



2022 History Essay Contest

School 6th Grade Winner

Historical Places

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There are many places in the world that I would love to visit. One of these countries is Germany, because I am part German and would like to know more about my history. Germany has many historical places. I chose to research the Neuschwanstein Castle and the Berlin Cathedral, because there is a lot of history behind these buildings.

The Neuschwanstein Castle is located near Füssen, Germany. It began being built on September 5, 1869 by Bavaria's King Luis II, also known as "Mad King Ludwig." The construction for the castle began in 1869 where two smaller castles were once standing. The remaining pieces of the two castles were cleared away in 1868, and King Luis II decided to build the Neuschwanstein Castle there. The castle is in the Bavarian Alps on top of a rock ledge over the Pöllat Gorge.

King Luis II spent a lot of his childhood in the Hohenschwangau Castle. Once he became king, he wanted to build his own castle and decided to build a "New Hohenschwangau Castle." His plan was to make the castle better than the one he had grown up in. Romanesque designs were drawn by Christian Jank to try to make the castle the way King Luis II wanted it built. The castle was planned to be built in three years, however it was never finished because of his death. The name of the castle changed to Neuschwanstein Castle when King Luis II died.

King Luis II was only able to live in the Neuschwanstein Castle on and off for around six months before he died. The castle was then opened as a museum a few weeks after his death. The plans for the castle were changed to make it easier to finish building the castle's bower and square tower. However, they were not completed until 1892. The castle has only had about a dozen rooms that were actually finished.

The Neuschwanstein Castle is known as a castle of paradox, as it was built in a time when castles were not needed to show rulership. King Luis II wanted the castle to be built with the medieval-style that most castles had, however, he also wanted it to have the conveniences that were available at that time. This included running water, flushable toilets, and telephone lines. The castle also has a walled courtyard, indoor garden, and artificial cave. The castle is one of the most popular tourist attractions with around 1.3 million people visiting it every year.

The Berlin Cathedral is located on Museum Island in Berlin, Germany. It is the largest Protestant church in Germany and is known to the people in Germany as the "Berliner Dom." The cathedral was originally built in 1465 however has been re-built many different times throughout the years. The Berlin Cathedral is known as a must-see when visiting the area. If you climb up to the dome, it has an amazing view of the city of Berlin. The inside of the church has many details including mosaics, statues, and gold features.

In 1465, construction began on part of the upper parish and cathedral church, located on Spree Island. In 1747, a baroque church with a tambour dome was added by Frederick the Great and built by Johann Boumann the Elder. Karl Friedrich Schinkel renovated the entire church 70 years later. Then Emperor Wilhelm II decided in 1894 to demolish and build a new cathedral to compare to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Julius Carl Raschdorff designed the new cathedral and the cathedral was rebuilt under Emperor Wilhelm II between 1894 and 1905. The Berlin Cathedral was damaged in the Second World War and reconstruction of the exterior was not finished until 1983 and interior until 2002.

The Berlin Cathedral has many beautiful features, including the Imperial staircase, the Hohenzollern Crypt, the Cathedral Museum, and the dome. There are 270 steps to reach the top of the

dome which overlooks the city of Berlin including the Mitte district, the Spree River, and the Nikolai Quarter. The ceiling of the dome has eight different mosaics painted on it. The building originally consisted of the sermon church, the baptismal and wedding church, and the memorial church. The memorial church no longer exists today. The dome of the cathedral has four towers around it.

Germany has many great places to visit with a lot of history and sites to see. I hope that I am able to visit both the Neuschwanstein Castle and the Berlin Cathedral when I am older. The Neuschwanstein Castle interests me with all of its history and artifacts. It is one of the main places I would like to tour so I can see it in person. I want to learn more about the meanings of the artifacts in the castle. I would like to be able to attend a mass in the Berlin Cathedral as I think it would be a great experience, especially if it was for a wedding or baptism. It would be great to tour the Berlin Cathedral to see all of the beautiful details in the church and learn more about all of the mosaics. The history and meanings behind both of these historical sites is amazing. I hope that one day you will get to visit these places as well.

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