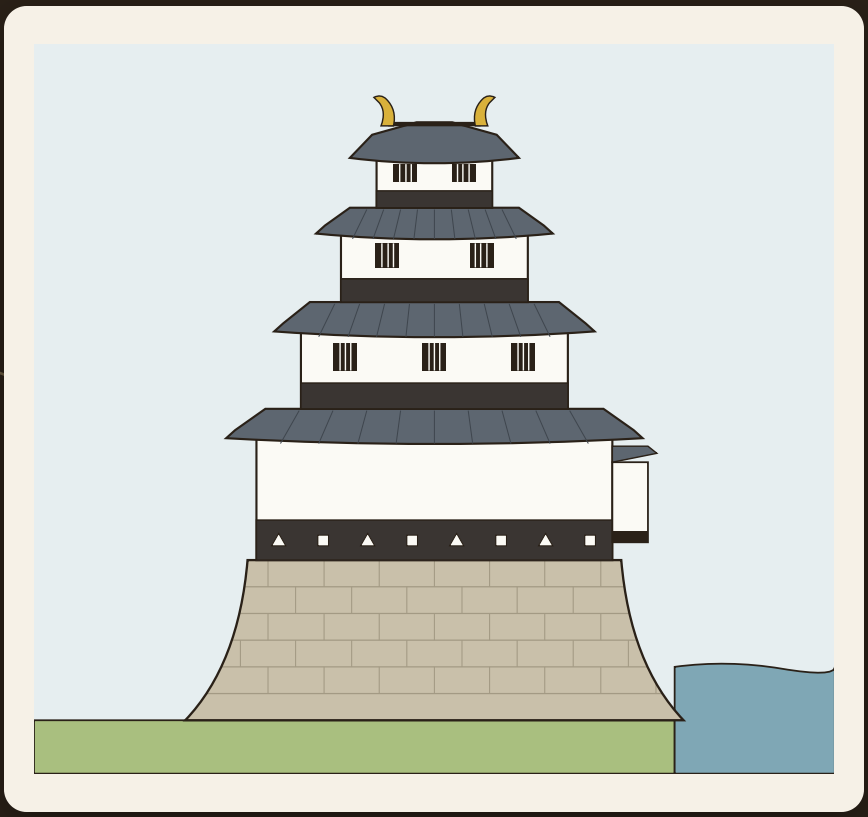
Japanese Castles Printables: Free Sample

A taste of the six packs



FREE · 6 PAGES · A4 & US LETTER

Pages from three of our packs.

WELCOME

What's in this sample

Real pages from the full packs

Thanks for downloading. This sample has pages from the **Junior Topic Pack**, the **Timeline & Poster Set** and the **Family Activity Pack**. Every fact is checked against a named source, listed at the back.

PACK	FOR
Japanese Castles Junior Topic Pack	Ages 7 to 11, schools and families
Japanese Castles History Detective Pack	Ages 11 to 14
Japanese Castles Family Activity Pack	Families, ages 5 and up
Japanese Castles Spotter's Field Guide	Adult history fans and travellers
Japanese Castles Visit Journal	Visitors of all ages
Japanese Castles Timeline & Poster Set	Classrooms and home

The full packs are at japanese-castles.forts.im/shop/.

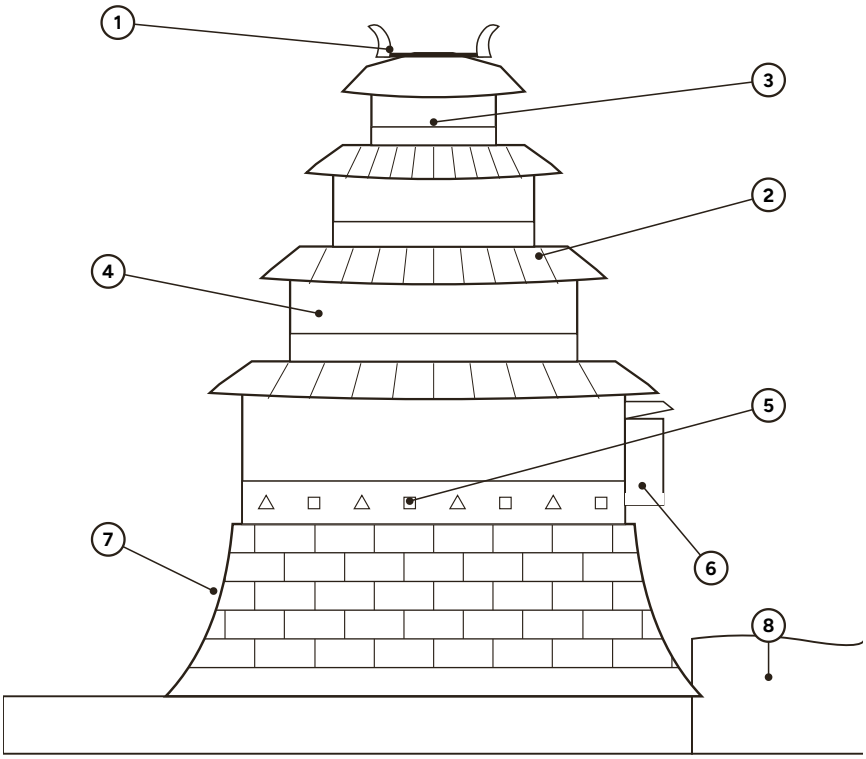
ABOUT THE FACTS

Some of these castles are more than 400 years old, and some questions have no single answer. Where sources differ, we show what each one says, rather than picking one.

FROM THE JUNIOR TOPIC PACK

Label the castle keep

From the Junior Topic Pack. Answers: 1. shachihoko · 2. tiled roof · 3. top floor · 4. white plaster wall · 5. loopholes (sama) · 6. stone drop (ishi-otoshi) · 7. curved stone base · 8. moat



A castle keep on its stone base, with a moat on the right. Our own simplified drawing, not to scale, not a copy of any real castle, plan, map, print or photograph.

Word bank: curved stone base · loopholes (sama) · moat · shachihoko · stone drop (ishi-otoshi) · tiled roof · top floor · white plaster wall

1	
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FROM THE POSTER SET

The Japanese castles timeline

From 1346 to 2021

1346
JNTO's World Heritage page dates the first castle at Himeji to 1346 (JNTO)

1467
JNTO says the Ideta clan lays the first foundations at Kumamoto (JNTO)

1504
Shimadachi Sadanaga builds Fukashi Castle, where Matsumoto now stands (Matsumoto Castle website)

1537
Inuyama Castle is built, says a JNTO leaflet (JNTO)

1583
Toyotomi Hideyoshi begins building Osaka Castle (Osaka Castle Museum)

1593 TO 1594
The Ishikawa father and son build Matsumoto's keep (Matsumoto City's view) (Matsumoto Castle website)

1607
Kato Kiyomasa completes Kumamoto Castle (Kumamoto Castle website)

1609
Himeji Castle is completed under Ikeda Terumasa (JNTO)

1610
Building begins on Nagoya Castle (Nagoya Castle website)

1611
Matsue Castle is finished (JNTO)

1615
Osaka Castle falls in the Summer War in Osaka (Osaka Castle Museum)

1620
Rebuilding of Osaka Castle begins; it takes 10 years (Osaka Castle Museum)

1627
Lightning burns down Hirosaki's five-storey keep (JNTO)

1633
Matsudaira Naomasa takes control of Matsumoto and adds the Moon-Viewing Tower (Matsumoto Castle website)

1665
Lightning destroys Osaka's second main tower (Osaka Castle Museum)

1811
Hirosaki's keep is rebuilt as a three-storey tower (JNTO)

AFTER 1868
Samurai rule ends; almost all castles are later taken down (JNTO)

1877
Kumamoto Castle withstands a fifty-day siege (Kumamoto Castle website)

1930
Nagoya's keeps, palace and 24 structures are named National Treasures (Nagoya Castle website)

1931
Osaka's main tower is rebuilt with public donations (Osaka Castle Museum)

1945
Nagoya Castle is destroyed in an air raid (Nagoya Castle website)

1993
Himeji is registered as a World Heritage site (JNTO)

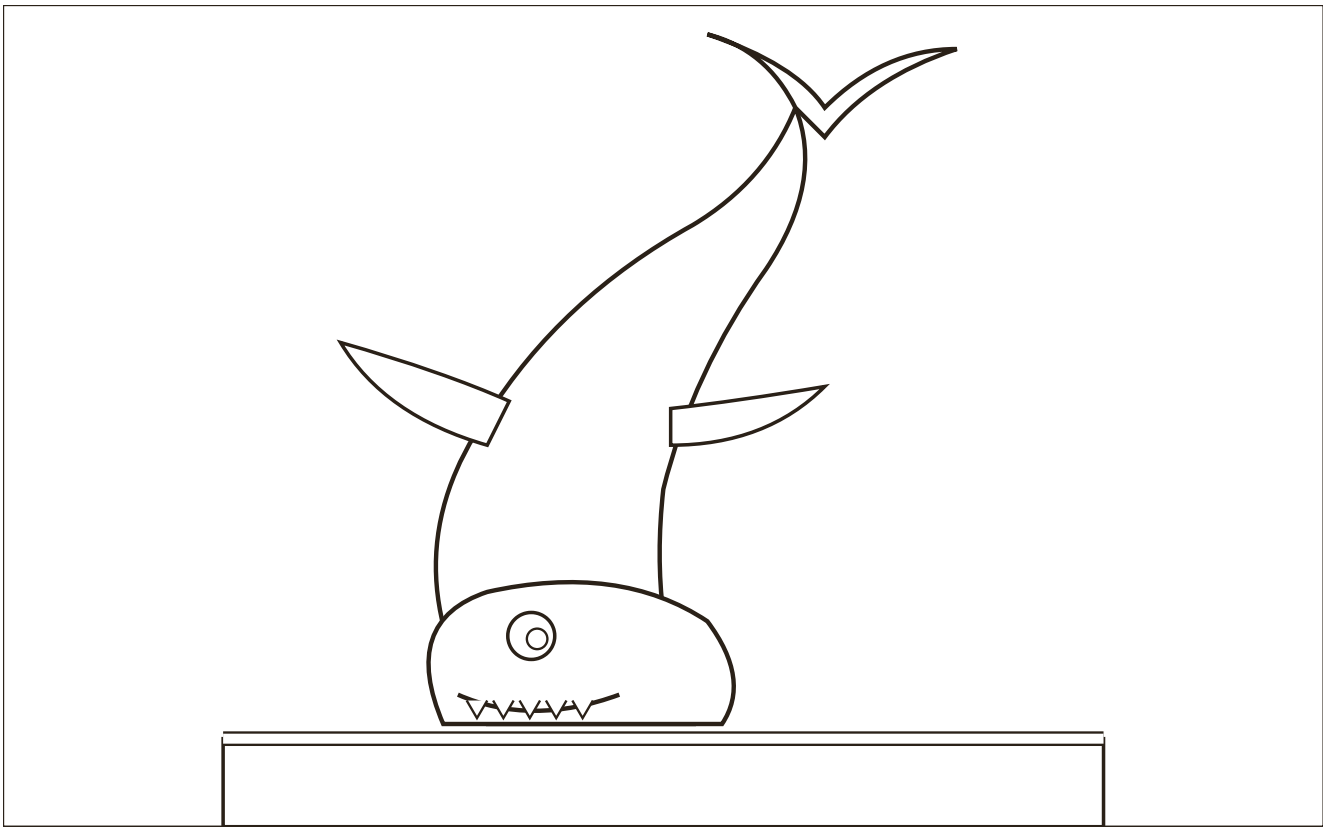
27 MARCH 2015
Himeji fully reopens after a five-year project (JNTO)

MARCH 2021
Kumamoto's main tower is fully restored after the 2016 earthquake (Kumamoto Castle website)

FROM THE FAMILY ACTIVITY PACK

A golden roof ornament

A tiger-fish with scales, a tail and lots of teeth



In the 2016 earthquake, tiles and the shachihoko, a half-tiger, half-fish roof ornament, fell from the top of the castle.

Credits, licence & help

The small print, kept short

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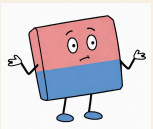
All drawings, charts, puzzles and layouts are REALLYBYTE's own original work. Drawings are our own simplified impressions: not photographs or copies of real objects, buildings or maps, not to scale, and not copied from any plan, print, photo or book.

WHERE THE FACTS COME FROM

Every fact in this pack was checked against the source pages below on 3 Nov 2026. Where sources give different figures, we show each one with its source rather than picking one.

Kumamoto Castle official website: About Kumamoto Castle: castle.kumamoto-guide.jp/en/about/
Matsumoto Castle official website: The Keep and Its Structure: www.matsumoto-castle.jp/eng/about/tower
Nagoya Castle official website: Nagoya Castle: www.nagoyajo.city.nagoya.jp/en/nagoyajo/
Kumamoto Castle official website: History: castle.kumamoto-guide.jp/en/history/
JNTO: Himeji Castle (UNESCO): www.japan.travel/en/world-heritage/himeji-jo-castle/
JNTO: Kumamoto Castle: www.japan.travel/en/spot/638/
Matsumoto Castle official website: History of Matsumoto Castle: www.matsumoto-castle.jp/eng/about/history
JNTO: Castles in Japan (Tourist Information Center leaflet, April 2024): asset.japan.travel/image/upload/v1715053260/pdf/2024_TIC/202405/Castles__in_Japan.pdf
Osaka Castle Museum: English leaflet (April 2019): www.osakacastle.net/pdf/leaflet/english_201904.pdf
JNTO: Himeji Castle: www.japan.travel/en/spot/1030/
Nagoya Castle official website: History: www.nagoyajo.city.nagoya.jp/en/history/
JNTO: Matsue Castle: www.japan.travel/en/spot/933/
JNTO: Hirosaki Castle: www.japan.travel/en/spot/1836/
JNTO: Discover Japan's Twelve Original Castles: www.japan.travel/en/ca/inspiration/discover-japans-twelve-original-castles/

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NEED HELP?

Useless can't help (he's an eraser, and he's busy rubbing out the bits he got wrong), but we can. Problems with your file, or spotted something we should fix? Email **info@reallybyte.com**.

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