



Episode 2 CYPRUS



medieval music Intro

- In the previous episode, we said that castles are buildings that were built in the Middle Ages, mainly by crusader knights to protect their territories.
- We talked about the Colossi Castle in Cyprus and its use.
- In our school, we have students who come from other countries.
- Andriana who comes from Romania and Antonis who comes from Sri Lanka.
- Are there castles in these countries? Let's ask them...

medieval music m1

- Antoni, first of all, let's say a few words about Sri Lanka.
- Where is it located?
- It is located on the continent of Asia, southeast. It is an island.
- So, like Cyprus is?
- Yes, but it's 6 times the size! Quite a lot bigger.
- It is bordered by the Indian Ocean and its capital is Columbus. It was formerly called Ceylon...
- Ahhh. ...that's where the cinnamon comes from!



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PODCASTLE



- Are there any castles in Sri Lanka, Anthony?
- No! The crusader knights didn't reach Asia in the Middle Ages!
- What buildings are there that were built for the protection and security of the island?
- There is the ancient Sigiriya rock that served as a fortress.
- What does it look like?
- It's a huge column of granite, 180 meters high!
- Wow it's huge!!
- According to the ancient chronicle of Sri Lanka, this area was

once a large forest; then after storms and landslides it became a hill and was chosen by King Kashiapa as his new capital.

- That is why he built his palace on top of this rock!
- Yes, and he decorated the walls with colourful murals. On a small plateau about halfway up the side of this rock he built a gate in the shape of a huge lion. The name of this place comes from this structure. Sinhagiri, the rock of lions.
- Wow, it must be very impressive and imposing! When you go, show us pictures! I really want to see it!

medieval music m2

- How about you, Andriana? Tell us a few words about Romania.
- Romania is in Europe. Closer to Cyprus.
- We learned about Romania in Geography.
- The capital is Bucharest. It is bordered by Ukraine, Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria and Moldova.
- Its only sea is the Black Sea, which is not a sea but the largest lake in the world!
- It has 20.000.000 inhabitants!
- How far is Cyprus from Romania?
- About 3 hours by plane!
- Are there any castles in Romania?
- Yes, there are many castles.
- It makes sense, since Romania has a rich medieval history!

medieval music m3

- Isn't that where Count Dracula's castle is?
- That's a myth! He doesn't really exist.
- Yes, but his castle is real.
- Right. It is located in Transylvania. It is one of the most popular castles. It is called Bran and was built in the mid-1300s. It is located about 133 km northwest of the capital, Bucharest.
- It's very imposing and luxurious. Different from the rest.
- The ones built from the 14th to the 18th century are strong and simple fortresses built mainly for defence against invaders.
- Castle Bran was built to protect Transylvania. Later it served as an entry point to Wallachia.



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PODCASTLE



- That castle seems to be very great! It looks like what we see in movies and read about in fairy tales.
- It reminds me of a lot of scary stories with dragons and vampires!

Thunder sound

- Did you know that Count Dracula is based on a real person?
- Yes! It was Vlad III, Prince of Wallachia!
- According to legend, he drank the blood of his soldiers to stay young...
- Ahhhh.... That's why in the story's vampires and dragons drink blood!
- Actually, he was just very hard-hearted....
- brr.... I think of scary stories and cringe.....
- When I think of castles, I prefer the story of Sleeping Beauty.
- I really like this story too!

Fairy-tale music

- When we talk about castles, our minds travel to the past. One of the most impressive castles is Neuschwanstein, built on a hill in Germany in the 19th century.
- Its founder was King Ludwig the second. Its prominent features are the dreamy and fairy-tale architectural elements. As far as I know, that Castle was the basic inspiration behind the fairy-tale of Sleeping Beauty.
- Her own castle was beautiful and bright and cheerful.
- Yes, but the wicked witch was dark and murky and mysterious...
- So, within thousands of castles, we can think of thousands of stories, scary or not!
- Each castle, many stories

medieval music End



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