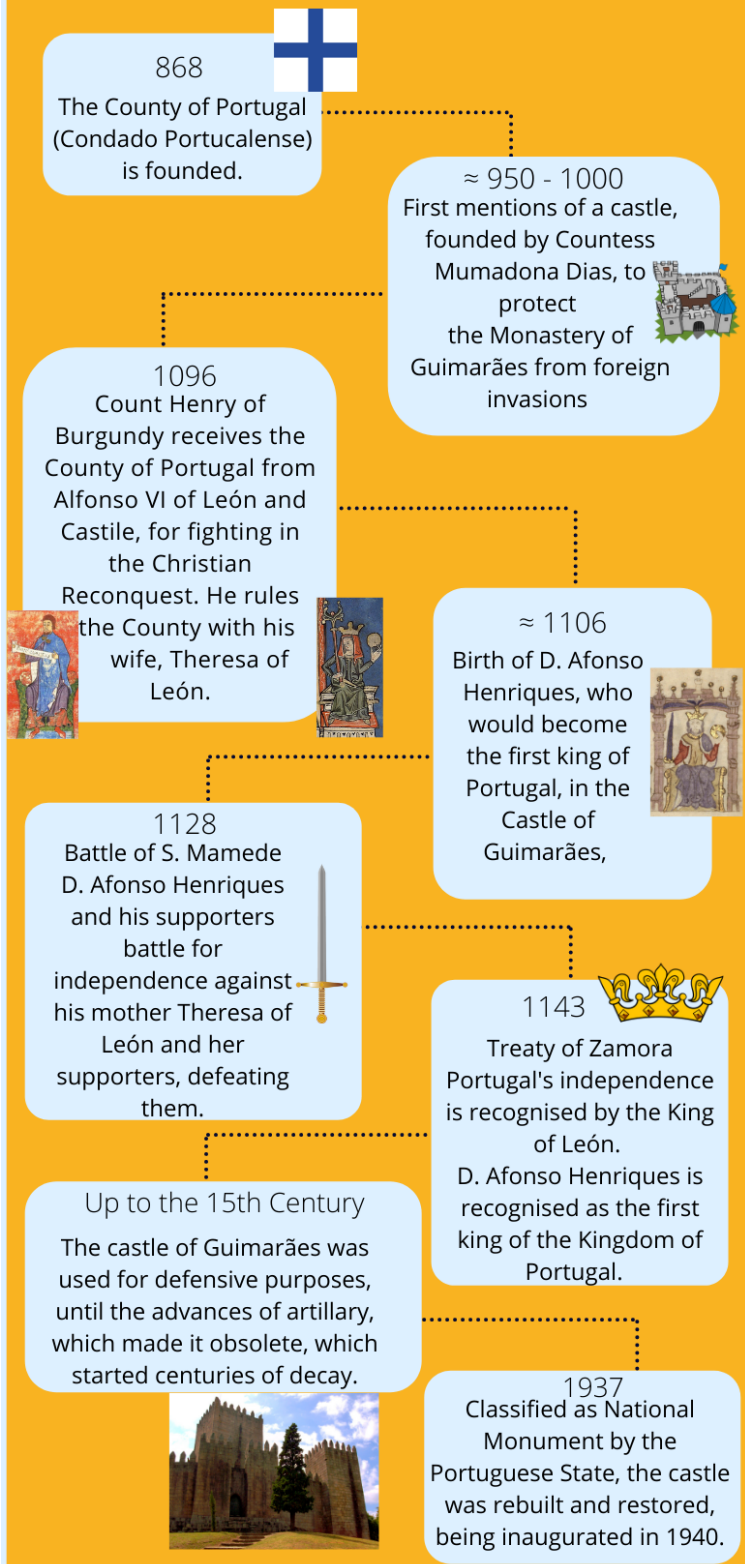
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rMl6pLlyBLs> (Video of the castle)

<https://www.britannica.com/technology/castle-architecture> (vocabulary about castles)

Images taken from: www.pixabay.com

Worksheet for the student

Timeline of the Castle of Guimarães




EXERCISE 1:

(Duration: 15 minutes)

Task 1:

Let's brainstorm! What do you know about Portuguese History? Write down some facts or events:



Task 2:

As a class, create your own timeline of the events you collected. What is the earliest event you have? And the most recent? Use the style of timeline below for reference.



Task 3:

Discuss with your class, why do you think the Castle of Guimarães is called the birthplace of the nation?

EXERCISE 2:

(Duration: 15 minutes)

Task 1: Read the text about the Castle of Guimarães and fill in the gaps with the verbs from the box. Don't forget to put them in the correct tense.

rule	to be	recognise	become
visit	defeat	inspire	born
lead	refer	build	contribute

Guimarães (1) _____ a city in the north of Portugal, previously known as Vimaranes. The centre of Guimarães (2) _____ those who visit it to think about historical times long gone. One of its civil parishes, Oliveira do Castelo, is the stage for the Castle of Guimarães, which (3) _____ in the medieval ages to defend the area against Norman invasions from the North and Muslim invasions from the South. Before Portugal (4) _____ a country, it was known as the County of Portugal (Condado Portucalense), a territory gifted by the King Alfonso VI of León and Castile to Count Henry, who (5) _____ it with his wife, Theresa of León. According to tradition, their child, Afonso Henriques, (6) _____ in the castle, and would later become the first king of Portugal. For that reason, the city of Guimarães is often (7) _____ to as the birthplace of the Portuguese nationality. The area of the castle of Guimarães was also the stage to the battle of S. Mamede, fought in 1128, when the forces (8) _____ by Afonso Henriques (9) _____ the forces commanded by his mother Theresa, Countess of Portugal. This was a crucial event in Portuguese History, which (10) _____ to the Foundation of the Kingdom of Portugal. In 1143, the Kingdom of Portugal was officially (11) _____ by the neighbouring kingdoms in the Treaty of Zamora, and Afonso Henriques officially became the first king of Portugal. As for the city of Guimarães, today it is recognised as Cultural Heritage of Humanity and many tourists still (12) _____ it every year.



Task 2: First, compare your answers with a partner. Do you have the same ones? Then, correct the exercises as a class with your teacher.

Task 3: Read the text again and say whether the following statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1. The Castle of Guimarães is located in the civil parish of Guimarães. [T] [F]

2. At first, the main purpose of the castle was to defend the land against Viking invasions. [T] [F]

3. In the Battle of S. Mamede, Afonso Henriques and his allies fought against his mother's troops. [T] [F]

4. The Kingdom of Portugal was officially recognised in the treaty of Tordesilhas. [T] [F]

5. The city of Guimarães is recognised as Cultural Heritage of Humanity. [T] [F]



Figure 2- Evening view of the Castle of Guimarães

EXERCISE 3:

(Duration: 15 minutes)

Task 1: Let's go on a virtual visit to the castle! Take a look at the [video](#) and remember to pay attention to the different parts of the castle.

The castle is surrounded by a **wall**, reinforced by four **towers**. There is a **chemin de ronde**, which is a pathway that surrounds the top of the wall and can be accessed by stairs in the towers. The wall is surrounded by a **battlement**, with indentations for defensive purposes. In the western front, there



is the **main gate**, defended by two **turrets**. In the centre of the **place-of-arms**, there is a **keep**, which is connected to the chemin de ronde by a **wooden bridge**.

Task 2: Match the words to their definitions.

1. Wall	a) Strongest part of a fortification of a castle, usually a single tower
2. Tower	b) Structure that connected the chemin de ronde to the keep
3. Chemin de ronde	c) The parapet of a wall consisting of alternating low parts and high parts
4. Battlement	d) A place in the castle where troops could gather
5. Main gate	e) Structure of tall proportions with defensive purposes, attached to the wall
6. Turrets	f) Defensive structure that surrounds a castle, usually made of stone
7. Place-of-arms	g) Strongly built main entrance to a castle
8. Keep	h) Pathway in the upper part of a wall
9. Wooden bridge	i) Small towers built into the wall of a castle

Answer: 1 - ____ 2 - ____ 3 - ____ 4 - ____ 5 - ____
6 - ____ 7 - ____ 8 - ____ 9 - ____

Task 3: Match the names of the parts of the castle to the numbers in the picture.

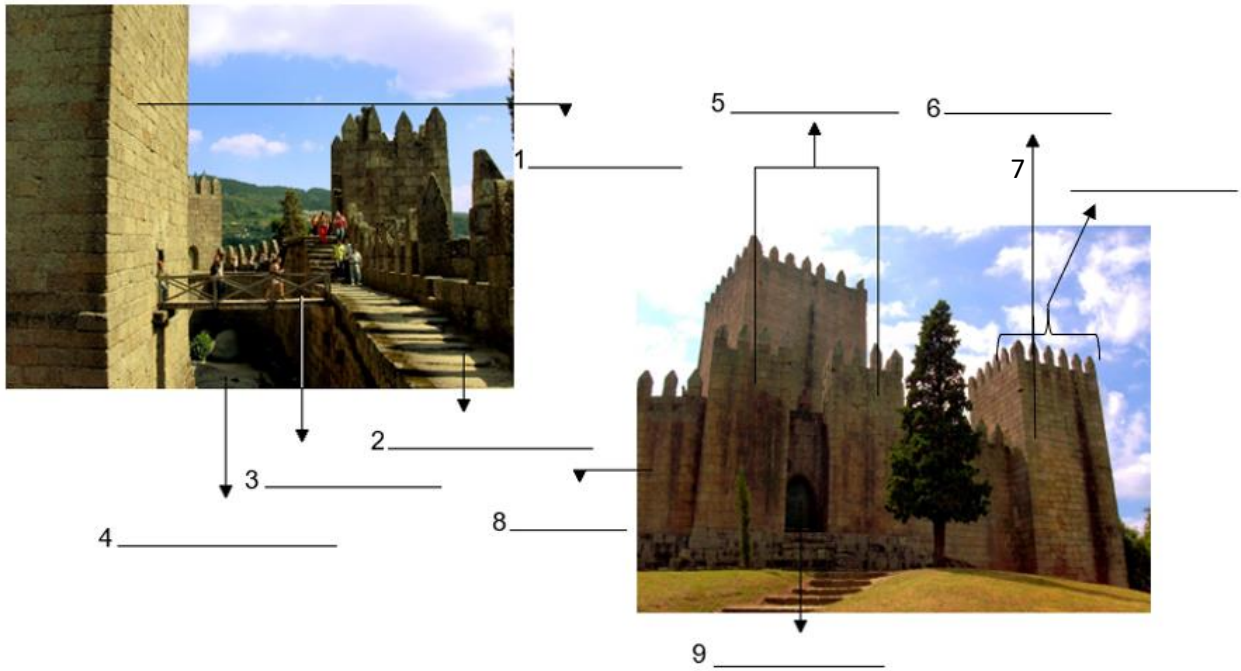


Image Source: [Castelo de Guimarães, Portugal - Acesso à Torre de Menagem](#) by Marco Aldeia [CC BY-SA 3.0](#)

Answer Key

Exercise 1

Task 1: Student's own answers, Padlet can be used for brainstorming as a class in virtual classes

Task 2: Student's own answers

Task 3: Student's own answers, the teacher can help the students build a timeline

Task 4: Student's own answers, but the teacher can mention that Guimarães is considered the birthplace of the nation because it is said that it was the birthplace of the first king of Portugal, Afonso Henriques.

Exercise 2

Task 1

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1) Is | 7) referred |
| 2) Inspires | 8) led |
| 3) Was built | 9) defeated |
| 4) became | 10) contributed |
| 5) ruled | 11) recognised |
| 6) was born | 12) visit |

Task 2

1 – False. The Castle of Guimarães is located in the civil parish of **Oliveira do Castelo**.

2 – False. At first, the main purpose of the castle was to defend the land against **Norman and Muslim** invasions.

3 – True.

4 – False. The Kingdom of Portugal was officially recognised in the treaty of **Zamora**.

5 – True.

Exercise 3

Task 1 – Only requires watching the video and reading the text. The teacher can ask the students to read the text first, then stop the video at certain parts to allow the students to identify certain parts.

Task 2

1 – f) ; 2 – e) ; 3 – h) ; 4 – c) ; 5 – g) ; 6 – i) ; 7 – d) ; 8 – a) ; 9 – b)

Task 3

- 1 – keep
- 2 – chemin de ronde
- 3 – wooden bridge
- 4 – place-of-arms
- 5 – turrets
- 6 – tower
- 7 – battlement
- 8 – wall
- 9 – main gate