

## König Ludwig II

### Interests

#### 1. Ludwig was interested in:

- music
- theater
- operas (the entertainment of the times)
- architecture and building castles

#### 2. Ludwig's favorite animals were the swan and the peacock.

##### a. swan

- A swan was the symbol of chivalry and purity.
- Ludwig was introduced to the swan while growing up at Hohenschwangau Castle and seeing it in the murals and paintings on the walls.
- The swan is also represented in many of Richard Wagner's operas.
- Ludwig believed he was the reincarnation of Lohengrin, the Swan Knight.

##### b. peacock

- found in his kiosk at Linderhof
- Peacock was a symbol of the Oriental world.
- Ludwig had a love for the Orient, a love for its culture, and a love for anything Oriental.
- At that time, anything Oriental was a monarchy rivalry, because it showed rulers had money.

#### 3. Ludwig was interested in architecture.

- Ludwig did much of the architectural work himself, for he was no amateur in the art of designing.
- Ludwig took something from every style, from Romanesque to Neo-Gothic.
- Ludwig's favorite toys weren't toy soldiers, but a set of bricks.
- After withdrawing from politics and court life in Munich, Ludwig wanted a new Schwanstein castle and began construction of a castle across the valley from Hohenschwangau on the ruins of old castle of Schwanstein.
- Ludwig was a man of extravagant tastes, and he intended Neuschwanstein to be a close resemblance to the famous medieval Wartburg Castle.
- More than any of his other work, this castle offers a clear portrait of the man and king.

The Prince, who seldom had a person in whom he could confide and to whom he could pour out his heart, erected already in his youth a world of his own remote from life and self-centred. Growing older, he directed his main interest to literature. Above all, the young Prince loved the pathos of the poems and dramas of Friedrich von Schiller. This poetical style suited the idealistic-minded and romantic enthusiast, and even then helped him to divorce himself from a profane world and to flee into a "spiritual paradise", where everything was noble and beautiful.