

Princyclopedia 2012

Robin Hood

Fight! Fight! Fight!
Philadelphia Fight Ensemble
(American Historical Theatre)

The Classic Bridge Scene
Party Perfect Rentals

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YMCA Princeton

Buzz Worthy
the bent spoon

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Education for Kids

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Stella Art Club

Knights at the Joust
Sir John Williams

Dragons vs. Unicorns
JaZams

Merrie Music Makers
Engelchor Consort

Court Jesters



Laura Hildebrand '14
Sarah Paton '13

Hawking

Woodford Cedar
Run Wildlife
Center

10:45am

12:00pm

2:00pm

Please Note:

Due to room capacity codes, admission is limited to 150 individuals per show, seated on a first-come, first-served basis. Must be present to enter. No placeholders please.

Line Forms Here!

Food Drive



Labyrinth Books

Registration Table

Princeton University Students

Event Maps donated by:

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Restrooms in lobby (look for balloons). Water fountains by glass entry doors. Have a great day!

Amazing Alchemy - Princeton Chemistry Outreach Program

Before there was chemistry, there was alchemy! Alchemy is a medieval chemical philosophy that aimed to turn base metals into precious substances like gold and silver, and created elixirs that granted immortality. While alchemy is now a thing of the past, its methods (such as developing a theory and testing the theory by experimenting in a laboratory) are still recognizable in science today.

Apothecary Shoppe - Savory Spice Shop

Pepper, nutmeg, clove, and cinnamon are common in today's kitchens, but in the Middle Ages, spices and sugar were expensive and considered luxury products. Many had to be imported from far-away places like China, India, and the Middle East, and they didn't come cheap! Spices were sold by apothecaries, the forerunners of modern pharmacies. Apothecaries didn't just sell spices; they also provided rare and expensive commodities such as ivory, gold, pearls, and mummy dust (whoa!).

Archery Contest - YMCA Princeton

The excitement grew into wild enthusiasm as one by one the arrows came whizzing into the target with a sharp zip of tearing canvas. The long-drawn call 'He! He!' from each archer came ringing up the course, and in the hush that followed his arrow whistled through the air like a brown gleam of light.

Buzz Worthy - the bent spoon

Sugar played no part in medieval recipes. Surprised? Since sugar was imported from the East, it was rare and very expensive. Instead, food was sweetened with honey. Doubtful that honey-sweetened foods taste yummy? Take one taste of the bent spoon's honey gelato, and we think you'll become a believer!

Cheese, Glorious Cheese - Olsson's Fine Foods

Milk from sheep, goats, and cows and the cream, butter, and cheese created from it were called "white meats" in the Middle Ages. The creamiest parts of the milk were made into soft cheese for the nobles. The lower class had to make do with hard cheese. Sometimes, the cheese was so hard, it had to be smashed into pieces with a hammer before it could be eaten!

Coats of Arms - Stella Art Club

"Much, did you note any crest or coat of arms, or other blazoning whereby we may tell who dwells there?" gasped Robin. "Yes, indeed," answered Much, "on a great slab of stone over the doorway is a shield painted gold, with a great ramping lion in red upon it."

Dragons vs. Unicorns - JaZams

Mythical creatures have been part of human culture throughout history and across all parts of the world. The two most famous beasts from the Middle Ages are the dragon and the unicorn. The dragon, possibly inspired by the Ancient Egyptian crocodile, was fierce and dangerous. The unicorn was the opposite - gentle and good. Both creatures appeared in artwork in cathedrals, tapestries, and on family shields.

Fight! Fight! Fight! - Philadelphia Fight Ensemble

Then they came together, lashing and smiting with their swords until the sparks flew.

Food Drive - Labyrinth Books

"We must take the King's deer...since we must eat to live. But when the King returns I myself with beg pardon for this trespass...We take for the general good, and it shall be our duty to seek out the poor, the needy, the widow, the orphan and all those who have suffered or are suffering wrong, and minister to their wants in so far as we can."

Gargoyles & Grotesques - Historical Society of Princeton

A gargoyle is a roof spout that shoots rain water away from a building. A grotesque is a decorative statue. Both can be found on the walls of many churches and cathedrals. Some believe these creatures were frozen as they fled the church. Others believe they were put there to keep evil spirits away. The University has tons of gargoyles and grotesques, and not all of them are spooky! Look around campus and you'll find a monkey with a camera, a football player, and Benjamin Franklin!

Herbal Magic - Princeton University Students

In the Middle Ages, most people went their whole lives without seeing a doctor. There were very few trained doctors, and they mostly treated the rich. Everyone else turned to home remedies or healers who had learned their trade through experience. Herbs were the main treatment for sickness. In addition to healing, herbs were also thought to have magical properties. However, there were some non-herbal medieval remedies, such as rubbing goose droppings on your head to combat baldness or curing a fever by swallowing a spider. Don't try that at home, kids!

Hood Hats Here - Red Green Blue

A hundred valiant men had this brave Robin Hood / Still ready at his call, that bowmen were right good, / All clad in Lincoln green, with caps of red and blue, / His fellow's winded horn not one of them knew...

Illuminate Me - Arts Council of Princeton

There were no printing presses in the Middle Ages. Books were written entirely by hand and lavishly decorated with expensive inks and gold leaf. Books were not merely a source of information - they often were meant to be works of art in their own right. Some of these books were kept with such care that, 500 years later, the ink on the pages still looks clean, bright, and brand new.

Jobs You Don't Want - Princeton Tour Company

Rat catcher. Lime burner. Leech collector. Turnspit. Yes, they are just as bad as they sound.

Knights at the Joust - Sir John Williams

A knight clad from head to foot in black armour and riding a great black horse came riding up the road. The moment he saw the throng of men he snapped his visor shut - and rode closer. Then he suddenly unslung a mighty axe which hung at his saddle-bow and spurred his horse into the centre of the Sheriff's men...

Lifestyles of the Rich & Noble - Medieval Scenarios and Recreations

Ah, the nobility. Nice clothes, fancy castles, lots of hobbies, and BIG parties. At one feast in 1387, the court required 120 sheep, 16 oxen, 152 pigs, 210 geese, 900 hens, 50 swans, 1,200 pigeons, 11,000 eggs, 120 gallons of milk, and 12 gallons of cream. Must have been quite an evening.

Longbows - Traditional Archers of New Jersey

Then the air grew dark with arrows, the men of Sherwood aiming and loosing with an almost incredible speed and accuracy...

Lutes & Ballads - Music Together Princeton Lab School

"My lord," said the Bishop, "'I have but a small company, and the road through Sherwood Forest is beset with outlaws; does not Robin Hood dwell there of whose fame as a robber so much is said and sung up and down the country?"

Medieval Magnetism - scienceSeeds

The humble magnet that anchors artwork to your refrigerator has a history that dates back to the Middle Ages...and beyond! In the 13th century, scholar Peter Peregrinus of Maricourt conducted experiments with magnets and magnetism. His investigations of the magnetic compass needle contributed to the development of the pivoted compass, something that would change sea travel forever.

Merrie Music Makers - Engelchor Consort

Because books were so rare in the Middle Ages, reading was not the pastime it is today. Instead, storytellers and poets were eagerly welcomed. So were minstrels and musicians of any kind. Traveling musicians called jongleurs often visited castles to entertain nobles. Commoners sang folks songs and danced to pipe and drum. By 1400, most towns had a town band that played at festivals, fairs, and processions.

No Reading Allowed! - Princeton Public Library

Most medieval people did not know how to read and write, including lords, ladies, and knights! School was mainly for boys who planned to enter the clergy. Children of wealthy families might be taught to read, but many nobles, especially those who emphasized the military role of their class, considered any education beyond the ability to write one's name a waste of time!

Save a Tree - SURGE

Since July 2011, 6,893,515 sheets of paper have been printed on the Princeton University campus - that's approximately 827 trees worth of paper! If you stacked the sheets, it would result in a tower 2,297 feet high. That's as tall as the Empire State Building AND the Eiffel Tower combined. Thank goodness the University has been using only 100% post-consumer-waste recycled paper since 2004!

Siege Engines - Princeton Engineering Education for Kids

Castles were built to keep people OUT, and siege engines like catapults and trebuchets were created to get people IN. They were designed to hurl rocks, arrows, pots of fire, spears, or even, ahem...heads at a castle to break the walls and/or inspire fear in its occupants.

Stained Glass Science - Princeton Center for Complex Materials

Medieval glassmakers were artisans AND scientists! Through experimentation, glassmakers produced colors by combining metallic oxides with molten glass. The recipes for various colors were closely guarded secrets. So secret, in fact, that most of the recipes have since been lost.

Storm the Castle - Oo-de-lally, oo-de-lally golly what a day!

Today we think of castles as romantic, but castles were actually war fortresses built for protection. Castles were cold in the winter, stifling in the summer, and damp, dark, and smelly all year round. But given that practically everyone else was living in huts, they were the height of luxury and status.

Surviving Sherwood - Nature By The Yard

At either end of the shallow valley, and beyond the banks on each side, the forest hedged them in with its mighty trees, with oak and ash, with beech and elm and chestnut, and also with thick clumps of impassable thorns, with desolate marshes where an unwary step might catch a man or a horse and drag him down into the dark quagmire, and with brambles rising like high dykes and knolls through which even a man in armour could scarcely force his way.

The Classic Bridge Scene - Party Perfect Rentals

"We cannot cross at once, the bridge is too narrow," thought Robin, and he quickened his pace meaning to be the first over. But the tall yeoman quickened his pace also, with the result that they each set foot on opposite ends of the bridge at the same moment. "Out of my way, little man!" shouted the stranger, who was a good foot taller than Robin,. "That is, unless you want a ducking in the stream!" "Not so fast, tall fellow," answered Robin. "Go you back, until I have passed - or may be I will do the ducking!"

Tracks & Trees - Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association

It was a glorious Spring morning, the new leaves were fully opened, the greensward all fresh and daisy-clad, and the birds sang merrily in every tree and bush.

Venison Chili - Whole Foods Market Princeton

"As for your trespasses in the matter of Forest Laws - everyone knows your skill in archery - and there are few travelers in these parts who have not eaten the King's venison under your roof."

Ye Olde Alehouse - Terhune Orchards

Since clean drinking water was hard to come by in the Middle Ages, almost everyone (including kids!) drank mead, ale and wine. In some households, the daily allowance of ale was 1-2 gallons per person and England imported 3 million gallons of wine per year (thank you France)!

Your Tax Dollars at Work - PrincetonKIDS

"If I do not pay him the 400 pounds by noon, both house and lands are his. And I have but ten shillings, for I can beg or borrow no more - and what I had raised Prince John's tax gatherers came 3 weeks ago and took from me."