

# History



## Find out about Belmont's past...

Hello! Welcome to Belmont!

My name is Frank and I've lived here with my family since I was a baby. My Dad, Dr Richard Bangay, bought Belmont in 1881. He and my mum, Agnes, moved from Staffordshire to Lyme Regis in search of warmer weather! Do you prefer it when it's warm or cold?

I love living here by the sea even if the house is quite crowded. Dad has two stepchildren from his first marriage and six other children including me so the house is always very noisy! How many children are there in your home?

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My favourite thing about the house is the **observatory (say obs-er-va-tory) tower** dad built when he first moved in here. When my sister Madge and I play hide-and-seek, I always hide in the tower and she never finds me – I once hid in there for over an hour!

Dad really loves to look at the stars and wanted his own space to do it – can you blame him with all us kids running around?! He spends many evenings gazing through the telescope and often tries to explain what he can see to all of us. I like star gazing too but my favourite part is watching the roof rotate and open up on its huge cog!



The giant cog mechanism which rotates to open up the observatory towers' roof.



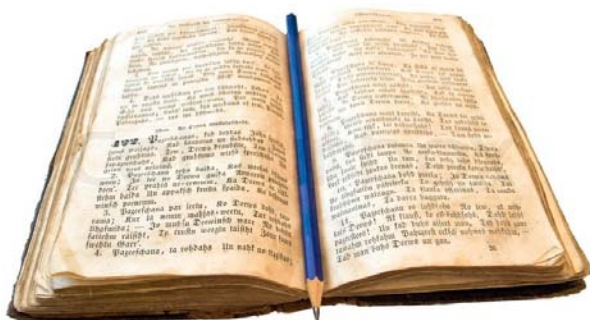
A picture of mum and dad taken in 1890

## Fact:

**Observatory Towers** became very popular during the Victorian era. They were built so that people could observe the stars and planets through telescopes.

We all love the huge garden which almost runs right down to the Cobb (not a loaf of bread, silly - the big stone pier down in the sea! If you look out of the sitting room window you'll be able to see it through the trees!)

Our nanny, Annie, taught us how to play 'Follow the Leader' on the lawn. You choose one person to be the leader and everyone else has to copy what they do – marching, jumping, crawling and dancing about! It's great fun, why don't you try it with the people you are staying with?



Everyone in Lyme Regis really loves Dad because he's their doctor. Mum told me that he used to treat the poor people in the town for free – a little bit like your modern **NHS** – wasn't that kind of him?

I think that growing up poor himself made dad feel sorry for these people and he wanted them to have better access to medicines than he did.

When I'm complaining about doing school work he tells the story of how he had to teach himself to read and write – when he was growing up he actually spent all of his free time in a bookshop! Do you like to read? What's your favourite book?



Dr Bangay and his children in the garden at Belmont in 1890.

## Fact:

The **NHS (National Health Service)** was set up in 1948 to provide healthcare to all people, not just the rich. Before that you had to pay to see a doctor.

**Tuberculosis** is a serious infection which affects your lungs. It was very common in the Victorian era and often lead to early death.

When Dad isn't working hard curing people of **tuberculosis** (he cured my mum of the disease before they married!), he takes us children to Lyme Regis beach to look at all the fossils there. Have you been? Did you find any? Dad is a member of the Dorset Natural History club and he has the members over for lectures in the dining room. They all really know their stuff and I love learning about how old the fossils are and how they got there. My brothers and sisters think it's boring, but I think it's great.



An ammonite fossil – a common find on the Jurassic coastline

One evening I sat at the door and listened to a lecture on Mrs Eleanor Coade – she's the one Belmont was built for! All the **decorations** (say *dec-or-ay-shuns*) on the front of the house are made from an artificial stone. She helped to perfect the recipe. Keep reading the next few pages and you'll learn more about her...



## Eleanor Coade – who was she and why is she important to Belmont?

Eleanor Coade was born in 1733 and lived most of her life in Exeter and London, but for nearly 50 years, from 1784, until her death aged 89, she kept Belmont as a seaside villa. It became kind of an advert for Coade stone.

Eleanor bought an **artificial** (say *art-i-fishall*) stone factory in Westminster, London, in 1769. The factory wasn't doing very well but she turned it around into a successful business. At the factory they made an artificial fired stone. Eleanor and her mother perfected the recipe of the artificial stone and it became preferred to natural stone as it lasts much better, particularly in harsh weather.



Examples of Coade stone on the front of Belmont House.

### Fact:

**Artificial** means something that is man-made rather than occurring naturally.

## What is Coade stone made from?

It sounds a little like a cake recipe, but I wouldn't eat this if I were you...

- a special white clay from Devon called ball clay
- grog (that's sort a of pottery called which has been finely ground down)
- crushed flint
- fine quartz or sand
- ground lime soda glass

The 'ingredients' were mixed together, pressed into moulds and then "fired" in a wood fired kiln – a bit like a big oven which reaches really high temperatures. It was a bit like making pottery.

The silicates (sand, quartz and flint) melted slightly during firing which helped to increase the strength of the 'stone'. The glass also melted, which helped to make it even stronger.

The best thing about this artificial stone is that it is **non-porous** (say *non-poor-us*) – this means that rain cannot get into the stone. If rain gets into natural stone and then freezes, it expands which can cause cracks and breakages.

Mrs Coade was a brilliant salesperson so that her "stone" soon came to be preferred to the real thing!



## The Cobb...

Look out of the sitting room window, down towards the sea. Can you see the big stone wall which sits in the sea? This is called 'The Cobb' and it forms Lyme Regis' artificial harbour.

There has been a man-made structure on the site since 1313 – that's over 700 years ago! The original harbour wall was made from oak piles hammered into the seabed, with boulders stacked between them.



The stone wall, which you can see today, was built in 1820. It's made of Portland stone and mortar; it's a lot stronger than the old wooden one.

It acts as a **breakwater**, which means that it protects the coast from the force of the waves. In bad weather the waves here can be huge and if it weren't for the Cobb, the boats in the harbour and the shops along the seafront would get badly damaged.

The Cobb is so important that it has been given a Grade I listing – this means that it is a protected structure and cannot be changed without permission.

## Fact:

**Iconic** (say eye-conic) means very popular or famous.

An **iconic** image, which your parents may remember, is one of a woman standing on the Cobb in her long flowing black robe. The image comes from a film based on a book called *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, written by author John Fowles, who lived at Belmont before it came to The Landmark Trust.

There are many of Mr Fowles' books on the shelf in the sitting room, which used to be his writing room.



The French Lieutenant's Woman walking along the Cobb in Lyme Regis.

The Cobb inspired other writers too. Another famous writer, Jane Austen, mentions it in her novel, 'Persuasion', written in 1816.

# 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 III – who ruled when Belmont was built.



### Hi Georgie!

#### So when did you become king?

I became King on 25 October 1760 when I was just 22.

#### What are you most famous for?

I went mad, don't you know!

#### What is your favourite thing to do?

I like playing with my youngest children. I had 15 in all!

#### What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

I tried to tax the Americans in the colonies and do you know what? They declared their independence!

# Design



## What does Belmont 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.

A Castle

Tall

Pretty

Industrial

Stone

Brick

Symmetrical

Humble

Square

Elegant

Friendly

Low

Belmont was built in 1780. That's over 200 years ago! It was built by Samuel Coade, Eleanor Coade's Uncle. He gave the house to her in 1784 and she **embellished** it with her famous Coade stone.

Belmont is built in the typical **Georgian** style. The Georgians loved a house to look symmetrical and this can be clearly seen at Belmont.



You could draw a line right down the centre of Belmont and the two halves would appear exactly the same!

## Facts:

**Embellish** means making something more attractive by the addition of decorative details or features.

**Georgian** architecture is the name given to set of architectural styles in used between 1720 and 1830. It's called Georgian because of the four Georges who reigned in Britain during those years.

The rooms inside are nice and light and airy – they're also set out in a symmetrical design – there's a theme developing here isn't there?!

## Did you know...?

Each side of a building is called an **elevation**.

If the front elevation is really pretty, it has its own special name – it is called a **façade** (say 'fa-sard'). In French it means *frontage* or *face*.

What do you think of Belmont's **façade**?



## Coade stone embellishment at Belmont...

A closer look at the different ways Coade stone is used to decorate the front of Belmont. All these things are made of Coade stone.

An urn is like a tall vase for decoration.

A Frieze (say freeze) is a decorated band.



A keystone is the stone at the very centre of an arch.

A **quoin** (say coyn) is an interlocking stone on a corner or opening. Here they are **vermiculated** (say ver-mic-you-lated). It means they look like the wormcasts you see on a lawn. Weird, eh?



**Neptune** was the name that the Romans gave to Poseidon, the Greek god of the sea and earthquakes.



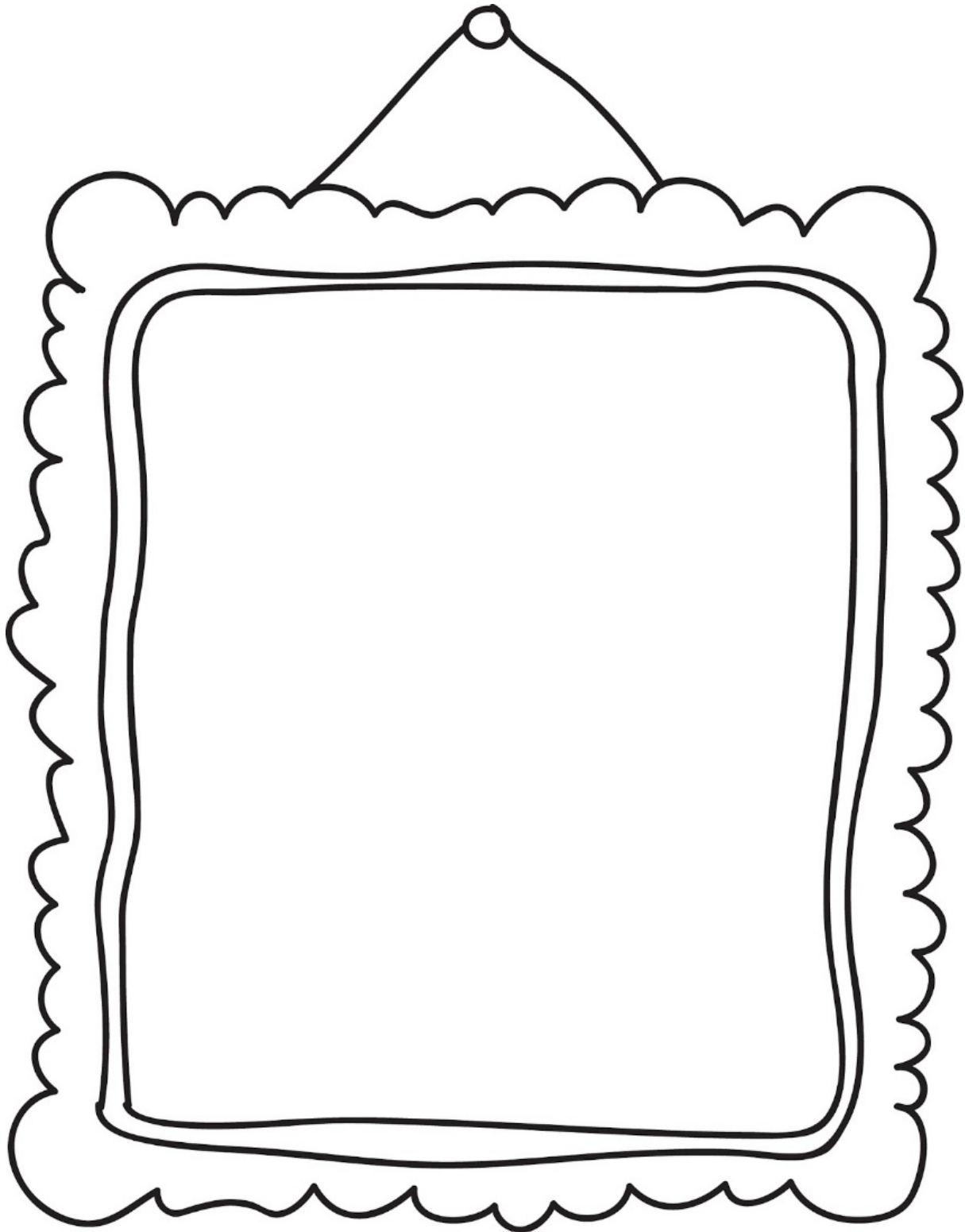
This is **Amphitrite**—she is Greek goddess of the sea and married to Neptune. See the shells and coral in her headdress. It's quite fitting that they both appear on a house so close to the sea!





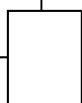
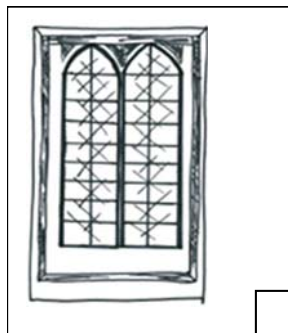
Buildings are quite easy to draw. They are usually made up from lots of geometric shapes, like squares, triangles and circles. **Have a go at drawing Belmont. Choose whether you draw the front or the back.**

Please tell an adult where you are going so they don't worry about where you are!

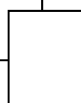
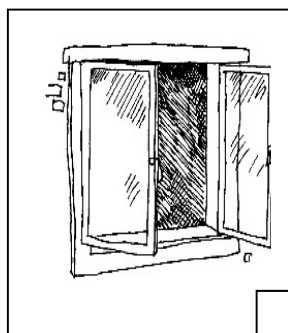




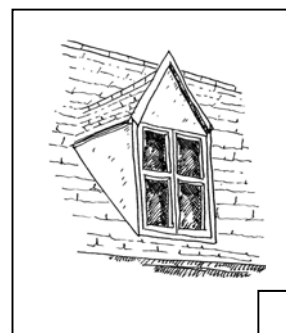
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows does Belmont have?



Fixed Picture



Casement

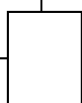
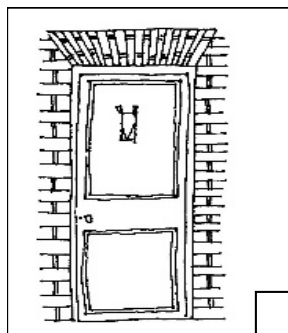


Dormer or attic

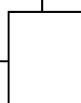
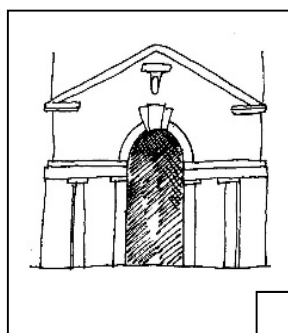
**Fact:**

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.

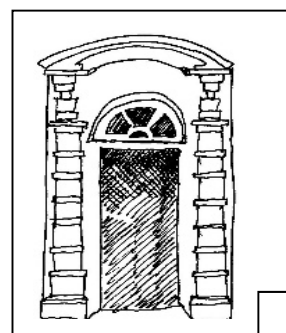
Entrances can be grand or simple. What is the front door of Belmont like?



Doorframe



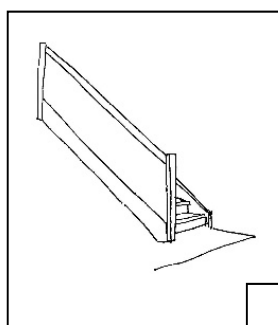
Porch



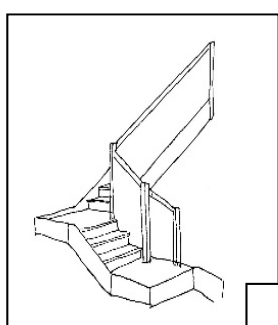
Canopy

There are many different styles of staircases. Which style is closest to the staircase at Belmont?

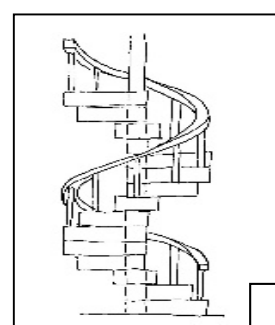
Straight



Quarter turn



Spiral



# Quest



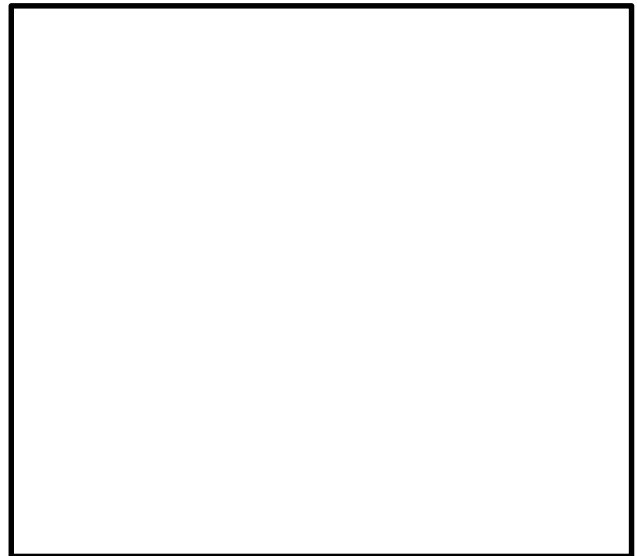
## Discover more about Belmont

Belmont has been sitting in this position over-looking the Cobb for over 200 years. Follow this quest to find out more...



Where might you find this? The centre moulding is original Coade stone but the rest is **replica**.

Why not have a go at replicating it as a drawing yourself in the box below?



### Fact:

A **replica** is an exact copy of a design or object.

A **recess** is a space which is set into the wall.

A **constellation** (say *con-stell-ay-shun*) is a group of stars which form a recognisable pattern, like 'The Great Bear'.



The **recessed** arch in the dining room is called a 'buffet alcove' – imagine a table loaded with lots of yummy food! What foods would you have on your table?

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Have you been inside Dr Bangay's observatory tower yet? Have a look at the large cog **mechanism** (say *mek-an-ism*) he used to turn the roof so that he could follow the stars at night with his telescope. Can you think of any **constellations**?



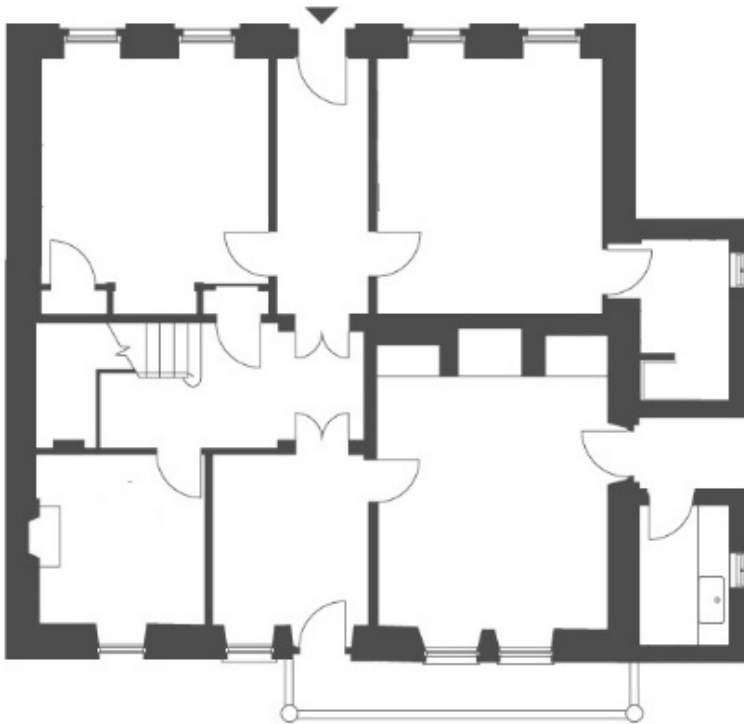
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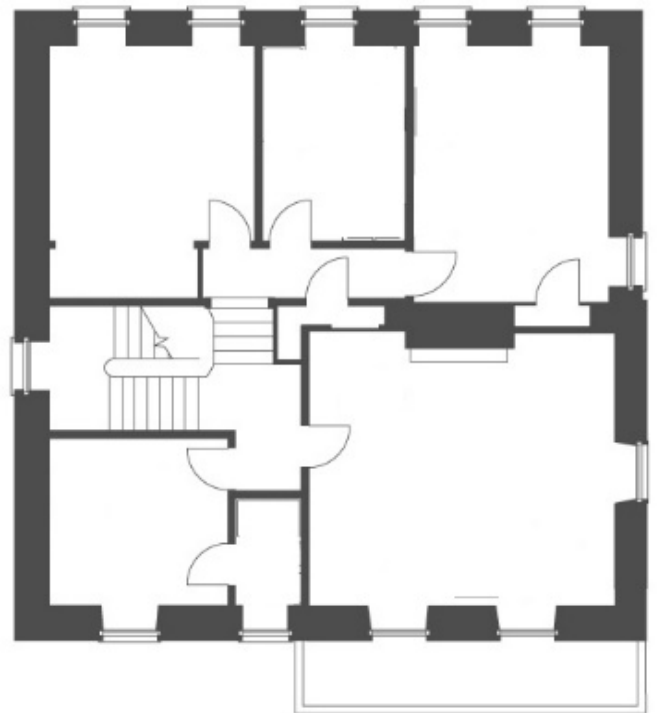
## Living in Belmont

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Belmont has two floors. The plans below show you the shape of each room. Take a walk around each floor. Can you identify the rooms and write on the plan how they are used today?

Mark the room you are staying in with a star! ★



Ground Floor



First Floor

We use these symbols to show where beds, tables and bathrooms are. Colour in the symbols on to the floorplans when you have found it in real life.



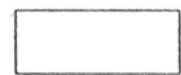
Bathroom



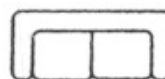
Cooker



Bed



Rectangular/round table



Sofa



Kitchen sink



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

Your favourite piece of furniture

The fireplace (is it an open fire or does it have a stove?)

**Fact:**

Before Belmont as we know it today was built, a small two storey building stood on this site. It was called Dunster's Castle and was made of a local stone called blue lias ashlar.

In the space below, draw your favourite piece of Coade stone design. It can be one on the outside or the inside – you choose!



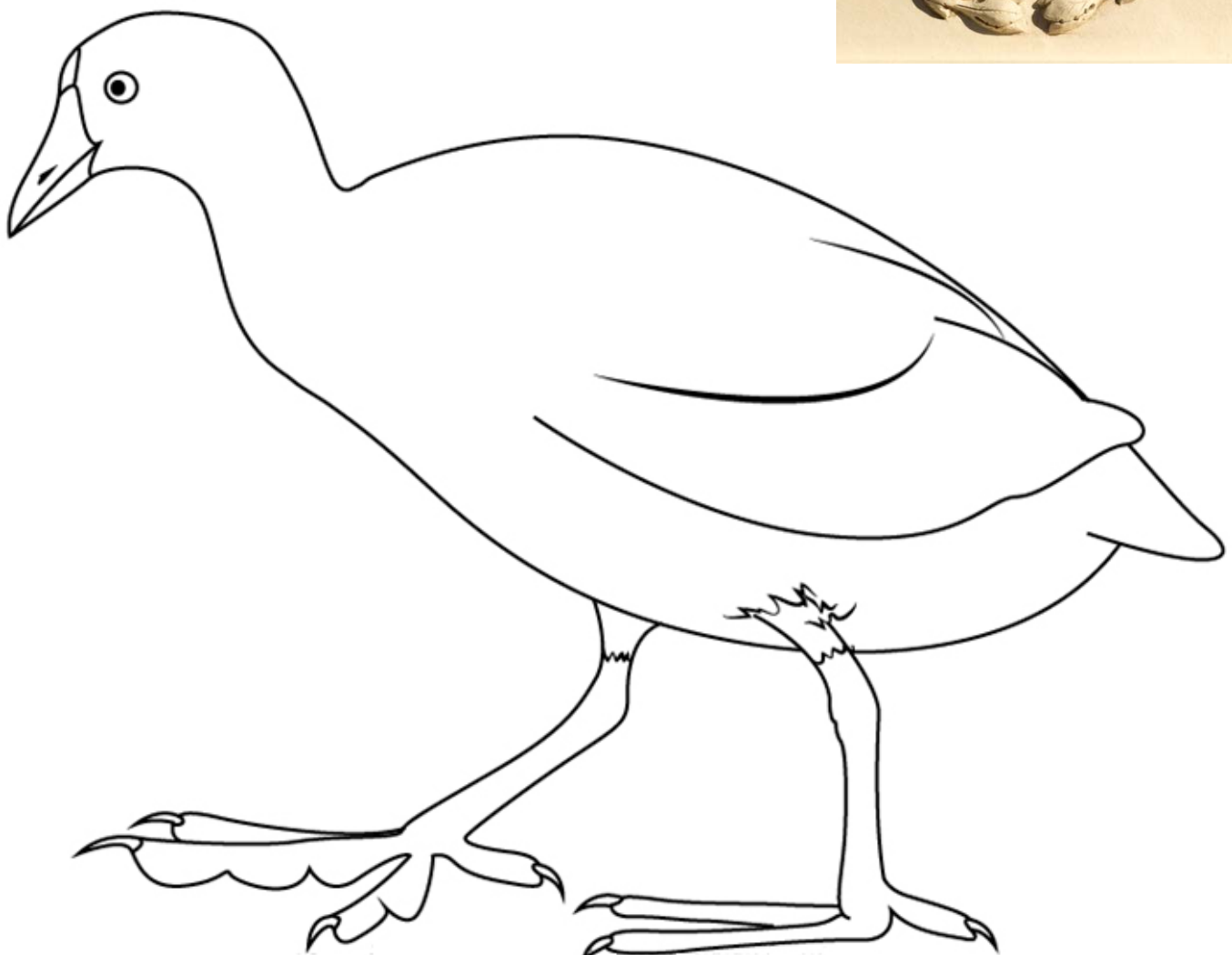
## The Coade stone coot...

Have you taken a look at the gateposts which lead into the car parking area?

You'll see a coot, this is a black water bird with a white beak – you may have seen one on a river or pond near your own home. The Coade family crest was that of a coot – it might have been a pun on their name ('Coade' in a southwest accent sounds a bit like 'coot'.)

Colour in the picture below. Coots are black and white but you can go a little zany if you like and make it multi-coloured...

The Coade stone coot on the gatepost at Belmont





## Can you answer these questions correctly?

You'll need to read the history sections first!

1. When was Belmont built?

1380

1460

1690

1780

2. Which of these is not an ingredient of Coade stone?

Flint

Glass

Cement

Grog

3. When did Mrs Coade buy the artificial stone factory in Westminster?

1784

1769

1820

1852

4. What was Richard Bangay's job?

A vet

A doctor

A street dancer

A chef

5. Who was on the throne when Belmont was built?

(Psst... check out Unruly Rulers!)

George III

Victoria

Charles II

Elizabeth I

6. What is a façade?

A decorative frontage

A type of star

A car

A medical instrument

7. Which famous book did John Fowles set in Lyme Regis?

The German Colonel's Wife

The French Lieutenant's Woman

The Austrian Sargeant's Sister

The Polish Airman's Mother

8. Who gave Belmont to Eleanor Coade?

Her father

Her brother

Her uncle

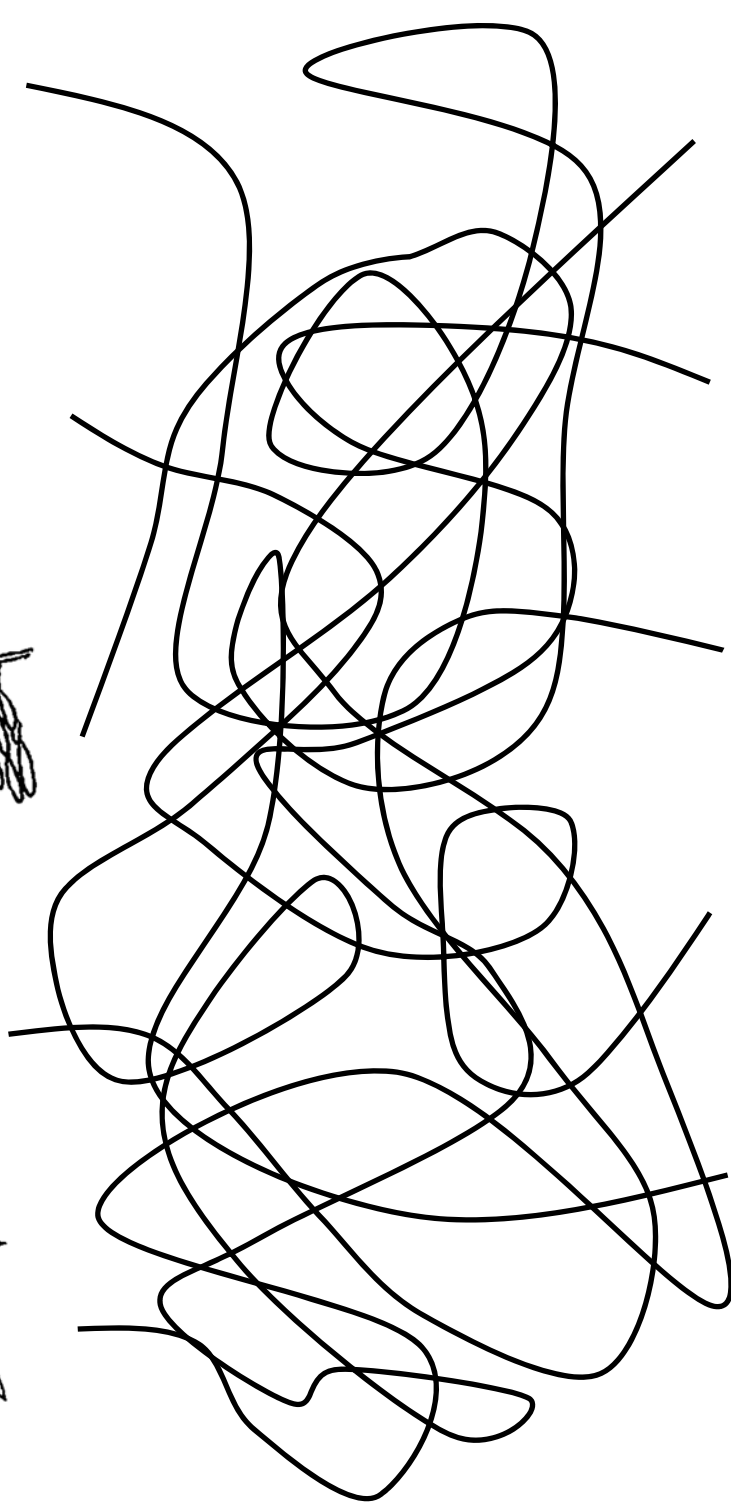
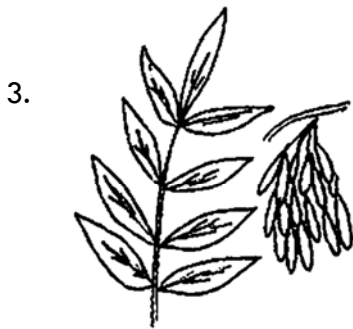
Her grandfather

To find the answers skip two pages...



# 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.





## Belmont Word Search

Now have a go at the word search. Think about different parts of the building when filling in the word search. The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

I	Q	H	A	J	V	C	C	H	W	T	W	M
G	D	O	C	T	O	R	O	Z	R	S	Y	G
W	E	V	V	B	Y	Z	A	E	E	I	P	U
O	E	O	B	Q	H	N	D	P	T	L	T	S
L	B	I	R	J	Z	A	E	G	I	A	W	Z
I	C	S	V	G	C	I	S	A	R	R	U	J
S	H	R	E	A	I	L	T	R	W	U	C	F
S	I	R	F	R	E	A	O	D	J	T	S	O
O	Z	J	T	O	V	S	N	E	I	A	Y	W
F	Q	G	O	A	Q	A	E	N	G	N	M	L
L	A	I	C	I	F	I	T	R	A	R	M	E
L	F	D	M	T	E	S	R	O	D	G	E	S
L	Y	M	E	R	E	G	I	S	R	O	T	E
B	A	N	G	A	Y	L	E	L	U	Y	R	B
G	X	Q	V	B	C	F	Y	Q	G	O	Y	S

COADE STONE

OBSERVATORY

FOSSIL

DOCTOR

LYME REGIS

ARTIFICIAL

FOWLES

NATURALIST

GARDEN

DORSET

WRITER

GEORGIAN

SYMMETRY

FACADE

COBB

BANGAY

SEAVIEW

JURASSIC

How many of these words did you find? Put your score in the box.

18

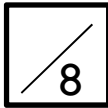


## Answer sheet:

### Quiz answers:

1. 1780
2. Cement
3. 1769
4. A Doctor
5. George III
6. A decorative frontage
7. The French Lieutenant's Woman
8. Her uncle

How many did you get right?



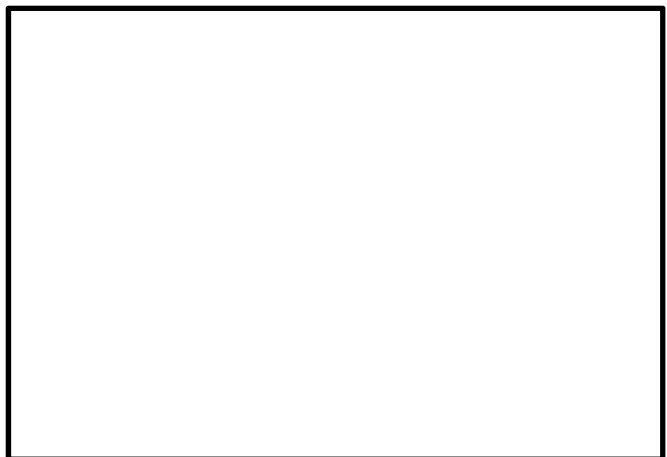
### Fact:

A fossil of the world's largest moth was found at Lyme Regis in 1966!



If you go for a walk around Lyme Regis town, look out for these modern day Coade stone ammonites on the pavement.

Can you draw your own ammonite in the box below?



## **Design your own seaside villa**

Have a go at designing your own seaside villa complete with your own Coade stone embellishments. Draw the sea in the background – have you chosen a bright summer's day or a stormy one? Has your house got a tower?



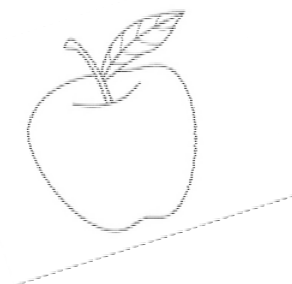
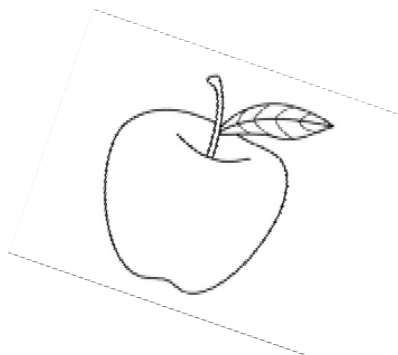
# Make a Dorset Apple Cake

Apple cake is a really popular cake which hails from Dorset. It's really delicious when served slightly warm with some custard or a big dollop of cream!

## Ingredients:

225g self-raising flour	1 large egg, beaten
2 tsp ground cinnamon	6-8 tbsp milk
115g unsalted butter – cubed and chilled	225g peeled, cored and diced Bramley apples
115g light brown sugar	100g sultanas
2tbsp demerara sugar	

- Preheat the oven to 180C/ 350F/ Gas Mark 4. Grease and line a 20cm cake tin with baking parchment
- Place the flour & cinnamon in a large bowl and mix well. Taking a few cubes of butter at a time rub into the flour mixture. Keep rubbing until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Stir in the light brown sugar
- Beat in egg, followed by milk – you want to achieve a smooth, thick batter
- Add apples & sultanas to the mix and combine. Pour batter into tin and level out.
- Sprinkle over demerara sugar and bake for 30-40 mins or until golden.
- Allow to cool in tin for 15 minutes and then turn out onto a wire cooling rack. Enjoy when it's still a little warm – yum!







## Make an origami rabbit

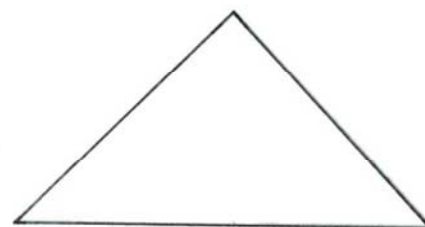
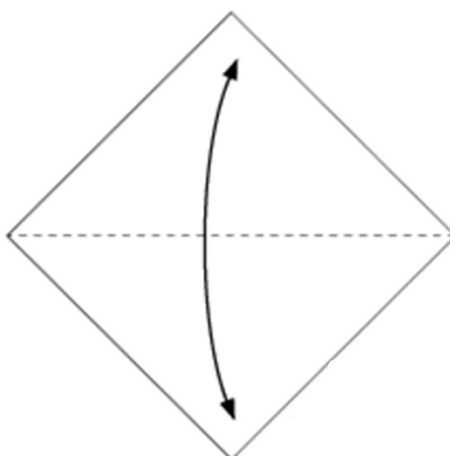
Have a go at making your own origami rabbit with the paper on the next sheet.

You will need:

- Paper
- Scissors
- Colouring pencils

### Step One:

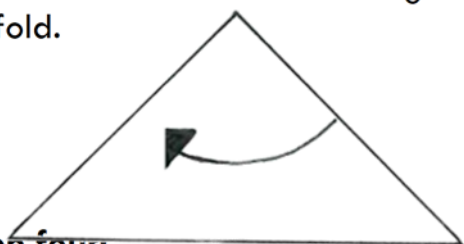
Cut the A4 piece of paper into a square. Follow the dotted lines on the sheet on the next page.



Then fold in half from top to bottom to make a triangle.

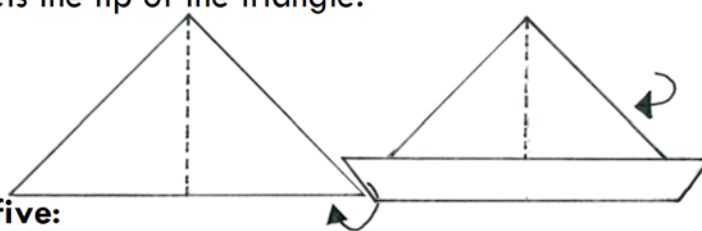
### Step two:

Now fold the paper from right to left to make an even smaller triangle then unfold.



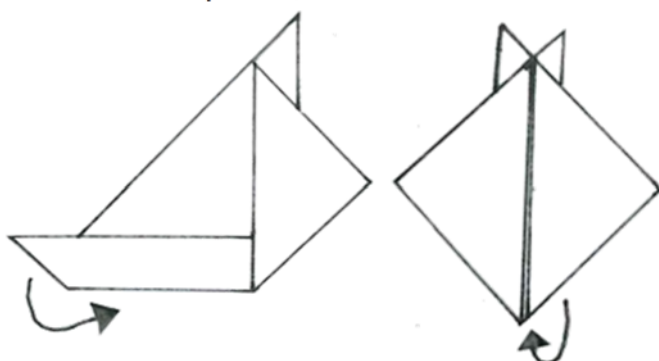
### Step three:

Fold the bottom part of the paper up slightly. Then fold the right side so that the bottom edge meets the tip of the triangle.



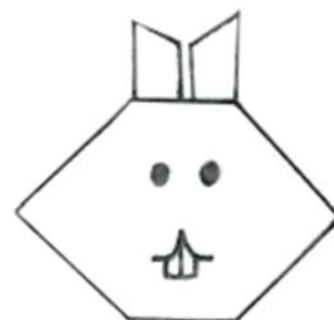
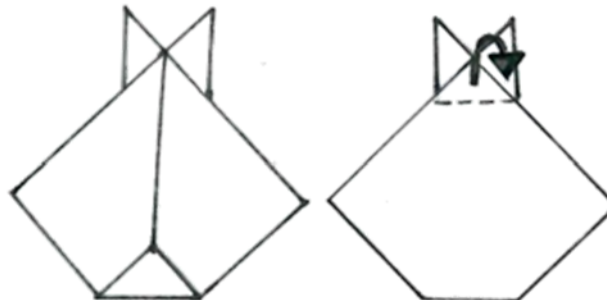
### Step four:

Now fold in the left hand side, it should look like a diamond with two ears. Then fold a little bit of the bottom up to make the rabbits chin.

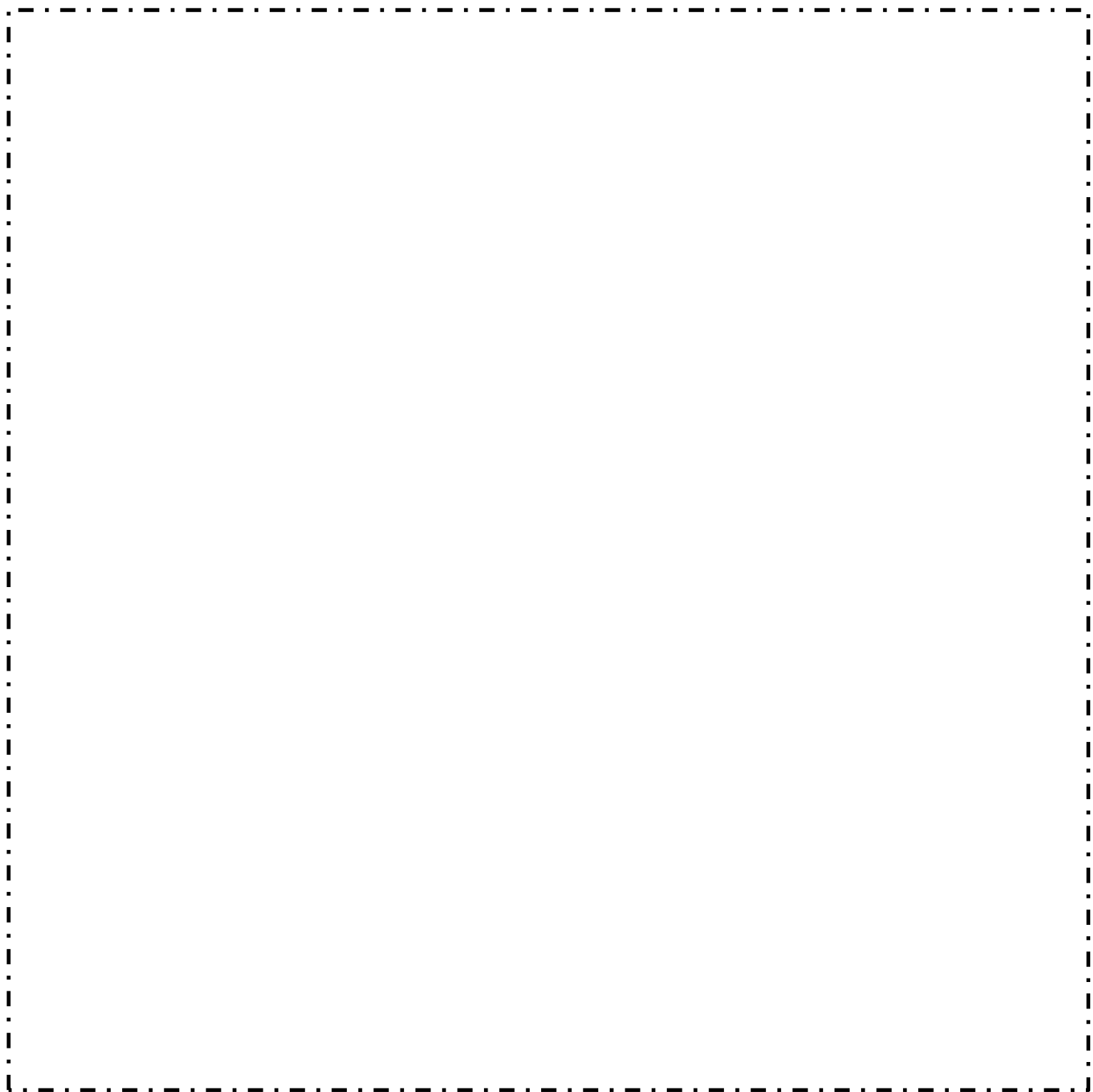


### Step five:

turn the paper over and fold the top part of the paper away from you, tucking it in between. Now you have your rabbit you just need to colour it in and give it a face!



**CUT OUT TO MAKE YOUR ORIGAMI RABBIT**









## Colour in these seashells.

You can make them as colourful as you like...

