



# THE SIEGE museum

Key Stage 2  
**Student Learning Resource**

## The Siege Museum

commemorates the Siege of Londonderry which took place in 1689. For 105 days, the people of Londonderry stopped the army of King James II breaking through the city walls and attacking the people who lived within.



**THE  
siege**  
museum

The Siege Museum  
13 Society Street  
Londonderry  
BT48 6PJ

[www.thesiegemuseum.org](http://www.thesiegemuseum.org)  
[info@thesiegemuseum.org](mailto:info@thesiegemuseum.org)

028 7126 1219

# Who are the Apprentice Boys?

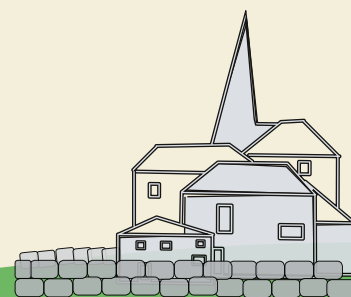


## Who are the Apprentice Boys?

Hello, I'm Master Springham. Welcome to this learning pack from the Siege Museum. Over the following pages you'll be taken on a tour of the Siege of Londonderry and important events that shaped the city and its people.

- 1 The Associated Clubs of the Apprentice Boys of Derry commemorate the historical events of 1689 when this city was besieged by the army of King James II.
- 2 The association commemorates the 13 'apprentices' who shut the gates to prevent hostile soldiers taking over the city. An apprentice is a young man who is learning a trade or new skill, for example a carpenter or tailor.
- 3 The association has approximately 10,000 Apprentice Boys all over the world. However, you can only become a full member if you attend a special ceremony within the walls of the city.
- 4 The association organises two important annual events to commemorate the 'Shutting of the Gates' and the 'Relief of Londonderry'.

Read on to find out more!



# The establishment of Londonderry

In 1609, King James I offered land in Ulster to people from England and Scotland. He wanted them to move here and build more towns, clear forests, drain bogs and set up farms. This became known as '**The Plantation of Ulster**'.

1

In 1613, Derry was a very important Plantation town in a county called Coleraine.

2

King James I awarded Derry the title of a 'city' rather than 'town'.

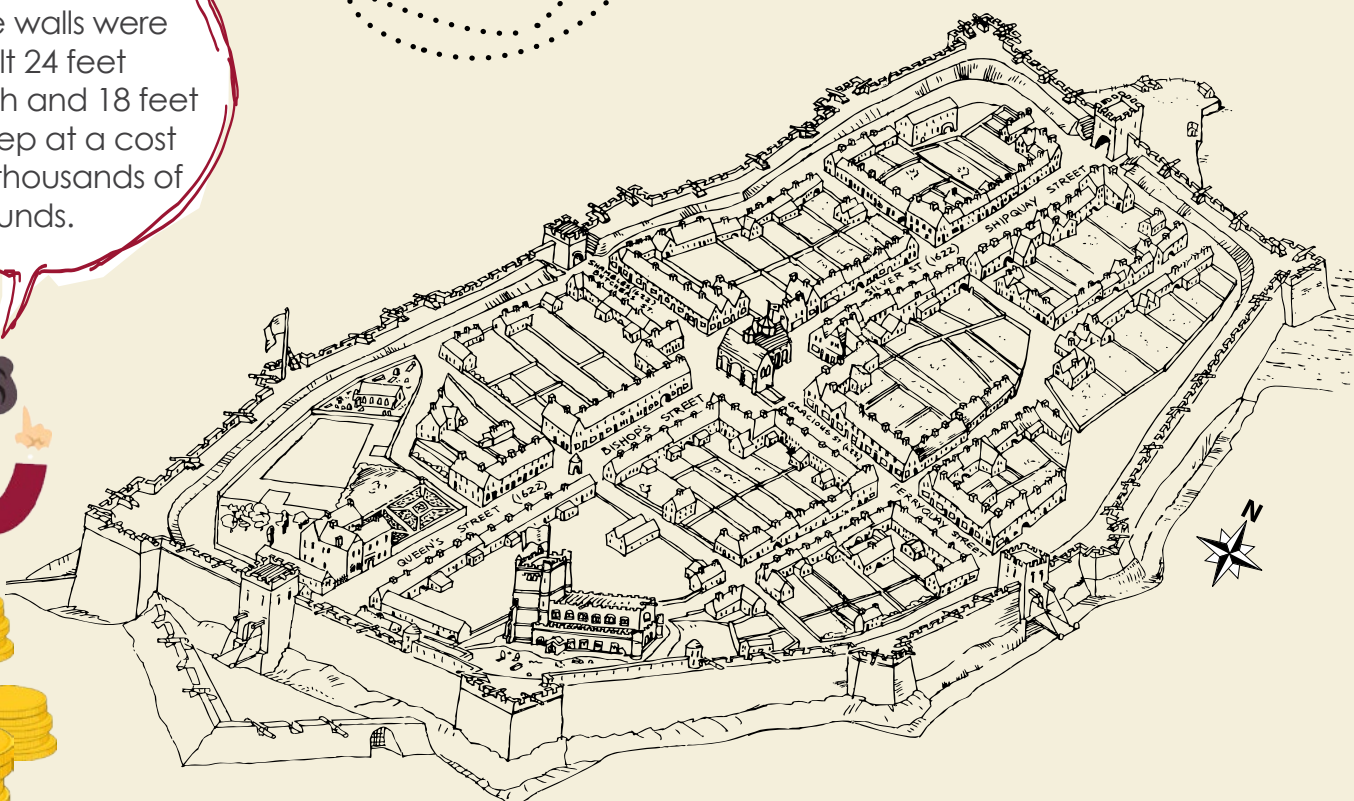
3

The King then changed its name to Londonderry. This encouraged wealthy businessmen and merchants in London to provide the money needed to construct and fortify the city.

4

In addition, County Coleraine was made larger and renamed County Londonderry.

The walls were built 24 feet high and 18 feet deep at a cost of thousands of pounds.



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

Find the following siege related words in the word search above:

APPRENTICE BOYS

LONDONDERRY

SIEGE

PLANTATION

RELIEF

MEMORIAL HALL

KING JAMES

WALLED CITY



# Three Kings



The Siege of Londonderry took place because three kings were at war.

## KING JAMES II

- King James II was born a Protestant and later became a Roman Catholic.
- He was crowned in 1685 and introduced new laws to help other Catholics. He also promoted them and gave them the most important positions in the government and army.
- Many Protestants believed they were in danger if he remained on the throne.
- In 1688, King James II had a son. English noblemen now feared many more years of Catholic rule. They wrote to William of Orange in the Netherlands and asked him to invade England and take the throne.



## KING WILLIAM III



- William of Orange was married to Mary, the daughter of King James II of England. Both William and Mary were Protestants.
- When he arrived in England to overthrow his father-in-law, William was welcomed by many of the people. He brought with him an army of 14,000 soldiers which soon grew to 20,000 with local support.
- James fled to France and asked for help.
- In February 1689, William and Mary were crowned King and Queen.

## KING LOUIS XIV OF FRANCE

- King Louis XIV (XIV = 14) was a powerful Catholic monarch who was at war with many of his neighbours in Europe.
- He persecuted Protestants and forced them to leave France.
- Louis XIV did not want William to be King and agreed to help James reclaim the English throne.

In March 1689, James invaded Ireland with an army supplied by Louis XIV. James planned to recruit Irish soldiers and sail to England. Within weeks James was in control of most of Ireland.



# The Shutting of the gates



In 1641, thousands of Protestant settlers had been massacred in a rebellion led by Catholic noble men.

- In December 1688, a letter was discovered in Comber, Co. Down which suggested another massacre was going to happen.
- While unrest swept across England, James' Catholic allies, known as **Jacobites**, decided to take control of Ireland.
- That winter, Londonderry was one of the few places where the people did not support James. On 7 December, a Jacobite army approached the city.
- While the city leaders argued about what they should do, a group of thirteen young apprentices shut the city gates and stopped the Jacobite army entering Londonderry.
- People in the surrounding countryside came to the city looking for safety. The Jacobite army set up camp.
- Within the walls, the people began to worry how they would survive in a siege. Lieutenant Colonel Robert Lundy was appointed the new Governor and took charge of the city.
- Outside the walls, the Jacobite army increased in numbers, making it increasingly difficult to come and go from the city.



**Above:** The Museum's depictions of the gates being shut by the Apprentice Boys.

Do you think you would you have acted as bravely and quickly as the Apprentice Boys?

## JACOBITES & REDSHANKS

Many of the Jacobite army at the Siege were known as **Redshanks**. These men were killed mercenaries from Scotland who fought for money.



## Why did Protestant noble men in England want the help of King William III?

**Hints:** What did King James II do which upset the noble men? What religion was William of Orange?

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## Why were the people of Londonderry afraid of King James II's Army?

**Hint:** What happened in 1641?

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Create a newspaper story following the Shutting of the Gates, explaining to the people what has happened!

Make it look like a real newspaper by including:

- **Headline** - use words which are shocking and dramatic!
- **Picture with a caption** - think of a thrilling scene from the Siege and draw a picture
- **Columns** - just like a real newspaper, write your story in columns

Your local evening news

December 7th, 1688

# THE LONDONDERRY TIMES

## Word Bank

Use some of these words and terms to help write your story:

King James II

Jacobite

Redshanks

Threat

Apprentice

Defend

Support

Safe

Walls of Londonderry

City Gates

Cheering Crowd

Pray

# Preparing for war



Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Lundy was the new Governor. He was responsible for repairing the city walls and preparing the city's defences for an attack.

## ROBERT LUNDY



**December 1688**

The Governor, Robert Lundy, sent word to London asking for assistance.

## DELIVERANCE!



**21 March 1689**

The supply ship, Deliverance, avoided the Jacobite forces and brought 8,000 muskets and 480 barrels of gunpowder from England.

## THE OATH



**21 March 1689**

Within the walls, everyone in the army had to swear loyalty to the new King & Queen, William and Mary. Governor Robert Lundy refused to take his oath in public. This made people suspicious as they thought he supported James.

## LUNDY GIVES UP



**16 April 1689**

Reinforcements arrived by ship in Lough Foyle to fight the Jacobites. There was anger in the city when Governor Lundy told them not to come ashore as Londonderry was already doomed.

**18 April 1689**

In March, James arrived in Ireland with an army supplied by Louis XIV. When he reached Londonderry on 18 April he expected people to welcome him as their King. Instead, they fired at him and shouted "No surrender!".

## NO SURRENDER!



## LUNDY ESCAPES



**20 April 1689**

James left for Dublin and gave orders for Londonderry to be blockaded - the Great Siege had begun. The people of the city accused Robert Lundy of being a traitor and he was forced to escape to Scotland.

## Who helped James and gave him an army? Why?

**Hint:** Which other King supported James?

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## What did Governor Robert Lundy do to make the people of the city angry?

**Hints:** Why did people think Governor Lundy supported James? What arrived that could have saved the city?

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# Life inside the walls



As the Siege began on 18 April, the people of Londonderry started to suffer. There was intense fighting outside the walls at Pennyburn Mill and Windmill Hill.

Conditions inside the city gradually got worse as it filled with people from the surrounding area looking for shelter.



Some of the food people were forced to eat included cats, horses, dogs, and even mice and rats!

## FOOD & DRINK

- Many water wells became polluted or filled with soil.
- Diseases were easily spread from person to person as the wells were used by so many people.
- Some wells were close to the Jacobite camps and people risked being killed if they tried to use them; sometimes they were even poisoned.
- Water from the River Foyle was too salty.
- Some people were suspected of hiding food rather than sharing it.

During the Siege, people were forced to eat whatever they could find to stay alive. If you were starving, which would you eat first (1st) and last (5th)?

Dog head stew	
Roast cat	
Pached mouse	
Horse pudding	
Rat with seaweed salad	

Write two sentences on the reasons for your choice. Why is some food more disgusting than others?!



## DISEASE

The horrible conditions during the Siege made people very ill. Diseases, such as typhus and plague, killed over 7,000 people. When people died, there was nowhere to bury them and bodies were placed in cellars. This caused the diseases to spread even more easily.



### OVERCROWDING

The city was stretched to its limits. It was built to accommodate just 2,500 people but with thousands more arriving many were forced to sleep in the streets. Overcrowding also put a lot of pressure on the amount of food, water and other supplies which were available. This was another reason why diseases spread quickly.

# 2,500

The number of people the city was built to hold

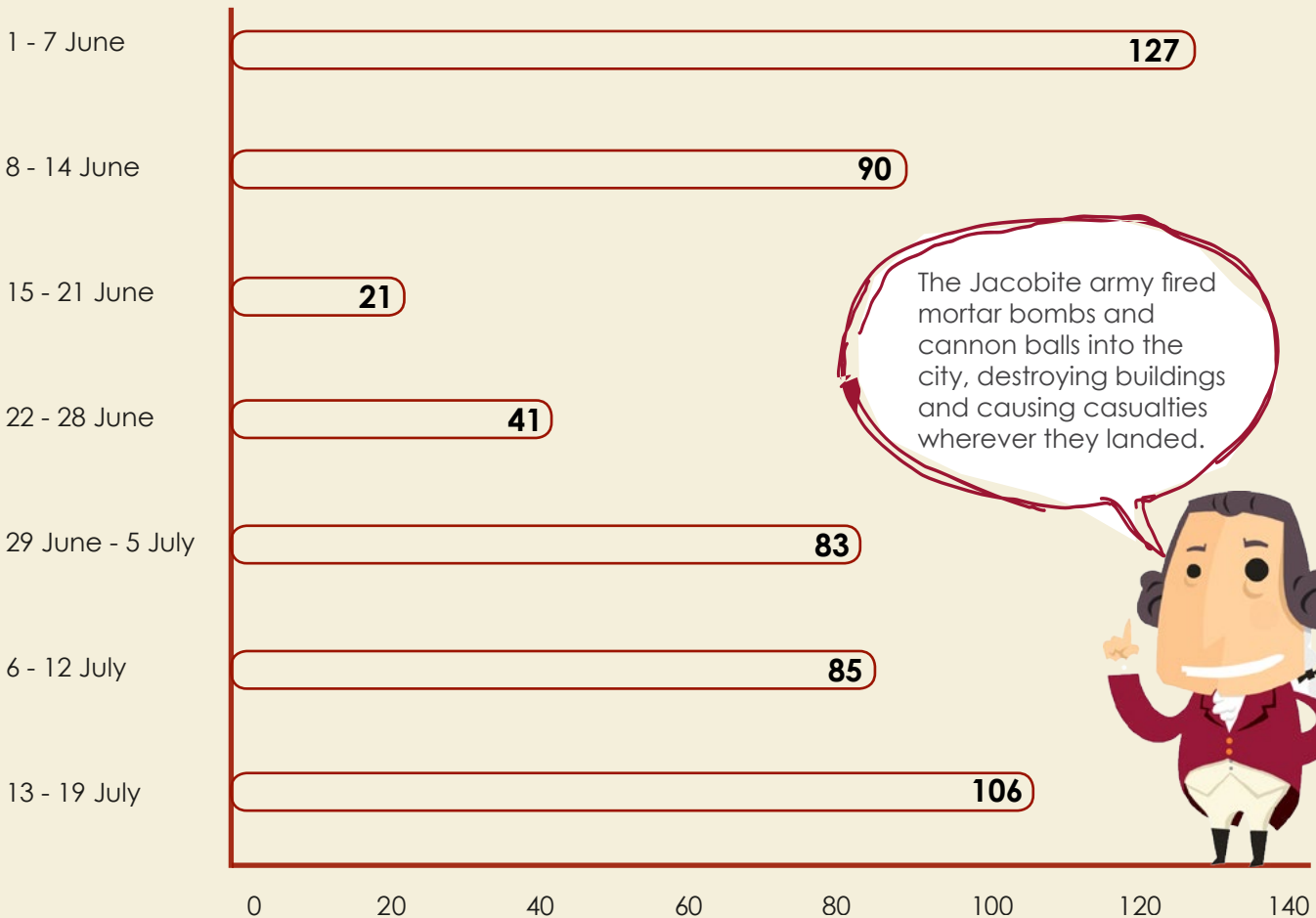
# 25,000

The number of people forced to live in the city during the Siege



### BOMBARDMENT

Bombs & mortars fired into the city of Londonderry from 1 June - 19 July:



The Jacobite army fired mortar bombs and cannon balls into the city, destroying buildings and causing casualties wherever they landed.



## Why were so many people forced to live inside the walls?

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Imagine you are living inside the walls during the Siege. It is Monday 17 June 1689, day 60 of the Siege. Write about your daily life and what you see around you.



*17 June 1689*

*Dear diary*

### Hints:

- Remember to use paragraphs
- Focus on your senses - try writing a sentence on what you can see, hear, smell, taste and touch.
- What kind of things do you eat and how often do you have meals?
- Are your family or friends ill?
- Do you still go to school or play with your friends?
- Do you think you will be saved?

# Relief at last



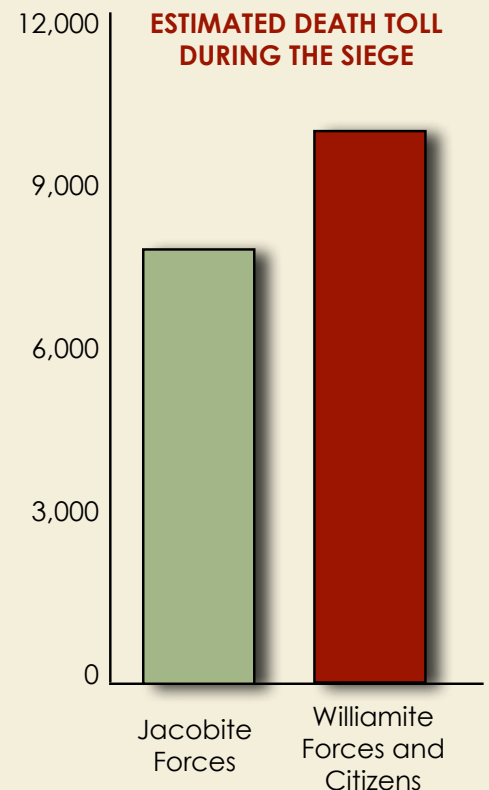
## Dirty tricks...

As the Siege lasted longer and longer, the Jacobite forces used dirty tricks to try to force the city to surrender.

- They took prisoner many of the 1,200 Protestants still living within ten miles of Londonderry and brought them to the city gates.
- The people of the city were told that if they did not open the gates, the prisoners would be left to starve.

## Calling their bluff...

- Inside the walls, they also had prisoners. They decided that for every Protestant prisoner that died, they would execute a captured Jacobite soldier.
- The strategy worked! The Jacobite forces reluctantly released their prisoners and allowed them to return home.



# Breaking the Boom

- In late May 1689, the Jacobite army built a barricade, or 'boom', across the River Foyle. It was made from wood and held together with metal chains and thick rope.
- A few weeks later, a fleet of ships arrived in Lough Foyle. They hoped to take food and supplies to the besieged city but were blocked by the boom.
- On 28 July, the relief ships finally tried to break the boom. Men from the ship the *Swallow* reached the boom in a longboat and hacked at it with axes. The *Mountjoy* then smashed into the boom trying to break it.
- The ships were attacked from the shore. Captain Micaiah Browning of the *Mountjoy* was killed on the deck of his ship urging his men forward.

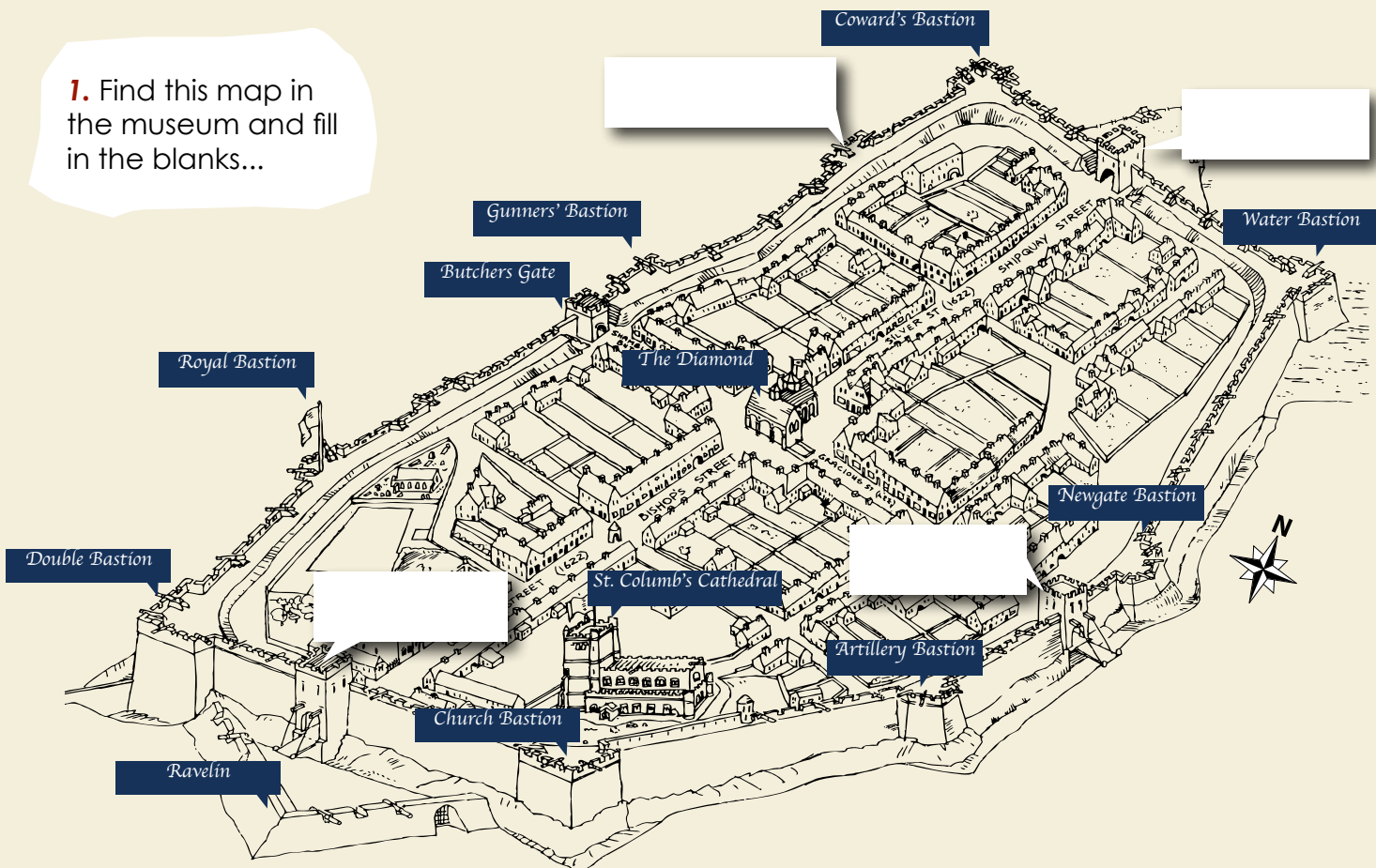
- Later that day, the relief ships broke through, bringing relief to the starving people of Londonderry. On 1 August 1689, the Jacobite forces retreated. After 105 days, the Siege was over.



# Museum Activities

Take this activity booklet with you when you visit the museum and try to find all the answers!

1. Find this map in the museum and fill in the blanks...



2. The city walls were constructed between 1613-1618. How much did it cost to build them?

£

3. Find the section about 'Life in the Port and Market Town' and fill in the blanks below:

The population of Londonderry grew from \_\_\_ families in 1616 to 121 in \_\_\_\_

It is unclear what the population was in 1688, but we know that there was only adequate accommodation for \_\_\_\_ people.



4. Complete these factfinder files on James II and William III. Write down three new things you've learned about each man.



**King James II**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



**William of Orange**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

5. The 13 Apprentice Boys who helped to lock the city's gates are listed below. Fill in the blanks to complete their names:

Henry Campsie

\_\_\_\_\_ Steward

Robert Sherrard

\_\_\_\_\_ Sherrard

R \_\_\_\_\_ t M \_\_\_\_\_ n

Alexander \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Hunt

James \_\_\_\_\_

William C \_\_\_\_\_

John Conningham

\_\_\_\_\_ m C \_\_\_\_\_

Samuel \_\_\_\_\_

Alexander \_\_\_\_\_

6. After Lundy escaped to Scotland, which two prominent men took over the role of Governor of Londonderry?

1.

2.

7. What happened to Colonel Robert Lundy after he left Londonderry?

In \_\_\_\_\_ 1689 Lundy was brought before a parliamentary committee in \_\_\_\_\_ to face questions about his role in the events leading up to the siege.

Lundy believed that a fair trial in Ireland would be impossible.



\_\_\_\_\_ Walker also gave evidence, proving to be an unlikely defender of Lundy. He argued that a trial could not take place in \_\_\_\_\_ because so many of the potential witnesses had since died or left the city.

8. Match each of the people below with the fact that best describes them

Colonel Henry Baker

Organised a group of soldiers against Lundy

Captain Micaiah Browning

A professional soldier from County Louth

Henry Campsie

Associated with flying a crimson flag during the siege

Colonel John Mitchelburne

Killed at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690

Colonel Adam Murray

Leader of the 13 Apprentice Boys

Reverend George Walker

Commander of the *Mountjoy* Ship

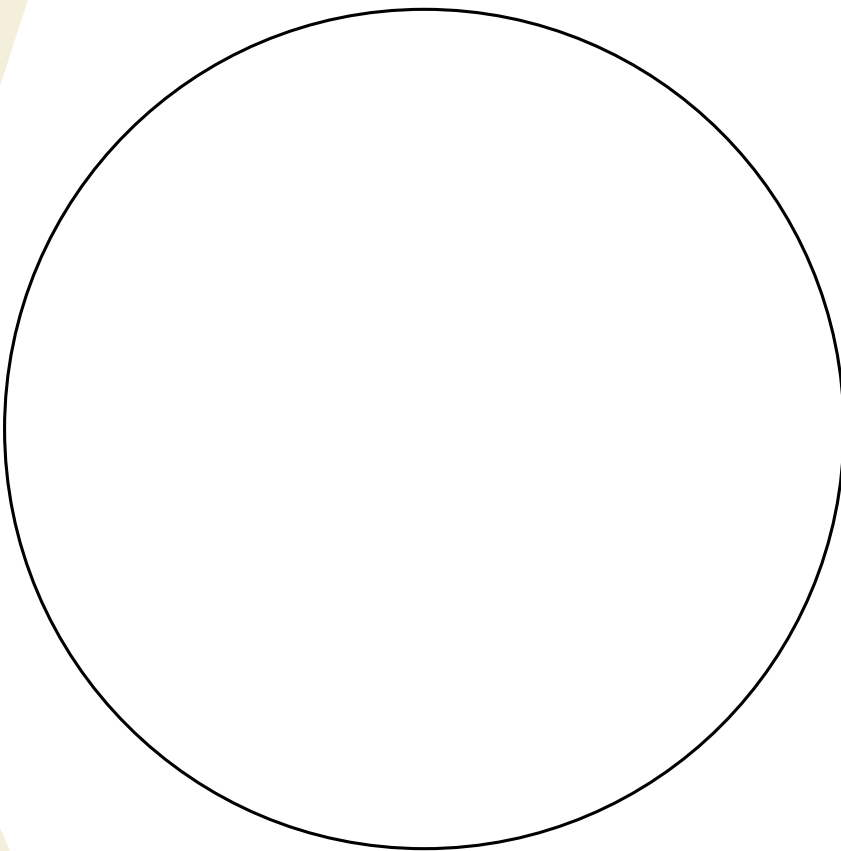
9. Which two major events are organised by the Associated Clubs of the Apprentice Boys of Derry each year?

1. In August:

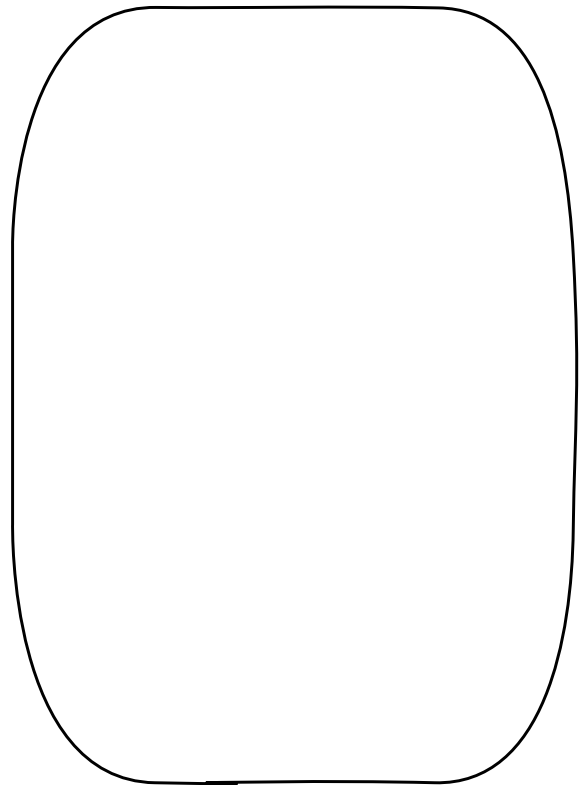
2. In December:

10. The popular Lambeg drum is an important part of Protestant culture. Decorate your own Lambeg drum below and draw pictures on the 'skin' and 'shell'.

Side View



Front View





# THE SIEGE museum

Visit the Siege Museum today  
For more information see:

[www.thesiegemuseum.org](http://www.thesiegemuseum.org)