

PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS AT THE  
ANTIQUITIES  
MUSEUM OF FOSSATO DI VICO, ORGANISED  
BY HAPPENNINES.

Fortress or castle?

**Participants**

**Primary and lower secondary school. (the face-to-face workshop will be structured according to the age group of participants)**

**Aims**

**Starting with the difference between a "Rocca" (Fortress) and a "Castello" (Castle) and discovering the main features of each, we will facilitate the development of historical understanding and the ability to create links**

**Structure**

**An exploration of the historical time period within the Antiquities Museum, then participants will be accompanied on a short tour around the city walls and the main defensive points where the function of fortresses will be introduced through reasoning and hypothesis using details related to everyday life**

**Duration**

**2 hours**

**Cost**

**€ 5.00 per person**

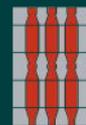


COMUNE DI  
FOSSATO DI VICO  
ANTIQUARIUM

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**Regione Umbria**

## **EDUCATIONAL KIT - DESIGN YOUR "ROCCA" (FORTRESS)**

### **What was a fortress?**

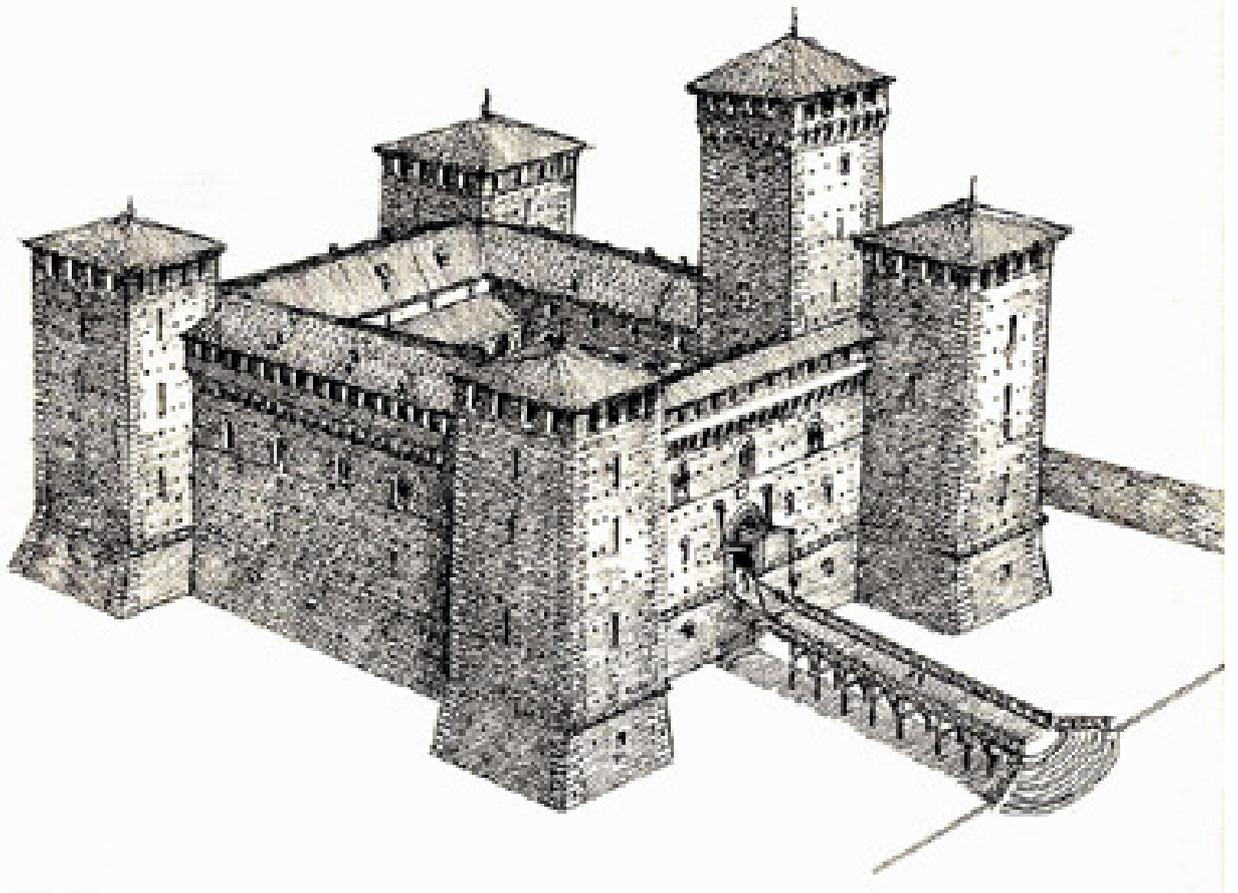
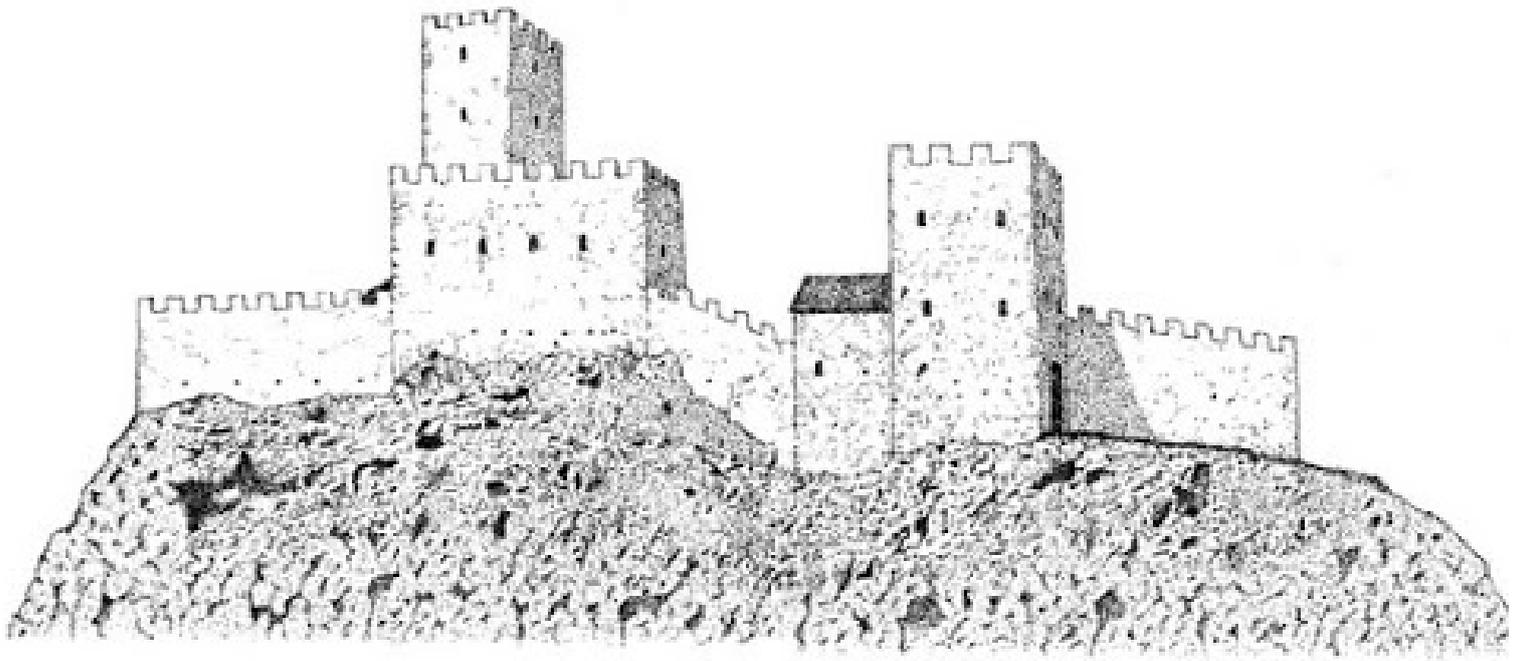
The "Rocca" (also known as a stronghold) is a fortress that had military and defensive purposes and for this reason it was erected in a high place. It can be isolated like a tower, or built inside a castle.

### **Construction features**

The fortresses had a square or rectangular floorplan and were built using masonry (bricks or stone). In the highest part of the walls they had battlements to protect the soldiers who were in the internal passageways and walkways. Around the edges of the battlements the "caditoie" opened. These were hatches that allowed things to be thrown at attacking enemies. They were often surrounded by moats, which could be filled with water.

The moat prevented the enemy from attacking the towers from below as this could make the towers collapse. The moat also meant that the enemy was kept at a distance and could be hit by arrows. The moat could be crossed by fixed brick or stone bridges or wooden drawbridges, which were raised in case of attack. This prevented the infantry (foot soldiers) from attacking the entrances or even reaching them. Inside the fortresses there were many rooms that were used for daily life (kitchens, food pantries, etc.), as well as corridors used to watch out for the enemy.

There were rooms for storing weapons as well as various systems for the defence of the fortress itself..



NOW TRY TO DRAW YOUR ROCCA. TRY TO PUT EACH ROOM IN THE PLACE THAT YOU BELIEVE IS BEST AND SHOW WHY!

