

Baba Vida Fortress

General information			
Respective blueprint	Creating a medieval dwelling		
Description	<p>Students learn about the medieval fortress "Baba Vida", located in Vidin, Bulgaria.</p> <p>They draw in a square grid, transferring the image from a photo.</p> <p>Presentation on how to make a model of a medieval dwelling using natural materials.</p>		
Learning objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To form ideas about the dwellings in the past and the materials from which they were built • To perform mathematical exercises: drawing in a square grid measuring lengths. • To build up knowledge of the practical use of units of measurement 		
Related curricular subjects	<p>Mathematics - measurement units</p> <p>History - Medieval fortress "Baba Vida" - creation and purposes</p> <p>Engineering - construction in the past</p> <p>Art - Combination of materials in applied art.</p>		
Duration	90 min		
Level of difficulty	Basic	Medium	Advanced
	○	●	○
Inclusivity guidelines			
How to integrate students with SLD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate short, simple instructions that only require one action at a time. • If you give oral instructions, make sure you keep track of them in the form of pictograms or written on the board. • When you give instructions (oral or written), make sure to highlight the word of action so pupils know what they are expected to do. • When it's possible, you can show the expected result of the manipulation. • When creating groups, try to place students who are having difficulties with students who are generally more advanced so that they can help each other. 		
How to integrate students who work faster	Students who are faster at the task will also design the area around the created dwelling.		

Step-by-step description of the lesson

Step 1: The medieval fortress "Baba Vida"

Estimated time: 20 min

- Students are presented with facts about the fortress:

The construction of the fortress proper began in the 10th century on the foundations of the ancient strategic point of Bononia (3rd century), which was part of the Danube frontier of the Roman Empire. Remains of the defensive structures are preserved in various places in the town of Vidin, but the best preserved are the foundations of the northeast corner tower. Later, the Bulgarians built this tower into the Baba Vida fortress. Over time, the fortress was repeatedly upgraded by its various rulers. Even in its early stages, however, it was exceptionally well fortified to cause the Byzantine chronicler Ioan Skilitza to write, "...the emperor marched against Vidin and took it by force after eight months of siege". Here it is about Emperor Basil II, who besieged the Bulgarian fortress in 1003. The transformation of the medieval fortification into a castle took place under the first rulers of the rulers of the Bdin principality. The final expansion was under Tsar Ivan Sratsimir, whose name is linked to the main tower of the castle.

- Legends say:

The legend of the three sisters Vida, Kula and Gamza has been told for many years.

It tells of three sisters. Their father was a rich nobleman. After his death, the three daughters divided their father's fortune and vast lands.

Then, each of them created her own estate, and gradually, settlements sprang up around them. The eldest sister, Vida, was given the land by the Danube and proved to be the most stubborn of her sisters. Kula took the land westwards towards the mountains. And the lands towards the Balkan fell to Gamza.

Today, there are three settlements that bear the names of the sisters. Vidin and Kula are in Bulgaria and Gamzigrad in Serbia.

The settlements are 30 kilometres apart. According to legend, Vida was the only sister who did not marry but devoted herself to fortifying the city of Vidin. She built the fortress, which today we call "Baba Vida". Her younger sisters married bad men who squandered the fortune left by their father.

- Comparison of medieval and modern dwellings.
 - Materials of construction, construction method and use of technology and tools in the past and now, appearance of buildings.
- Analysis of the materials from which they are built.

- What materials will students use to construct a medieval dwelling, what materials were used to construct Baba Vida Fortress, and what materials are used to construct buildings today. How were bricks made in the past and today?

Step 2: Working with a square grid

Estimated time: 30 min

- Each student is provided with an image of the fortress and a sheet with a square grid.
- Using a ruler and drawing pencil, the student transfers the image onto the square grid.
- The students are tasked with transferring the real object as much as possible and following every detail.

Step 3: Construction of a Medieval dwelling

Estimated time: 40 min

- Create a Medieval dwelling by following the steps described in the blueprint
This sequence can be adapted to suit your geographical location by choosing a medieval fortress in your region.

Assessment activities

Activity 1: What did I learn about Baba Vida?

Choose the correct answer:

Baba Vida Fortress is located in:

- A) Nis, Serbia
- B) Vidin, Bulgaria
- C) Oltenia, Romania

Medieval dwellings were built by:

- A) Concrete and rebar
- B) Bricks and lime
- C) Stone and mud/clay

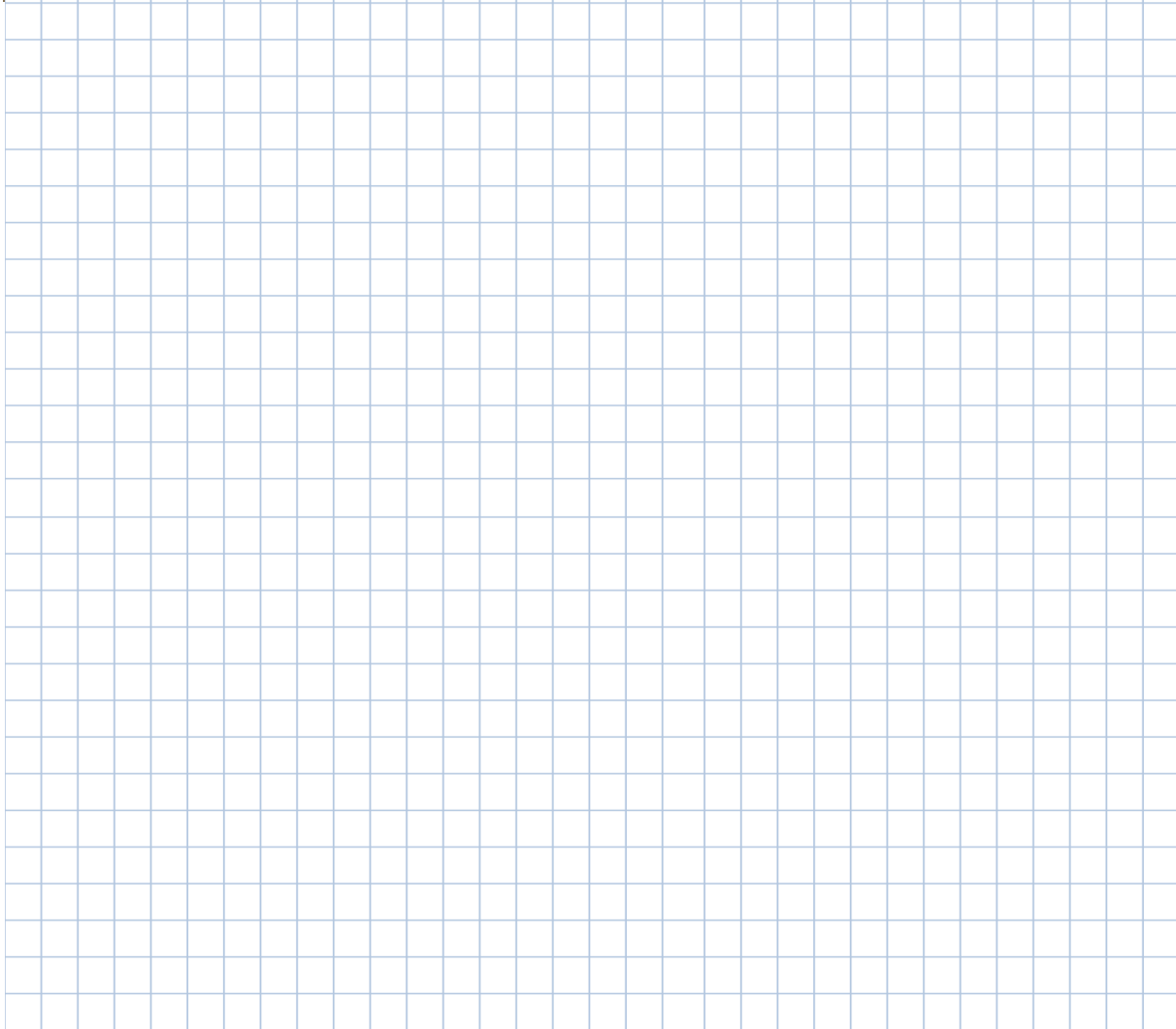
Attachments

- Square grid

References

[Легендата за Вида, Кула и Гъмза ще привлече туристи, за да разкрият мистерията им | Чудеса.net \(chudesa.net\)](#)

(The legend of Vida, Kula and Gamza will attract tourists to uncover their mystery | Wonders.net (chudesa.net))



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