



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Our Classroom Fortress

An activity of "Walls for War"

Turn to page 12–13 of *What's Up* January 2024. Read the two "Walls for War" articles, "World's oldest fortress discovered in Siberia" and "Forts in Southeast Asia". Look at the pictures of the beautiful forts of old. A fortress is the fort wall plus other special features for protecting, for example, a castle or even a city.

Let's use the fortress as a metaphor for whatever needs to be in place to protect and strengthen a healthy classroom community. Think of your class as having that metaphorical fortress. How would you use the walls, gates, and look-out posts?

THE CHALLENGE

Apply the metaphor of a fortress to describe how you would keep your classroom community safe and healthy. Real fortresses have strong walls to keep the bad out, gates to bring the good in, look-out towers to spot dangers as they approach and, most important, a community that stands united. Think deeply about each of these. Your classroom fortress will not be made of bricks and mortar. The enemy is not an army of soldiers or fierce wild animals. Your gates are not for letting in food supplies. Rather, your classroom fortress would be built of your ideals about beliefs, values, and actions.

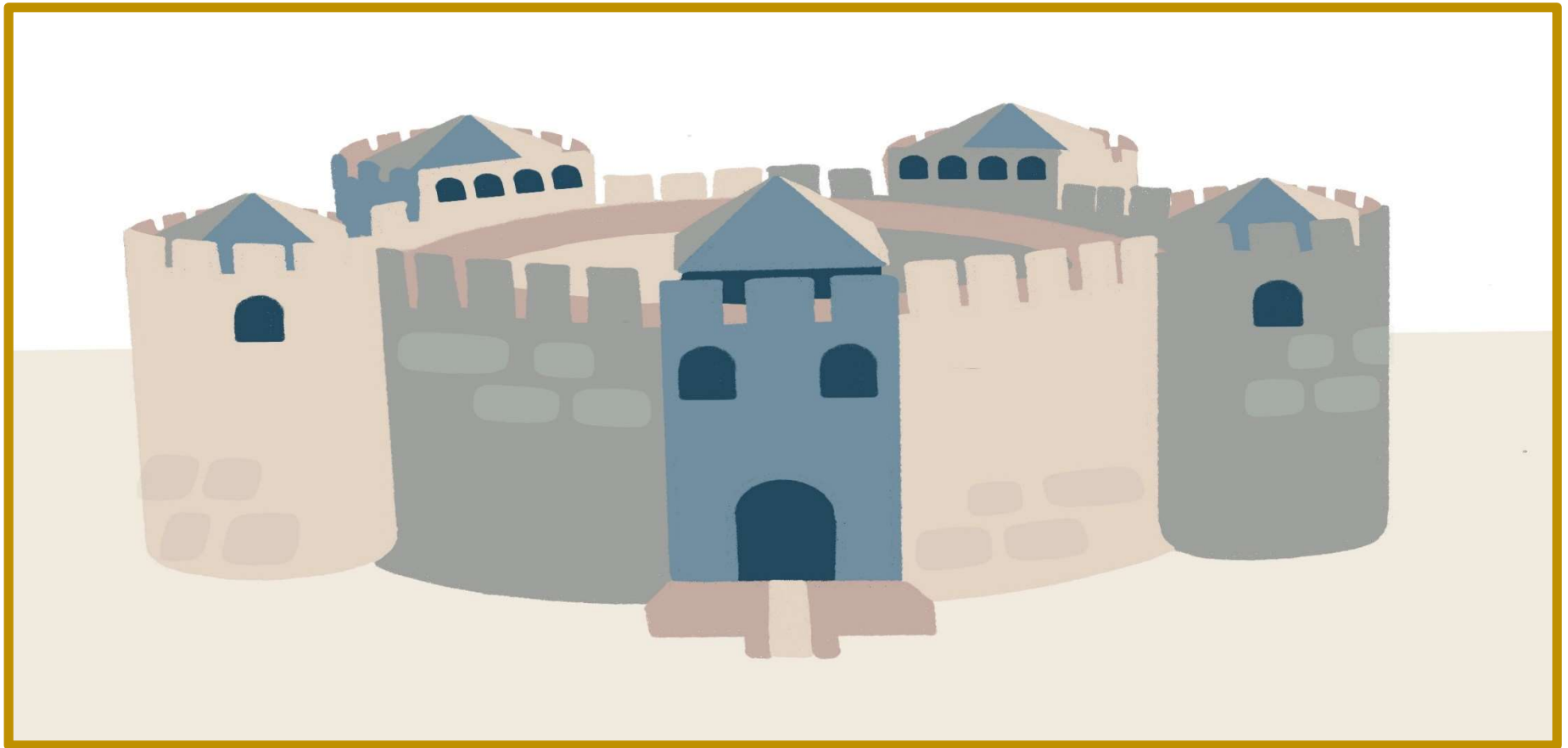
1. In small groups, brainstorm about what the ideal community of students would be like. This is very subjective and so, be open to whatever your group members suggest.
2. Use the table on the next page to jot down your ideas.

First, list as many components as you can think of. Some examples are trust, honesty, caring for one another, playing fair in everything you do, and so on.

Next, list all that you do not want to be part of your community (e.g. envy, hate, abusive people, etc).

<p>The foes of your community <i>What undesirable (bad) values, ideas, and actions would make your classroom community <u>less</u> safe, fair, and caring? These are your foes.</i></p>	<p>The allies of your community <i>What good values, ideas, and actions would make your classroom community safer, fairer, and more caring? These are your allies.</i></p>	
<p>Fort walls <i>How will you keep out the foes? What can you do to stop harmful values, ideas, and actions from attacking your class community?</i></p>	<p>Fort gates <i>How will you welcome in the allies? What can you do to bring in good values, ideas, and action?</i></p>	<p>Lookout towers <i>In what ways can you spot foes or allies as they approach?</i></p>
<p>The fortress community <i>In your group, think of practical ways in which you can, as individual students and as a whole class, protect and strengthen your classroom community.</i></p>		

3. Use this template to create an infographic of your classroom fortress.



4. Create an illustrated poster of your classroom community with a fortress to keep it safe, just, and caring. Share the poster with your class.