

## ~ How to hold a banquet ~

*If you've got a celebration coming up, or you just fancy a party, why not have a go at a stay-at-home banquet in your house or garden? You could even invite friends to join you via video-chatting apps.*

### **Follow our 10 step guide to medieval banqueting:**

- 1 ~ First make sure your castle is nice and tidy. No leaving your jousting equipment at the bottom of the stairs!
- 2 ~ Then decorate your banquet table. Maybe use a picnic blanket or throw as a table cloth?
- 3 ~ Decide where your guests are going to sit. The Lord and Lady of the castle would sit at the head of the table.
- 4 ~ Set out the plates and cups for you and your guests. Fancy lords and ladies ate off gold and silver plates and drank out of cups made from leather or animal horns.



- 5 ~ Did you know at banquets there were no forks? Guests would bring their own knife and spoon to use. Lots of food was eaten with your fingers so you had to wash your hands regularly.



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6 ~ Get dressed in your finest clothes. Hosting a banquet was a chance to show how fashionable you were.

7 ~ Whilst guests were waiting for food they would chat and listen to the minstrels playing their instruments. Why not put on some of your favourite music, or play an instrument yourself?

8 ~ At a banquet, the food would be brought out in courses. Maybe appoint one of your family members to be a server, whose job it was to present food to the lord and lady.



9 ~ In between courses there were entertainers such as singers, actors, jugglers and jesters. Why not tell your family and friends a joke or sing them a song?

10 ~ Dancing was very popular at banquets. Why not learn one as a group?

