

Activity Ideas – Apprentice Pillar

For more related activities download the 'Dragons in a Twist' resources from the **Knights and Dragons** section. These are based on the eight dragons at the base of the Apprentice Pillar.

Background info	Activity	What you will need	Curriculum
<p>The Apprentice Pillar is famous for its artistic decoration, but in fact it plays a vital structural role in keeping the building in one piece! A pillar is a weight-bearing structure. In the Chapel, the pillars support the arches that make up the ceiling. Without them, the building would tumble down.</p> <p>People have used pillars to support buildings for millennia. They were very common in ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman buildings. The earliest pillars were probably tree trunks, before people were able to make stone buildings. Nowadays pillars are less common as large buildings tend to be built on steel frames instead.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have you ever thought about how the buildings you know are kept upright? Have a look at your home, or your school, or any building you know. Survey the room you are in right now. They are all built with structure and stability as basic principles. In very large or tall buildings, the weight will likely be supported by a massive steel frame that you cannot see – it will be hidden behind the walls. In smaller, more traditional buildings the weight is more likely to be held by the walls themselves. 2. Using a set of building blocks or Lego® bricks, experiment with how to support different types of objects above the ground. For example, by making pillars you could support a large, heavy book. What about objects of different shapes? Increase the challenge by trying a football, a bowl, or something cylindrical! 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Just your own eyes and mind! 2. Set of building blocks or Lego® bricks, different types of objects of different shapes. Don't use anything breakable or sharp! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering and structure
<p>Because the Tree of Life appears in so many different cultures' mythologies, it has been depicted in many different ways around the world. One of the most well-known representations in art is by the famous Austrian artist Gustav Klimt.</p>	<p>Find an image of the painting <i>Tree of Life</i> by Gustave Klimt online. Take your time and look at it closely – there is a lot to see! Observe the different shapes and colours the artist uses.</p> <p>The Apprentice Pillar and this painting could not be more different, yet they both represent the same thing. This shows us that there are many different ways to portray something in art.</p> <p>Make your own drawing, painting or sculpture of the Tree of Life. Don't get caught up in trying to copy a real tree – have fun creating and expressing a tree in your own way.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer access and search engine. • Use whatever art materials you have to hand – paper, pencils, paints, glue, glitter etc. • You could even use fabric scraps, packaging waste such as cardboard and bottles, or natural found materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art and design