

School talk: the castle on the hill

How to put it together

1. **Start with a question.** Ask your class: "Would you want to walk up a hill every day to get to work?" That's how you start talking about the priest in the castle.
2. **Say where the castle is.** The castle is on Mount Pontinos, near the village of Myloi in Greece, by the sea between Argos and Nafplio. Show it on a map!
3. **Tell about the castle.** The outer wall with towers, the hexagonal wall with the big tower, and the cisterns for rainwater.
4. **Tell about the priest and the mystery.** The priest who had to say Mass every day, and the little church whose name nobody knows.
5. **End with a quiz.** Ask your class two or three questions. Who knows the answer?

Tips

- Practise out loud a few times, for example in front of your parents.
- Draw the castle on the board: a long wall with towers and a hexagon at the top.
- Five to ten minutes is a good length.
- At the end, say where you got your information from: the Visit Myloi website.

Facts

- Mount Pontinos is right behind the village of Myloi. From the top you can see the sea, the plain of Argos and the town of Nafplio.
- Almost two thousand years ago, the writer Pausanias saw the remains of a temple for Athena at the top.
- In the Middle Ages a castle was built, with an outer wall full of towers and, at the top, a hexagonal wall with a big tower.
- Rainwater was stored in cisterns, in case enemies surrounded the castle.
- In 1347 the lord Gautier de Brienne decided that a priest had to live in the castle and say Mass every day.
- In the castle are the remains of a small church. Nobody knows what it was called.
- In 1388 the area was sold to Venice. Later the castle was never rebuilt and it became a ruin.
- At the top there is now the little white chapel of Profitis Ilias.

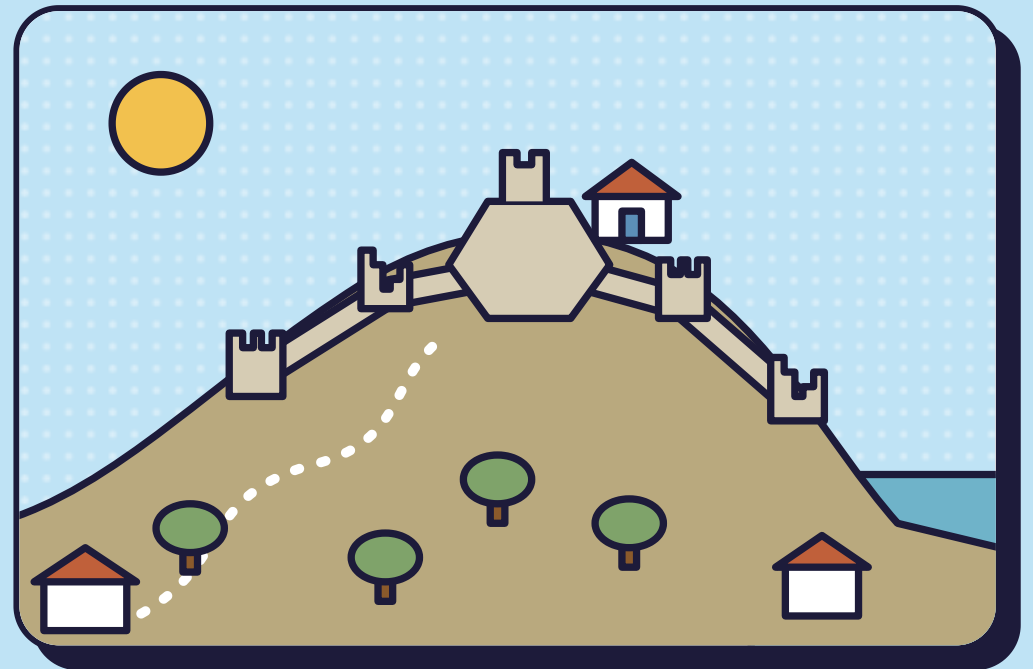
Quiz questions for your class

- Where did they store rainwater in the castle? (In cisterns.)
- What did the priest have to do every day? (Say Mass.)
- Do we know what the little church in the castle was called? (No, it's a mystery!)

The castle on the hill

A school talk about the castle on Mount Pontinos, near Myloi in Greece.

By: _____



1

Where is the castle?

On Mount Pontinos, right behind the village of Myloi, in the Peloponnese in Greece.
From the top you can see the sea and the town of Nafplio.



2

A temple for Athena

Almost 2000 years ago, the writer Pausanias saw the remains of a temple for the goddess Athena at the top.

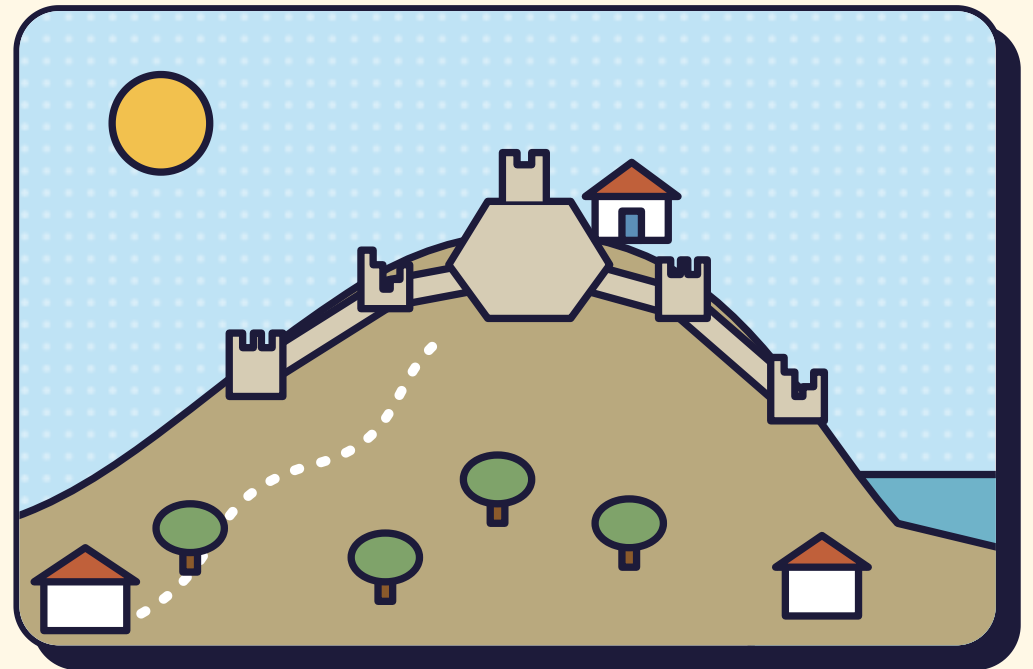
Even then it was already a ruin!



3

A castle full of towers

In the Middle Ages a castle was built: an outer wall with towers and, at the top, a hexagonal wall with a big tower. They stored rainwater in cisterns.



4

The priest

In 1347 the lord Gautier de Brienne decided that a priest had to live in the castle. He had to say Mass every day.



5

A mystery

In the castle are the remains of a small church, about 9 by 4.8 metres.
What was it called? Nobody knows!

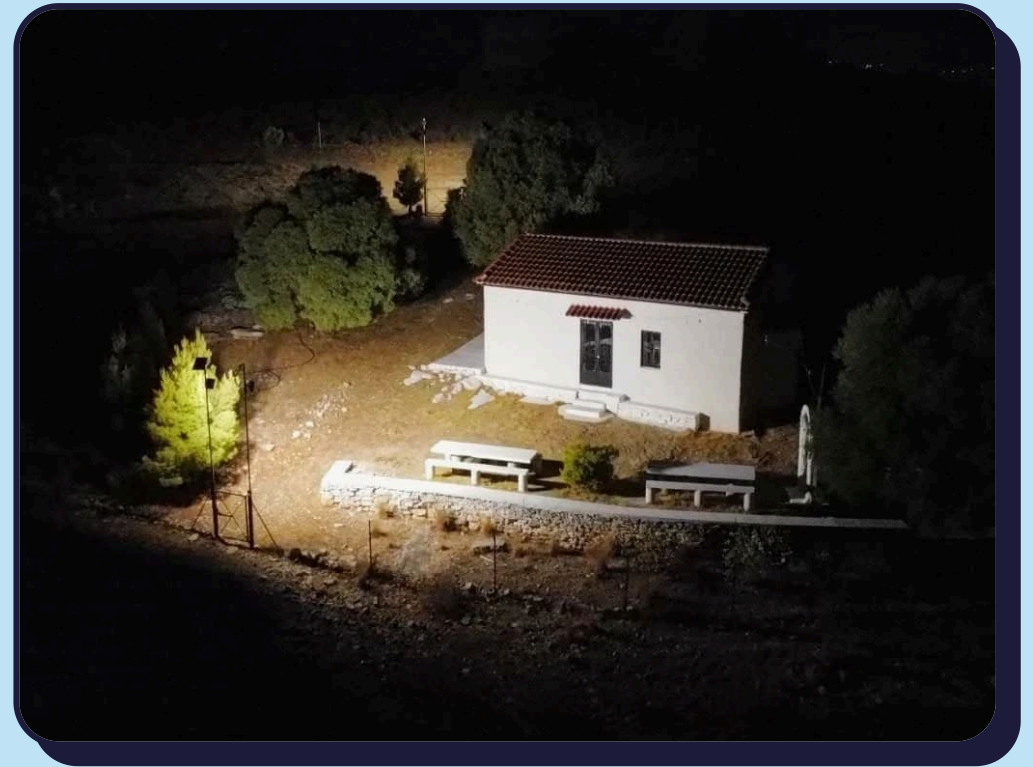


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Sold and forgotten

In 1388 the area was sold to Venice. Later the castle was never rebuilt.

Now the little white chapel of Profitis Ilias stands at the top.



7

Quiz!

- Where did they store rainwater in the castle?
- What did the priest have to do every day?
- Do we know what the little church in the castle was called?



Sources

Information: Visit Myloi (visitmyloi.gr), pages about the castle on the Pontinos and the churches of Myloi; Pausanias.

Photos: Visit Myloi. Drawings: Visit Myloi Junior.