

Word of the Week

“Berserk”

- Is an adjective. Adjectives are words that describe nouns. “Slimy,” “Sparkling,” etc.
- Is pronounced: ¹ber-SERK
- Means: [frenzied](#), [crazed](#) — usually used in the phrase *go berserk*
- In a sentence: “If I don’t get to go outside, I will surely go berserk.”
- *Berserk* comes from Old Norse *berserkr*, which combines *ber-* (“bear”) and *serkr* (“shirt”). According to Norse legend, *berserkr*s were warriors who wore bearskin coverings and worked themselves into such frenzies during combat that they became immune to the effects of steel and fire. *Berserk* was borrowed into English (first as a [noun](#) and later as an adjective) in the 19th century, when interest in Scandinavian myth and history was high. It was considered a slang term at first, but it has since gained broader acceptance.
- For more information, see [merriam-webster.com](#)

Place of the Moment

Vajdahunyad Castle

[Budapest, Hungary](#)

This Hungarian castle was built out of cardboard and wood until it proved so popular that it got upgraded to stone.

Showcasing four distinct architectural styles, Vajdahunyad Castle is a thoroughly unique tribute to Hungary’s millennium-long architectural tradition.



Designed by architect Ignác Alpár in 1896 as part of Hungary’s millennial celebrations (commemorating one thousand years since the medieval Magyars first settled on the plains of Pannonia), Vajdahunyad Castle was originally intended to be a temporary exhibition, and was constructed out of wood and cardboard. However, the attraction proved such a hit with locals and visitors alike that a more permanent structure was built in 1904.

The castle itself is divided into four sections, showcasing Gothic, Baroque, Renaissance, and Romanesque architecture. Within each section, the castle is further divided, in total comprising twenty-one smaller buildings linked together, each having been designed as a replica of other significant structures to be found throughout Hungary and Romania. Perhaps the most striking section of the castle is the Gothic wing, modeled on Corvin Castle in Romania, which served as the historical home of János Hunyadi, the Hungarian noble from whom Vajdahunyad Castle derives its name.

Located on an artificial island in the heart of Budapest within spitting distance of Hungary’s national monument, Vajdahunyad Castle nonetheless presents an odd contrast to its stately surroundings. The clash of colors, patterns, engravings, and building materials give the structure an almost funhouse-like appearance, and eerie statues of Béla Lugosi and the anonymous author of the *Gesta Hungarorum*, “the deeds of the Hungarians,” on the castle grounds add to the site’s dreamy ambiance.

The castle also houses the [Museum of Hungarian Agriculture](#).

“DoctorMooge42.” [“Vajdahunyad Castle”](#) Atlas Obscura (web). Accessed 26 March, 2020.

Nipper



More from the article Nipper found in [The Smithsonian](#):

“There are some differences between the oldest bats and their modern relatives. Based upon the ear anatomy of the better-preserved specimens, for example, scientists know that the first bats couldn’t echolocate. They relied on sight, smell and touch to find their meals. While modern bats have a claw only on the equivalent of our thumb, earlier bats kept some of the additional finger claws inherited from their ancestors. A fossil bat dating to about 52 million years ago, dubbed [Onychonycteris finneryi](#) in 2008, had claws on all five of its fingers. New

technology has added a few details to the early bat story, too. [A recent study of coloration in the fossil record](#) found that two 48 million-year-old bats found in Germany were mostly brown.”

Library Skill

In the library, we had been having a lot of conversations about genres of fiction. Remember, the “genre” is like the “flavor” - it describes what sort of made up story it will be. Our library uses 13 different genres to organize the books, and we’re going to take a close look into them.

This week, we will be looking at the **Supernatural / Horror** genre. SUPE on the spine, black tape.

What are some key words you’d use to describe a Supernatural / Horror book? I might expect “ghosts” - what else can we add?

What are some examples of a Supernatural / Horror book you can think of?

Is this a genre you enjoy? Why or why not?

Reading for Pleasure

I’m going to keep asking... What is a book you are really enjoying? What is one thing about that book that makes it so great?