

There's a Castle in Kassel!

If you want to find a castle or a palace in the United States, you have to take a trip to Disneyland to see Sleeping Beauty's Castle. If you want to find one in Germany, you have to decide which one you'd like to see. There are many real castles to choose from! The city of Kassel has not one, but at least three schlosser (the German word for castles and palaces)!

The "Giant's Castle" or "The Palace of the Winds," sits on top of a mountain that overlooks the whole city, but it's not a real castle. It has a thirty foot tall statue of Hercules on top that has been watching over the city of Kassel for three hundred years. Giant man-made waterfalls flow down the mountain to a palace, Schloss Wilhelmshöhe, which was built by a ruler named Landgrave William IX (the Ninth). The Wilhelmshöhe Palace Park is the largest mountain park in all of Europe. The waterfall has a fountain that shoots almost one hundred feet into the sky. A separate building holds a beautiful ballroom, and if you close your eyes, you can almost see Cinderella dancing with Prince Charming.

William the Ninth decided to build Löwenburg Castle, an old fashioned castle that looked like it came right out of a magical fairy tale world. It had knight's halls (but no knights!), coats of armour, and even a beautiful maiden, Caroline. Instead of living in the fancy, modern palace, William moved into his dream castle, the only one he wanted to live in!

Another palace in Kassel, Schloss Wilhelmsthal, was built as a summer home and hunting lodge for royalty. Landgrave William VIII (the Eighth) had the palace and its park built around 1743, over two hundred and fifty years ago. It has fields and forests all around it and it has not changed much since it was first built.

All of the castles and palaces in Kassel are open for visitors. Some of them are now art museums and others have summer concerts and places to picnic. Enjoy the special flowers and trees in the gardens, but remember one thing: when you walk toward the castle, you just might get the funny feeling that Sleeping Beauty will walk down the steps to say, "Willkommen (welcome)!"

- ? Follow the link below to see and print pictures of all three of these palaces and to read more about them. The information is written in English on the right and in German on the left.

http://www.kassel.de/imperia/md/content/cms03/infomaterial/3parks3schloesser/3_parks___3_schl___sler.pdf

- ? An excellent aerial photo of Schloss Lowenburg:

<http://www.muehlstein-online.de/fotoserie/104-wilhelmshoehe/pages/CRW3915-Schottische-Ritterburg.html>

This is my favorite photo of the Bergpark Wilhelmshoehe:

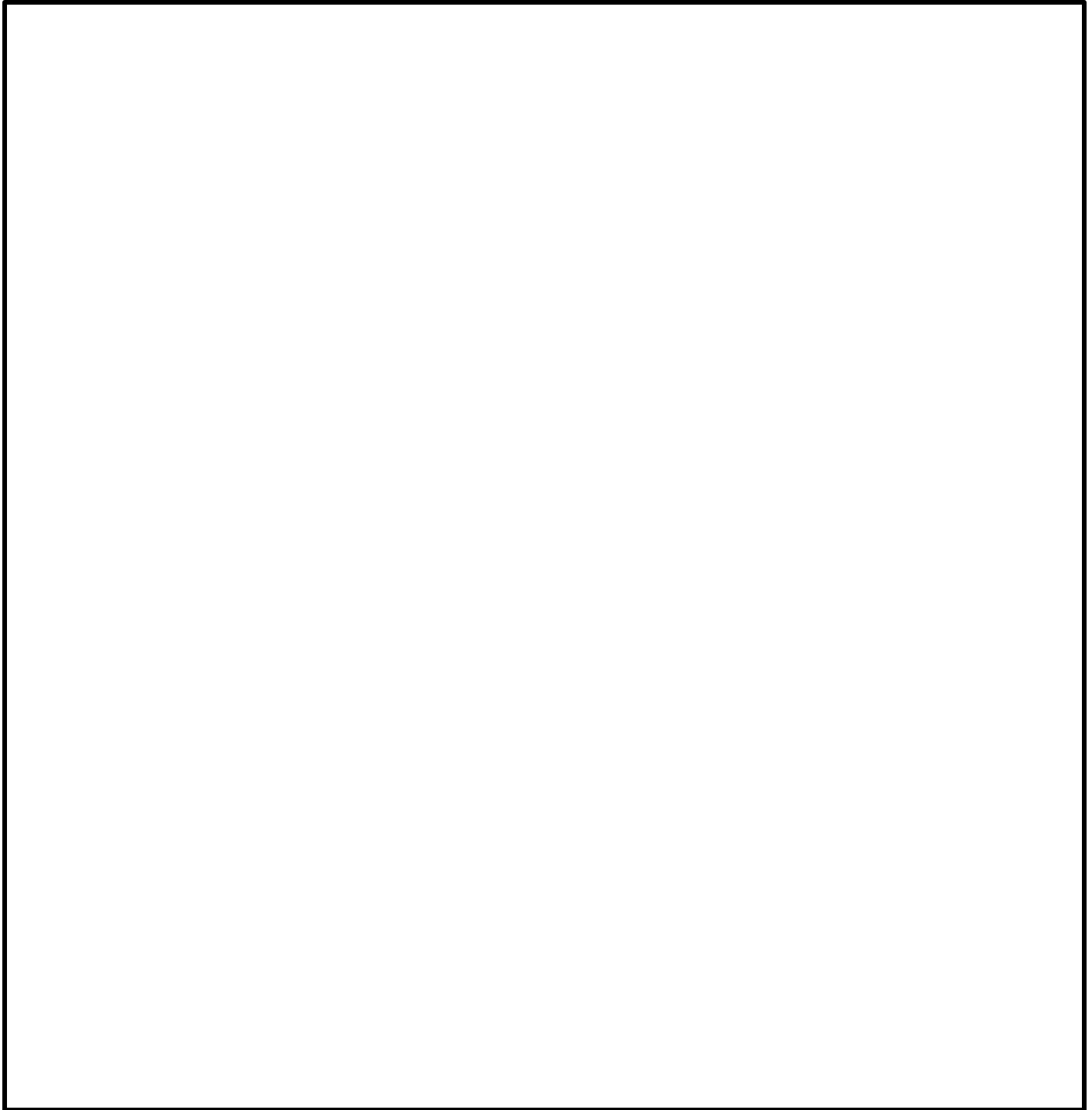


Foto: Jochen Herzog

Reread the story and then highlight all of the special words. Count the number of times that you see each special word and write it next to the word below.

three _____ has _____ find _____ only _____ us _____

Draw a picture of your favorite castle.



Fill in the Blanks

Read each sentence below. Circle the missing word and write it in the space.

1. Kassel _____ more than _____ castles.
his has three there

2. William IX _____ wanted to live in Löwenberg Castle.
only older

3. You can _____ many old castles in Germany.
find fined

Yes or No?

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. Are there real castles in the United States? | yes | no |
| 2. Is Kassel a city in Germany? | yes | no |
| 3. Does it have real castles? | yes | no |
| 4. Do people still live in the Kassel castles? | yes | no |
| 5. Can you visit the castles in Kassel? | yes | no |

It's a Match!

Draw a line to connect the naming part of the sentence with the action part of the sentence. Read them to yourself to make sure that they make sense. The first one is done for you.

Kassel, Germany, has a statue of Hercules on top.

Schlöss has at least three castles.

The Giant's Castle are open for visitors.

It is the German word for castle.

William VI II sits on top of a mountain.

All three castles built a palace for a summer home.

Was ist das? (What is that?)

(say: *voss ist doss?*)

What is the German word for castle or palace? _____

What is the German word for castles? _____

What is the German word for welcome? _____