

History



Find out about The Banqueting House's past...

Hello! Welcome to the Banqueting House.

My name is Mary Eleanor and I was 10 years old in 1759. That's over 250 years ago. I had no brothers or sisters so I played with the children of our servants at Gibside Hall, where I lived. Rosie was my best friend.

I was named after my mother, Mary. She loved to have friends over for tea and a gossip. There was always a lot of laughter and joking when they played cards (Mummy liked to cheat, but don't tell anyone that!). When she was caught out, she pretended to look sorry. Daddy thought it was funny but I wasn't so sure.

My father was an MP and businessman called George Bowes. He liked to spend time improving his estate.

Daddy built The Banqueting House where you are staying and a big stable block and an **Orangery**. He loved his garden. We grew vegetables and flowers for the house in the walled garden.



I was taught English and French by private tutors. Daddy insisted on that. I also studied geography, history and maths. My favourite subject was **botany** (that's the study of plants and flowers).

When I played with Rosie, we ran along the paths through the woods and walled garden. In the summer we picked wild flowers so that I could press them. I put violas (my favourite flower) between sheets of thick paper and then weighed them down with heavy books from our library. After a few weeks, their bright colours faded but they were preserved forever! I was ahead of my time because this pastime became very popular 100 years later during the reign of Queen Victoria.

What is your favourite flower? _____ Why not press some Flowers while you are staying here to remind you of your holiday?



"Oh Mary, you are naughty!"

Fact:

An **orangery** or orangerie (that's French) was very fashionable in the 18th century. It was a building or large room where orange trees and other exotic plants could be protected in winter.

You can still see the remains of the Orangery that George Bowes built in the park at Gibside.



Mummy and Daddy often took their guests up to The Banqueting House for tea or lunch. They liked to surprise them by pretending they were just going for a stroll in the grounds. Then they turned a corner and ta-da, there it was! Inside the servants had prepared a meal.

Imagine a long table covered in a white cloth and set with sparkling silver, glass and china. There were mirrors on the walls at each end of the room. It's funny because even if there were only ten people seated, it looked like many more. That's because the scene was reflected over and over in the mirrors. I thought it was magic!

The guests were delighted with the view of the lake and beyond. They said it was such a "**sylvan** vista". Inside, they admired the pretty window panes and the plasterwork. Daddy was very proud of his estate.



Fact:

Sylvan (say *sill-ven*) is how you describe something to do with a wood or forest. It also means pleasantly rural. It comes from the Latin word for forest, *silva*.

When The Banqueting House was built in the 1740s, King George II was on the throne. Why not colour in this picture of him.



Fact:

Mary Eleanor is an ancestor of our current Queen Elizabeth II through her mother. The Queen Mum came from the family Bowes Lyon.

Gibside Hall stayed in my family for many years. By 1900, it fell empty and was later taken apart. Its stone walls are all that remain.

Sadly, the roof of The Banqueting House fell in and it became a ruin without windows. Luckily, the Landmark Trust came to the rescue and restored it in 1981. Now you can stay here and enjoy playing outside just like Rosie and I did!

Unruly Rulers

Who were the Georgians?

The **Georgians** were nobles from Germany. George I was King James I's great grandson. So when Queen Anne died with no heirs George became king. They are called **Georgians** because they are all called George (apart from William – but he wasn't meant to be king anyway!) They came from **Hanover** in Germany so this time is called the **Hanoverian** (say 'han-o-ver-ee-an') period.



1714 **King George I**

A king from Germany who couldn't speak much English. He kept his wife in prison for 32 years - how mean!



King George II 1727

A boring king who only liked to fight battles. He died on the toilet of constipation, pooh!

1760 **King George III**

A popular king who went mad. He started talking to an oak tree in Windsor thinking it was Frederick the Great! Poor Georgie, he had to stop ruling as he was so mad.



George III's son George IV had to step in and rule as Prince Regent. This was called the **Regency Period**.



King George IV 1820

A bad king who ruined all his dad's hard work. He loved to drink, eat and party!

1830 **King William IV**

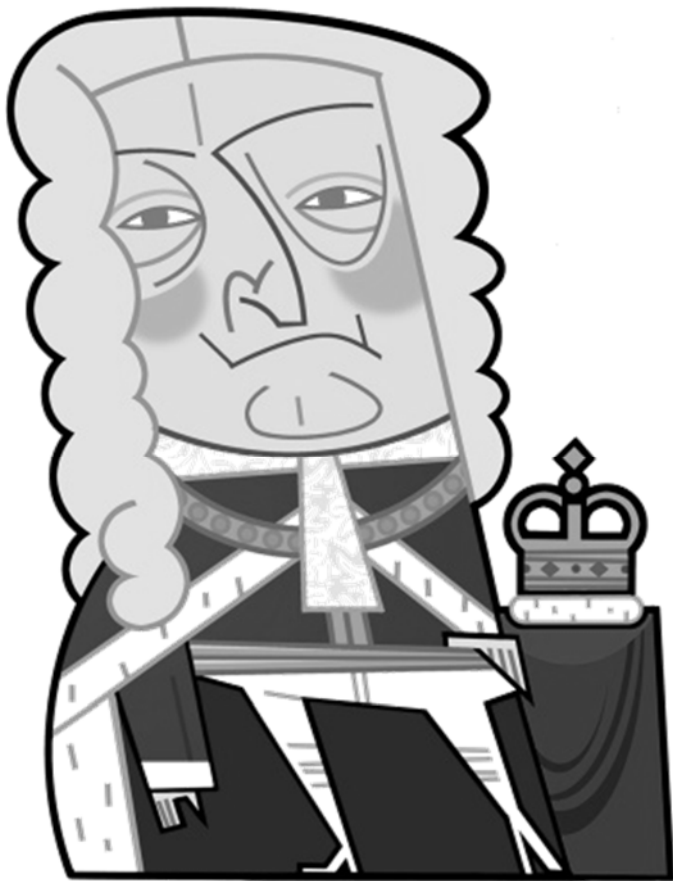
A simple king who wanted to be a sailor but was too stupid to command a ship. He would sometimes offer people a lift in his carriage!





Meet King George II

– who ruled when The Banqueting House was built in the 1740s.



Hi Georgie!

So when did you become king?

I became King on 11 June 1727 when I was 44.

What are you most famous for?

I was the last British King to lead an army into battle (of course we won!)

What is your favourite thing to do?

I can't choose – I love stag-hunting and playing cards after dinner!

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

I once tried to swim the castle moat to see my mother who had been put in prison by my dad.



What does The Banqueting House look like?

Can you walk all the way around it?

Can you use any of these words to describe the building?
Draw a circle around the ones that do.

What do you like most about The Banqueting House?

.....

- | | |
|-------------|---------|
| Castle | Tall |
| Pretty | Folly |
| Stone | Brick |
| Symmetrical | Home |
| Square | Elegant |
| Friendly | Tower |

Today a building like The Banqueting House is called a **folly**. George Bowes liked adding buildings to his estate at Gipside and he had pots of money to spend. In the 1740s he asked the architect (say *ark-ee-tek*), Daniel Garrett to build The Banqueting House overlooking the Derwent Valley.

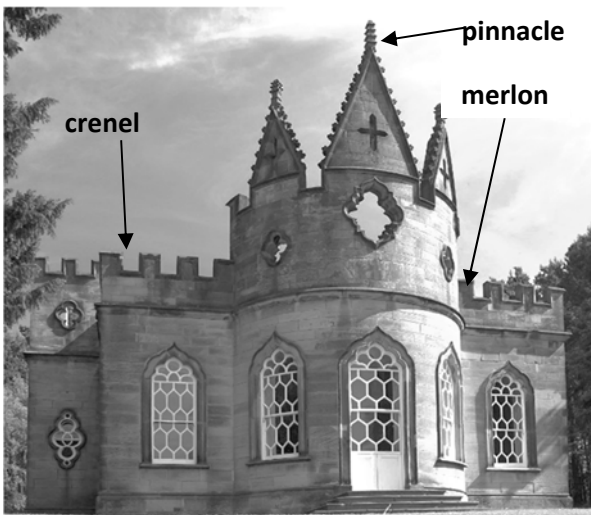
At the time, many public buildings were built in a **classical** style. Lots of rich people went on grand tours of Italy in the 1700s and 1800s. They came home with souvenirs like paintings but they wanted more. They couldn't bring home a Greek temple or a Roman villa so they got architects to build them. There were books of drawings of ancient buildings to copy too.

The Banqueting House is special because it was built in a style that Daniel Garrett loved, called **Gothick**.

Facts:

Folly – is an expensive, fancy building without a real purpose. Landowners liked to build them on their estates to show off how rich they were. Follies can be towers or mini castles.

Gothick- before architects really studied the old medieval Gothic cathedrals, they copied details that took their fancy. This made the buildings look quirky and charming. Later the style became **Gothic Revival**.



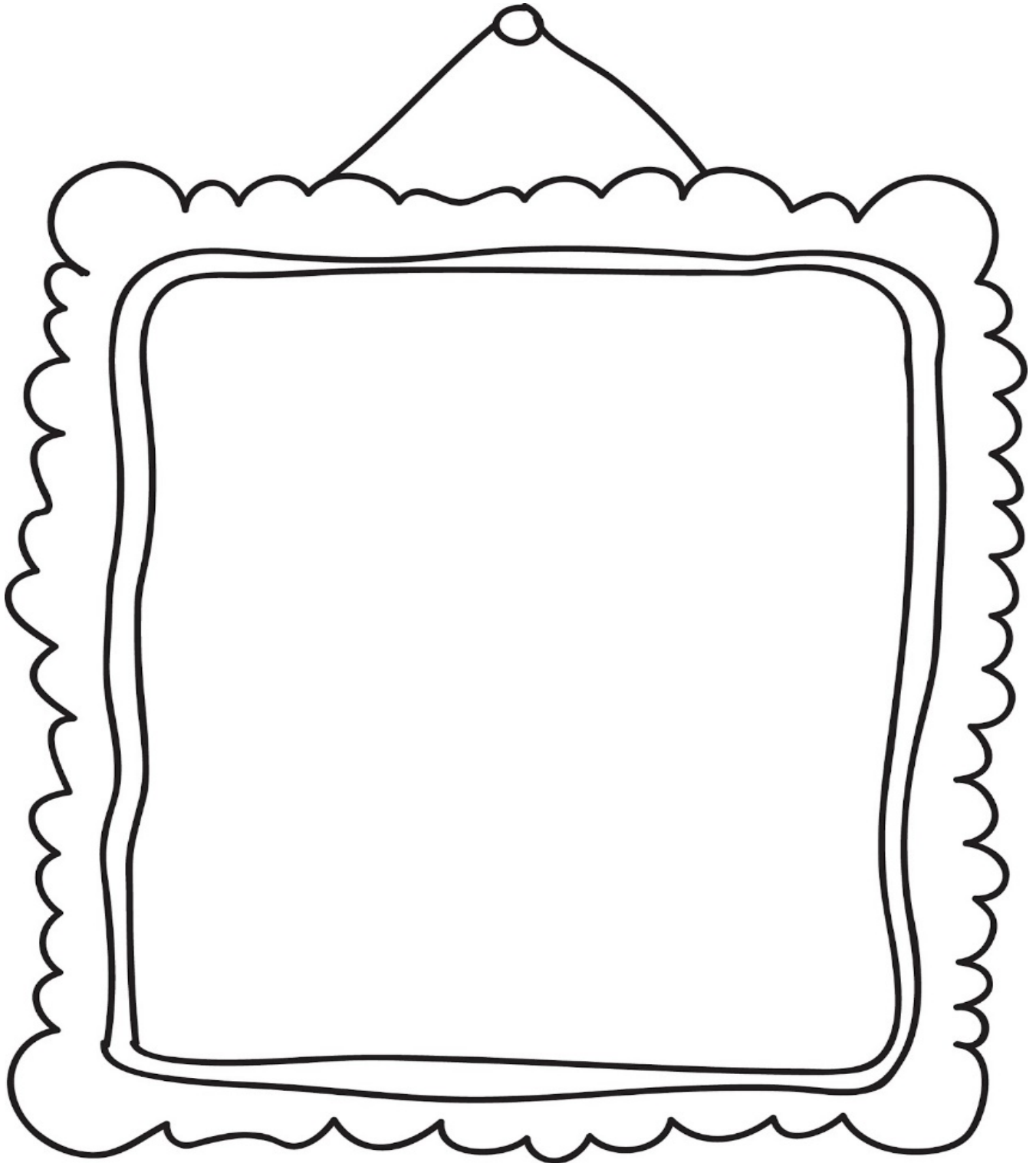
Daniel Garrett was inspired by the buildings of the Middle Ages and so he copied fancy **pinnacles** (small spires) that you find on cathedrals. He added crosses too. The windows have pointy tops – that's also Gothic.

And we can't forget the **crenellations**, copied from a medieval castle. These are the square blocks (**merlons**) with gaps in between (**crenels**), on the top of wall from where you could fire at the enemy. Lookout! (But here, they're just for fun).



Buildings are quite easy to draw. They are usually made up from lots of geometric shapes, like squares, triangles and circles. **Have a go at drawing any side of The Banqueting House.**

Please tell an adult where you are going so they don't worry about where you are and take care not to go too close to the parapet wall!





What is The Banqueting House built from?

Fact:

Some buildings were built from stone that was dug out of the ground when farmers ploughed the fields, other buildings were made from stone that was quarried and cut into neat shapes and sizes. There are still many stone quarries around the country today, where people get stone out of the ground.

Stone houses were once cheaper to build than brick ones. Once we could transport bricks up and down the country on the canals and railways, brick buildings become cheaper and more popular.

Stone is the solid foundation of the earth. It exists as huge mountains, rocks, stones or small pebbles washed smooth by water. There are lots of different types of stone, with different colours and textures. Some are better to build with than others.



The Banqueting House was built when stone was still taken out of the ground by hand. Today, a quarry is a place where stone is blasted out of the ground with explosives! The one in the picture shows what quarries look like now.



People who work with stone are called stonemasons. They build walls, carve the stone into shapes or add patterns to its surface. They use a mallet and special tools called chisels to shape the stone. The picture on the left shows a stonemason hard at work.

Mallet

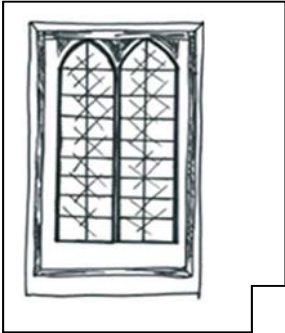


Chisels

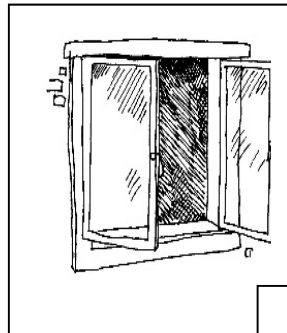




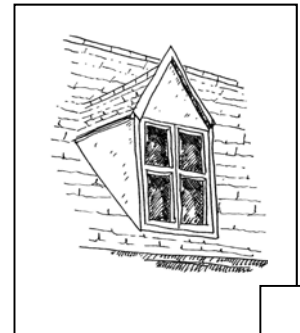
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows does The Banqueting House have?



Pointed or Gothic



Casement (it opens)

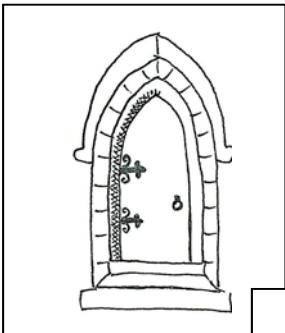


Dormer or attic (in the roof)

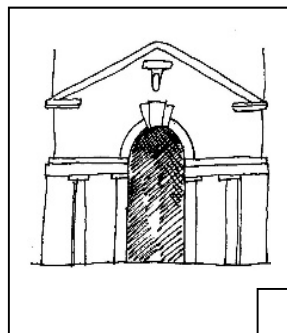
Fact:

Have you seen that in some very old buildings the windows don't open? Imagine how hot it got in the summer! When the casement window was invented it was the first type of window to open.

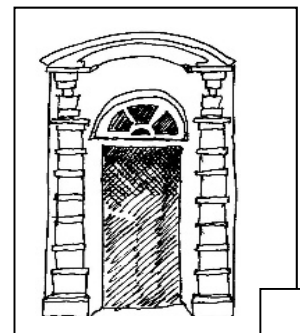
Entrances can be grand or simple. What is the front door of The Banqueting House like?



Gothic

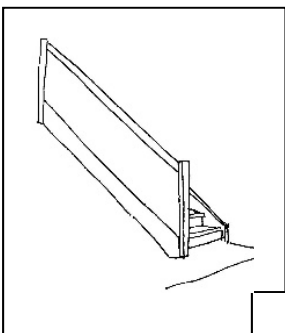


Porch

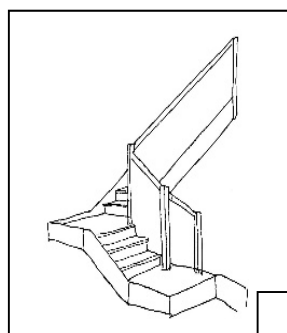


Canopy

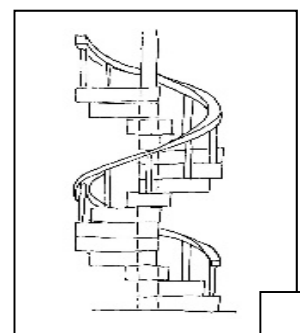
There are many different styles of staircases. Which style is closest to the outside staircase at The Banqueting House?



Straight



Quarter turn



Spiral

Quest



Discover more about The Banqueting House

The Banqueting House has been here for over 250 years. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

Go outside the kitchen door and stand in the porch. This is called a **loggia**. How many columns do you see?

Stand on the lawn and look at the wall above the loggia.

Fact:

Loggia (say 'loh-jee-uh'). A covered room, open on one side, usually with columns.



Do you see this opening in the stonework? How many of them do you see on this side of the building? _____. This design is called a **quatrefoil**. There are more around the other sides of the building. How many can you count in all?

Fact:

Quatrefoil (say 'kwa-tra-foil') is a design of four overlapping circles found on churches and other buildings from the Middle Ages. The word comes from the old French word meaning four leaves.

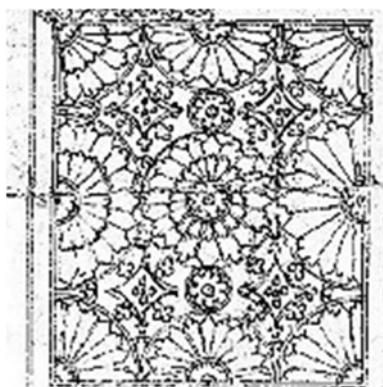
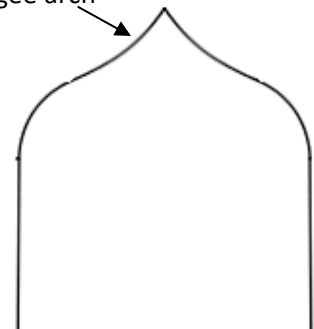
In the sitting room you will see this **ogee** shape in lots of places (windows, fireplace, alcoves). How many ogee arches can you count?

Ogee arches were common in medieval Gothic buildings like cathedrals.

Fact:

An **ogee arch** (say 'oh-jee') – is an arch made of two curves, (shaped a bit like an S) that are mirror image and come together in a pointy top.

Ogee arch



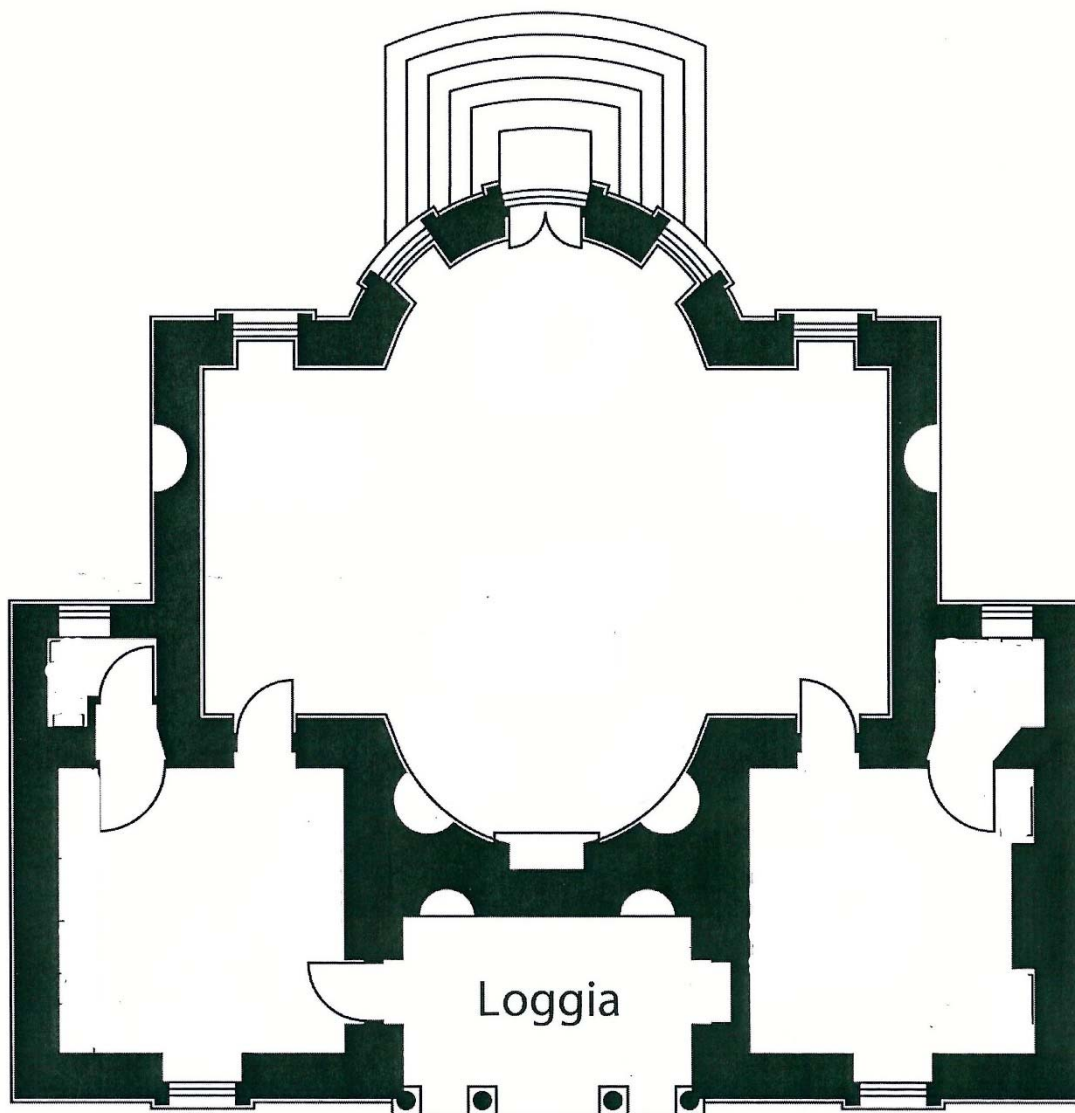
This was the design for the plaster on the ceiling in the middle of the sitting room. It was a complicated design! Sadly, none of it survived. When Landmark restored the building, they made the plasterwork design much simpler.

If you would like to see some original plasterwork, look in the bedroom at the wall with the window. Landmark was able to save some of it and copied the rest.



Living in The Banqueting House

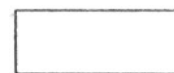
The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. The Banqueting House has one floor. The plan below shows you the shape of it. Take a walk around and write on the plan what each room is used for.



We use these symbols to show where beds, tables and bathrooms are. Draw the symbols on to the floorplans to show where the furniture is.



Bed



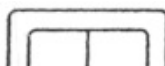
Rectangular (or a round) table



Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



Can you find an example of each of these things inside The Banqueting House. Describe, or draw the object when you find it.

Your favourite piece of furniture

Your favourite window

Draw the pattern of a rug on the floor

In the box below, draw your own design for a plasterwork ceiling **you** would make for The Banqueting House.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a plasterwork ceiling design.



Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. What is The Banqueting House made of?

Bricks

Wood

Stone

Straw

2. What is the name of the valley that you see in the distance from the sitting room window?

Dermot

Derwent

Del Boy

Darren

3. Which type of tree would you not put in an orangery over winter?

Oak

Orange

Peach

Lemon

4. Which of the following do you not find on The Banqueting House?

Quatrefoils

Pinnacles

Weather vane

Ogee arch

5. Which George was King when The Banqueting House was built?

George I

George III

George V

George II

6. What do you study in botany?

Plants and flowers

Robots

Fish

Bees

7. In the winter, many woods are full of white flowers. What are they called?

Tulips

Bluebells

Snowdrops

Daffodils

8. George Bowes is an ancestor of which of these Royals?

Queen Elizabeth II

Queen Elizabeth I

Prince Philip

Henry VIII

9. Which of these names has a King of England not had?

George

Nigel

James

Edward

10. What is the name of the nearby city?

Newcastle-under-Lyme

Sheffield

Newcastle upon Tyne

Leeds

To find the answers skip two pages...



Colour in the pheasant below

You can look up the pheasant in the Bird Book in the Landmark bookcase to copy the colours if you wish.

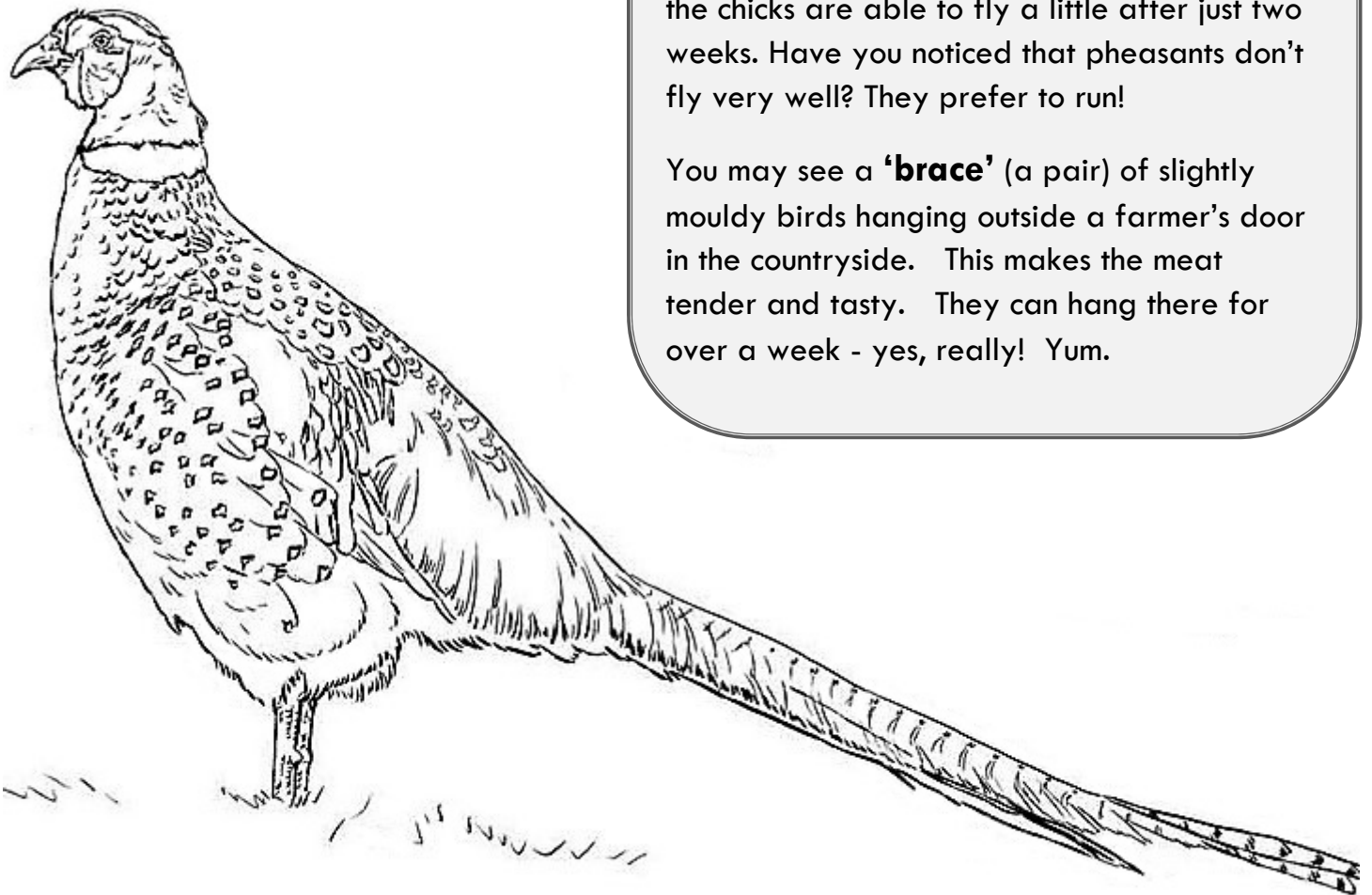
Pheasant Facts:

Common pheasants are bred to be shot during the shooting season, October 1 to February 1. They were brought to Europe from Asia many centuries ago.

The male is the colourful character with a greenish black head and red cheeks. The female (hen) is a bit boring looking! She's a beige-brown colour with darker spots.

There are usually 10-12 eggs in a clutch and the chicks are able to fly a little after just two weeks. Have you noticed that pheasants don't fly very well? They prefer to run!

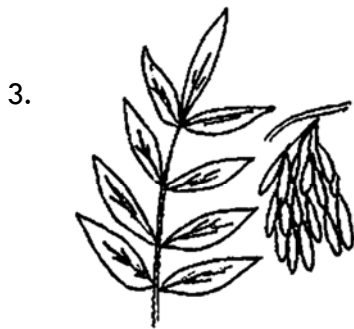
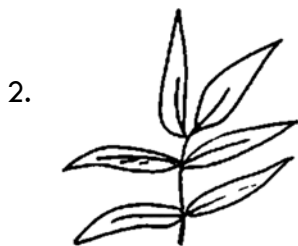
You may see a **'brace'** (a pair) of slightly mouldy birds hanging outside a farmer's door in the countryside. This makes the meat tender and tasty. They can hang there for over a week - yes, really! Yum.





Which leaf belongs to which tree?

Match the leaf to the correct tree.



Horse Chestnut

Willow

Pine

Ash

Oak

Did you match them correctly? Put your score in the box.



Answer sheet:

Quiz answers:

1. Stone
2. Derwent
3. Oak
4. Weather vane
5. George II
6. Plants and flowers
7. Snowdrops
8. Queen Elizabeth II
9. Nigel
10. Newcastle upon Tyne

How many did you get right?



Design your own folly

Imagine you have an empty corner of land in a big parkland on which to build. How would you design your own folly – remember it can be as fancy as you like! You could include ogees, turrets, pinnacles, quatrefoils or any other shapes you like.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a design of a folly.



Bake an old-fashioned Parkin

If you've never had a parkin you are missing out! It's a spicy gingerbread cake made with oatmeal and treacle. It's popular in the north of England, especially in Yorkshire, where oats were traditionally grown rather than wheat. Parkin is a warming cake usually eaten around Bonfire Night on 5 November. It softens and improves with keeping, unlike most cakes!

Here's a simple recipe for you to try. You'll probably need the help of an adult.

175 g black treacle	¼ tsp ground nutmeg
150 g butter	275 g porridge oats
100 g dark muscovado sugar	1 large egg
175 g plain flour	150 ml milk
2 level tsp ground ginger	1 level tsp bicarbonate of soda.
1 level tsp ground cinnamon	

Pre-heat the oven to 180 °C, fan 160 °C, Gas 4.

- Grease a deep, square cake tin and line the base with baking parchment.
- Measure the treacle, butter and sugar into a medium pan and heat gently until the butter has melted and the sugar dissolved. Allow to cool slightly.
- Sift the flour and spices into a large bowl and add the porridge oats.
- Mix together the egg and milk in a jug and stir in the bicarbonate of soda. Add this mixture to the bowl of dry ingredients. Then add the melted treacle mix and stir well to mix.
- Pour into the cake tin.
- Bake in the pre-heated oven for about 1 hour or until firm to the touch. Mind the hot oven!
- Leave to cool in the tin for 10 minutes before turning out on a wire rack. Ideally, leave a few days before cutting into squares!
- The parkin keeps well for a week in a cake tin.





Make a woodland origami fox

Woodlands have lots of different animals living in them from rabbits, mice and insects to deer, birds and foxes. Have a go at making your own origami fox with the paper on the next sheet.

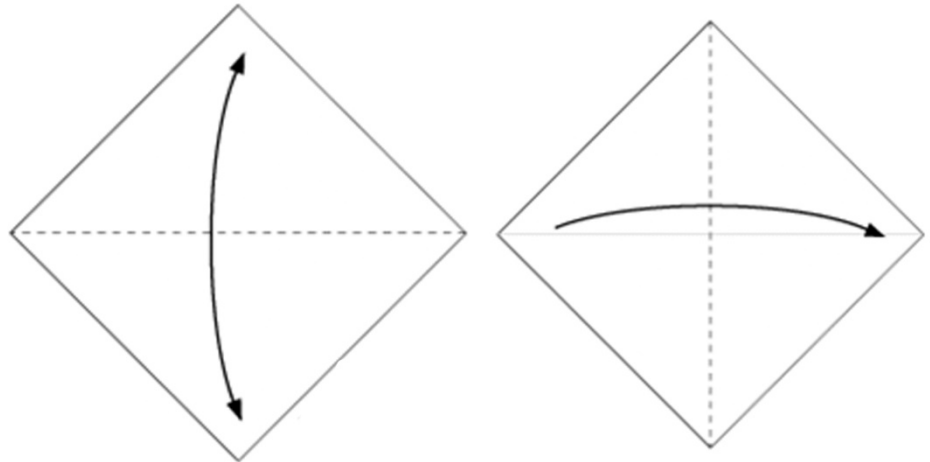
You will need:

- Paper
- Scissors
- Colouring pencils

Fact: Origami (say orr-ee-garmi) is the Japanese art of paper folding.

Step One:

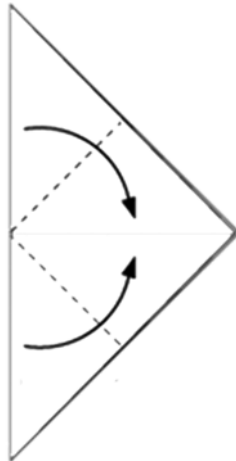
Cut the A4 piece of paper into a square. Follow the dotted lines on the sheet on the next page.



Then fold in half one way to make a crease, then open it up and fold it in half the other way.

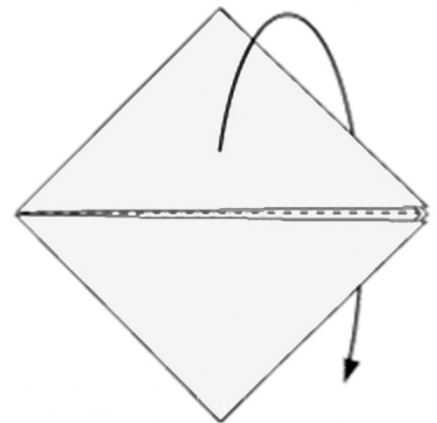
Step two:

Fold both sides in to make a diamond shape.



Step three:

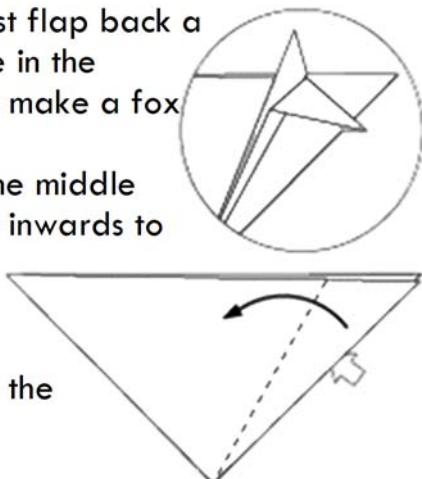
Once you have the diamond shape, fold the paper in on itself in half again so that all the flaps are on the outside edge.



Step four:

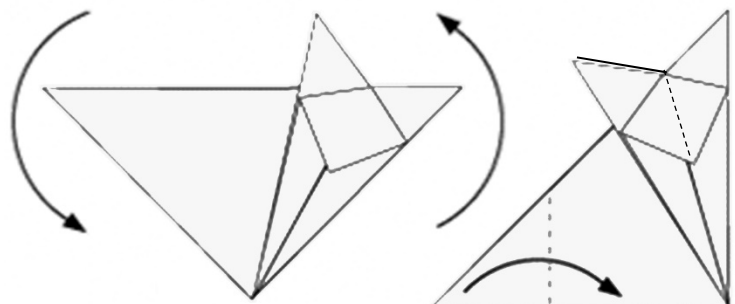
Fold the first flap back a little bit like in the diagram to make a fox ear.

Then with the middle flap push it inwards to make a Diamond shape that will be the fox's face.



Step five:

Turn the paper round so that it is at a right angle. Then fold the other corner inwards to create the fox's tail. Then colour and draw in the fox's face!



CUT OUT TO MAKE YOUR ORIGAMI FOX

