

# History



## Find out about Crownhill Fort's past...



Life at the Fort isn't easy for us soldiers. We have to get up really early in the morning and practice loads of different exercises. Marching up and down the parade ground at 5.30am on a freezing winter's morning is hard work. What time do you have to get up?

Hello! Welcome to Crownhill Fort. My name is Jimmy and I have been stationed here since 1873. I'm a soldier in the Royal Navy and started my training here at Crownhill Fort when I was just 17 years old. My commanding officer tells us that Crownhill was built as part of a fortress-building programme to defend important Navy dockyards. Napoleon III - Napoleon Bonaparte's nephew – started calling himself the 'Emperor of France' (boastful or what?!) and started building brand new iron war ships. Things were getting tense and us English didn't trust him one bit!

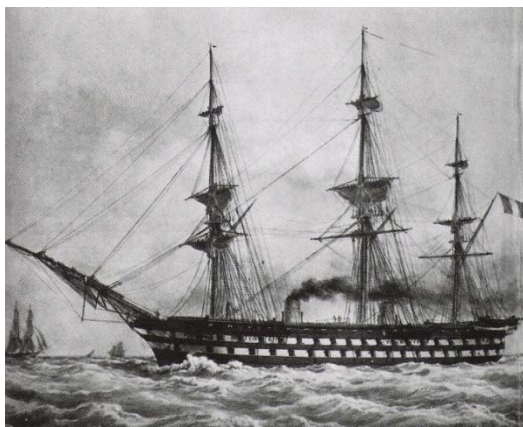
I'm told that it took 2,000 men five whole years to dig the ditches and build the fort – wow, what hard work! Especially as the French never in fact attacked!

### Plymouth Facts:

The first settlement in Plymouth dates back to the Bronze Age. It's a natural harbour with open access to the Atlantic Ocean, making it vital for trade routes with Europe and the Americas so it's no surprise that it needed lots of protection from attack.

The Royal Navy have three main historic dockyards, one of which is in Plymouth. These dockyards are very important as they maintain the Navy fleets which protect our shores.

Napoleon III's steam powered ironclad warship. The Plymouth forts were built as defence against these ships.



One of my jobs here is to clean the guns and re-load them to keep them ready for firing just in case there's an attack. I have a special brush for cleaning the barrels of the gun. The brush always gets so greasy and my fingernails are always filthy. It's really loud when the guns are fired – I hope I don't go deaf!



When we arrived here all of us soldiers were given a kit bag with our uniform and boots. We have monthly inspections to see whether we're keeping the uniform in good condition. My friend Tommy, who sleeps in the bed next to mine, had worn a hole through his left boot and he had to use his own money to buy a new pair. We don't get paid very much so it took him ages to replace them!

Quite often bits of our kit go missing -other soldiers lose theirs and don't want the telling off, so help themselves to someone else's things! We get into big trouble if not all parts of our kit are present at inspection!

### Fact:

You may see or hear the word '**magazine**' a lot when you're exploring the fort. Here, it doesn't mean the type that you read. A **magazine** in a fort is where you store the gunpowder or ammunition needed for your guns.

We have everything we need here at Crownhill Fort. There's a medical inspection room in case you get poorly, a coffee bar (boy, do we need coffee after those early morning starts!), a tailor's shop (to keep your uniform looking sharp), and a recreation room. We are allowed a break sometimes – usually on a Sunday morning. My favourite thing to do is play cards with Tommy in the rec room, even if he beats me every time! What do you like doing in your spare time?

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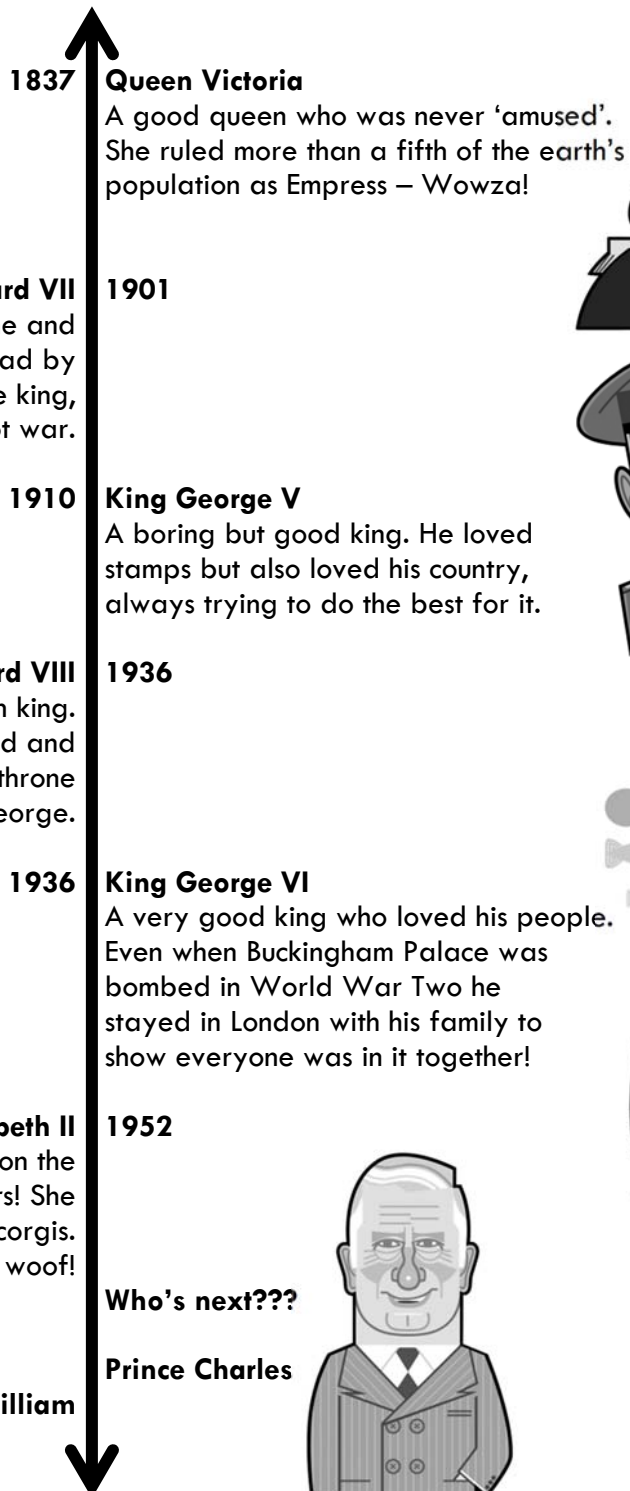
Soldiers enjoying some downtime in their quarters.

In the box below, why not have a go at drawing us soldiers. We could be marching on our morning drills or enjoying a game of cards with friends.

# Unruly Rulers

## Who were the Saxe-Coburgs and Windsors?

**Saxe-Coburg** was the surname of German Prince Albert who was Queen Victoria's husband. When Victoria died **Saxe-Coburg** continued as the royal family surname. It changed to **Windsor** in 1917 because England was fighting against Germany in World War One and the King was worried British people wouldn't like a German royal family anymore - so he changed them to **Windsors**, after the castle.





## Meet Queen Victoria

– who ruled when Crownhill Fort was built.



### Hi Vicky!

#### So when did you become queen?

I became queen on the 20 June 1837 when I was 18.

#### What's your nickname?

Some people call me The Grandmother of Europe. I had 9 children who married different European princes and princesses. I had 42 grandchildren in total!

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

I loved visiting Scotland. I even built a castle so that I could go all the time!

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

How dare you, I am never naughty. Everyone must be well behaved at all times.

# Design



## What does Crownhill Fort 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.

Does Crownhill Fort look like other buildings in the area? What's different?

Safe

Tall

Military

Industrial

Stone

Brick

Symmetrical

Home

Square

Elegant

Friendly

Low

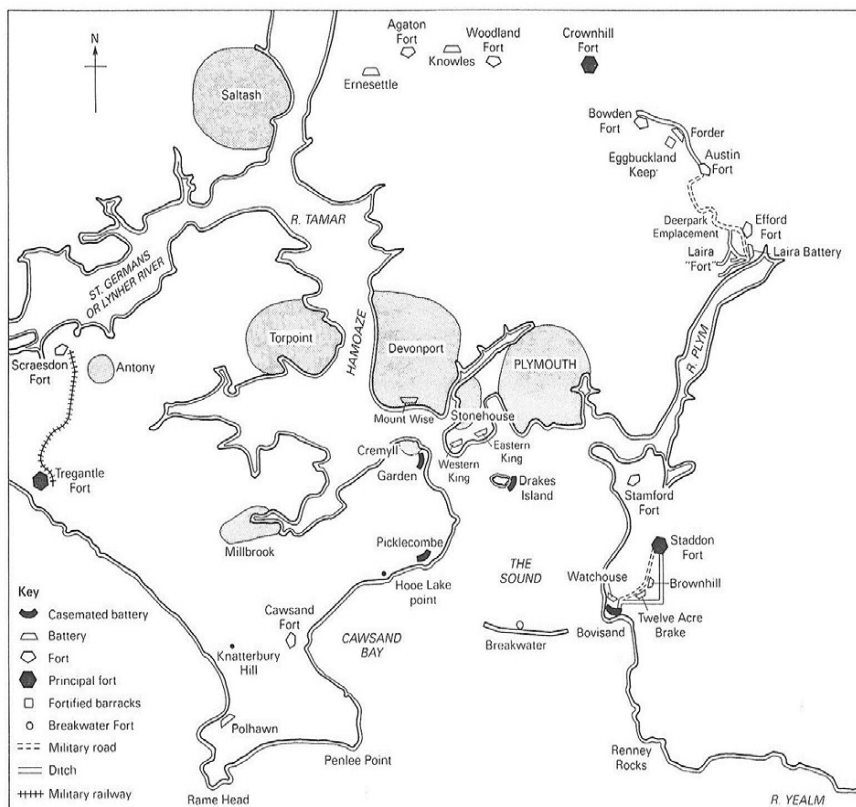
## Facts:

Crownhill Fort cost **£76,000** (say 'seventy-six-thousand') to build. Imagine how many ice creams you could buy with that!

A **folly** is an expensive, ornamental building with no practical purpose.

Crownhill Fort was built between 1863 and 1872 as part of Prime Minister Palmerston's fortress defence plan to protect England's ports and Navy dockyards from possible French invasion.

New technologies and better **artillery** meant that the fort was never actually used to defend against the French Navy fleet. For this reason, Crownhill Fort and the other forts around Plymouth are sometimes called '**Palmerston Follies**'.



The map to the left shows the other forts built in the area to help defend the natural harbour at Plymouth. The number of forts proves how important a site it was and how vulnerable it was believed to be to attack from the Napoleon III and his ironclad warships.

## Fact:

**Artillery** is another word for guns. At the time the fort was being built new, powerful guns were being developed. You can still see some of these at the Fort today.

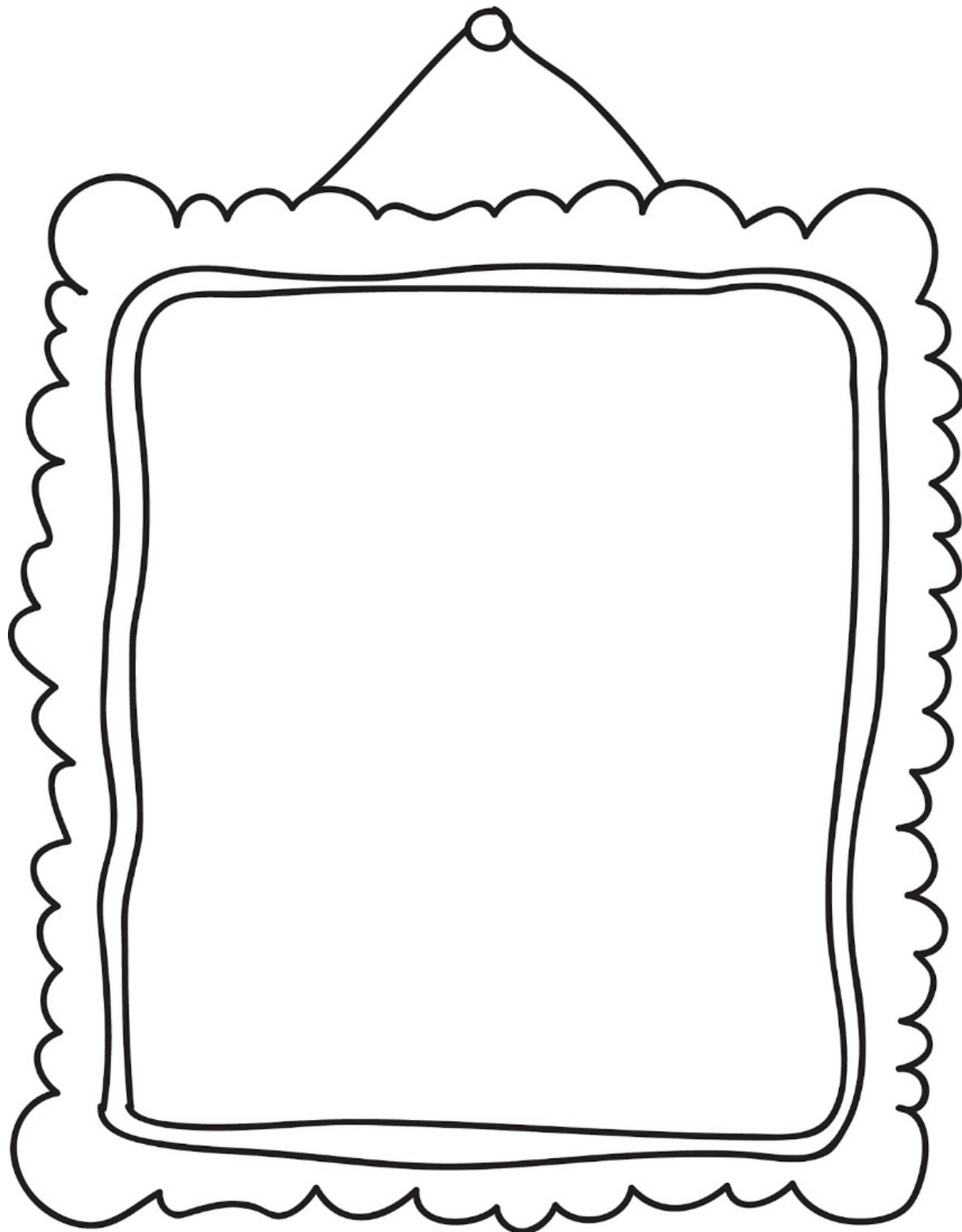




Buildings are quite easy to draw. They are usually made up of lots of geometric shapes, like squares, triangles and circles.

**Have a go at drawing some of the buildings or tunnels at Crownhill Fort.**

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





## What is Crownhill Fort built from?

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.

### 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.

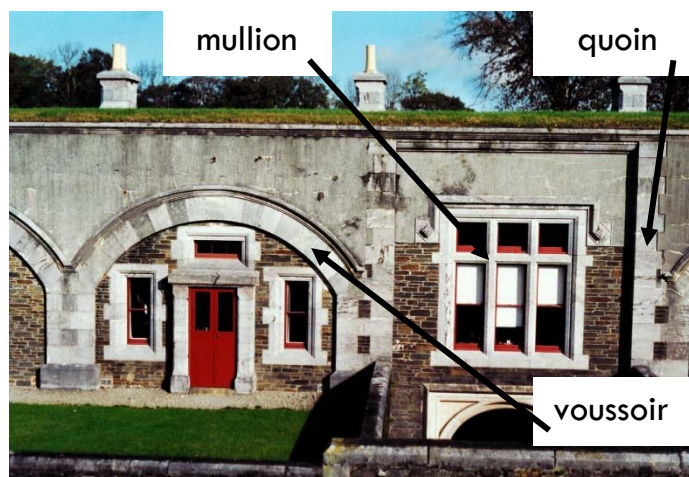
Stone houses were once cheaper to build than brick ones. Once we could transport bricks up and down the country on the canals and railways, brick buildings became cheaper and more popular.



In medieval times, stone was 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.

Lots of different types of stone have been used in the building of Crownhill Fort.

Limestone, quarried just outside of Plymouth, has been used on **quoins (say coins)**, **mullions (say mull-y-ons)**, **voussoirs (say voo-swars)** and window sills. This particular limestone has a pink vein running through it and when polished, looks a little like marble. Have a closer look and see if you can spot the veins running through the blocks.



Local granite and sandstone was also used on other parts of the fort buildings.

Most of the buildings are built from Hardwick Stone, another local material quarried from nearby Tavistock.

Look up at the ceilings when you are in the tunnels – these are made from common clay bricks. They have been used in their millions here!



What other building materials can you find outside and inside Crownhill Fort?

Stone

Glass

Circle what you can see and note down where you found them.

Wood

Plastic

Metal

Clay

Flint

Concrete

Brick

Ceramic

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**When you have found some of the building materials above, why not try making a crayon rubbing in the box below to see the different textures and shapes they make.**

Place a piece of paper over the surface you wish to take a rubbing of and then rub a wax crayon or coloured pencil across it. Look at the pattern it's made!





## Areas of the Fort explained...

### The Soldiers Quarters

These rooms would have housed the soldiers. Here the soldiers slept (on uncomfortable straw mattresses!), ate and enjoyed a little bit of downtime when they were off duty.

### The Parade Ground

When Landmark took on the Fort in 1986 this area was covered in tarmac. The Trust changed it back to its original gravel covering. It was used for parades and drills.

### The Magazine

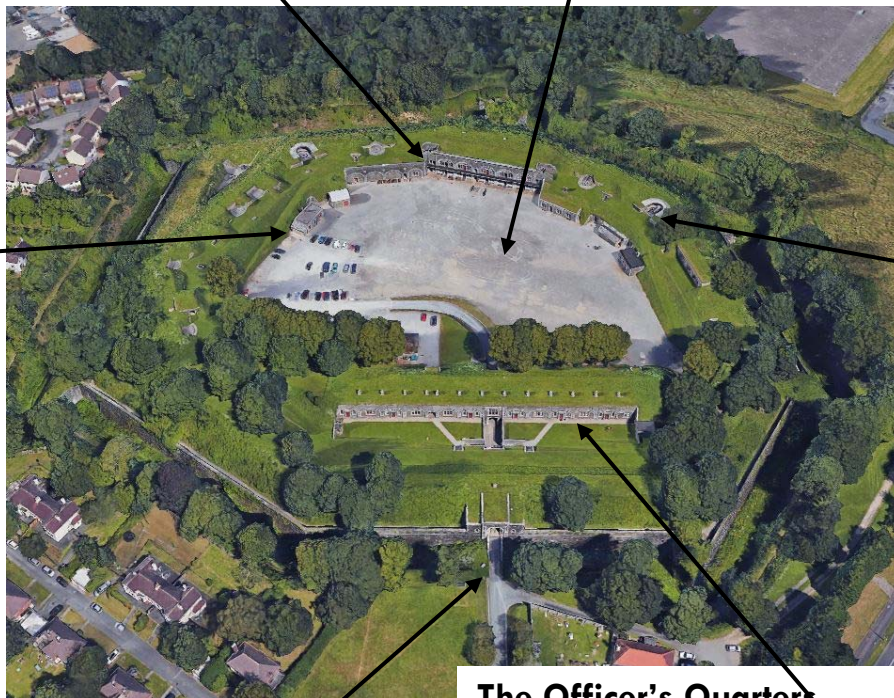
This was where the gunpowder and artillery was stored.

An unusual position as usually magazines would have been built in a safe, deep place in the fort, often at a much lower level.

### Gateway

There used to be a drawbridge here, raised by chains and counterweights.

There are also cells built into this area for soldiers who broke the rules of military discipline!



### Tunnels

There are half a mile of tunnels at Crownhill. These were for use should the fort come under attack.

### The Officer's Quarters

Originally this would have been where the officers were housed. A huge earth bank was built up to the roof level of this block. The idea was that the earth would absorb shots and shells which may have overshoot the ramparts, and keep the officers safe.

It's now where you are sleeping, eating and having fun!



# Quest



## Discover more about Crownhill Fort...

Crownhill Fort has been standing on this site for nearly 150 years! In that time, many things have changed both inside and outside the building. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

### Can you find the entrance arch?

The entrance arch is very decorated for a fort. It's a Norman archway, like you might find in a church.



### Have you seen this gun?

It's called a 'C-Pivot' because of the circular rail on the floor – these were used to rotate the carriage on which the gun sits, so that you could change the direction of fire. Clever eh?!



### Soldiers Quarters...

This is where the soldiers would have slept and eaten their meals. Do those beds look comfy to you? Imagine yourself living in here, what do you think it would have been like?

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There are almost half a mile of tunnels at Crownhill Fort – have you explored them yet? Why do you think they are here?

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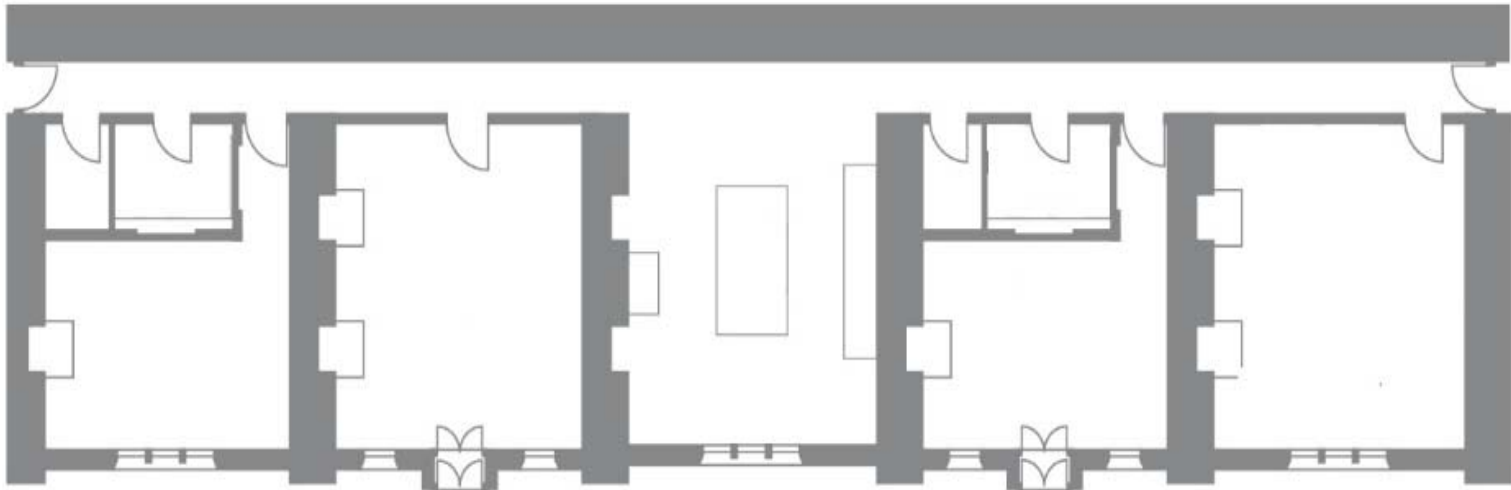
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## Living in Crownhill Fort

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Crownhill Fort is all on one level. The plans below show you the shape of each room. Take a walk around each floor. Write on the plan what each room is used for. Mark the room you are sleeping in with a star. ★



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.



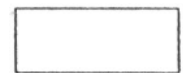
Bathroom



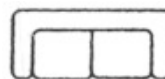
Cooker



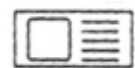
Bed



Rectangular (or a round) table



Sofa



Kitchen sink



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

Your favourite piece of furniture

A large empty rectangular box for drawing or describing a favourite piece of furniture.

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

A large empty rectangular box for drawing or describing a fireplace.

Draw the pattern of a rug on the floor

A large empty rectangular box for drawing the pattern of a rug on the floor.

### Fact:

Did you know that if Crownhill had been under attack, it would have been able to call on 32 guns around the **ramparts** (its defensive wall) and 15 in the **Caponiers** (a structure designed for different types of gun firing.) It would take 10 men to keep just one gun firing though!

In the box below, draw one of the many guns at Crownhill Fort.

A large empty rectangular box for drawing one of the many guns at Crownhill Fort.







## Crownhill Fort Word Search

Now have a go at the word search. Think about different parts of the building and what might have been here in the Victorian times. The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

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

SOLDIER  
GUN  
TUNNEL  
FORT  
RIFLE

OFFICER  
HARBOUR  
PLYMOUTH  
OCEAN  
BRICKS

PARADE  
CANON  
LIMESTONE  
FORTRESS  
BARRACKS

RAMPARTS  
VICTORIAN  
ARTILLERY  
NAPOLEON  
TROOPS

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

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## Can you answer these questions correctly?

### 1. Who was Prime Minister when Crownhill Fort was built?

Henry Palmerston

Margaret Thatcher

Winston Churchill

Theresa May

### 2. What is a 'C-Pivot'?

A rotatable gun

A tool

A way of building using wood, dung, straw and clay

A calculator

### 3. What was the Parade Ground covered with when Landmark took on Crownhill?

Gravel

Tarmac

Brass

Sand

### 4. How much did it cost to build the Fort?

£1 million

£836

£76,000

£12

### 5. Which nation was Crownhill Fort built to defend against?

The French

The Germans

The Australians

The Mexicans

### 6. Who was on the throne when Crownhill Fort was constructed?

(Psst... check unruly rulers!)

Henry VIII

Victoria

George VI

Elizabeth I

### 7. Which stone is used for the window sills of the Officers' Quarters?

Limestone

Sandstone

Quartz

Slate

### 8. In what year did The Landmark Trust take over the Fort?

1965

1974

1986

1999

### 9. What is a 'rampart'?

A drawbridge

A gun

A defensive wall

A Navy ranking

To find the answers skip one page...



# Which weapon is whose?

Each object is a soldier's weapon. Match the soldier to his weapon.



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

/ 5
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Now colour the soldiers in.



## Answer sheet:

### Question & Answer:

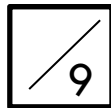
1. Henry Palmerston
2. A rotatable gun
3. Tarmac
4. £76,000
5. The French
6. Victoria
7. Limestone
8. 1986
9. A defensive wall

### Fact:

Did you know that if you were a soldier who worked in the magazine, you would have had special clothes to wear that would cause no sparks.

No naked flames would have been allowed near all that gunpowder so a lamp passage was created alongside it – little windows were inserted in the wall of the passage to allow the light through so that the soldiers could see what they were doing!

How many did you get right?



Write an acrostic poem about Crownhill Fort.

C \_\_\_\_\_

R \_\_\_\_\_

O \_\_\_\_\_

W \_\_\_\_\_

N \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_

L \_\_\_\_\_

L \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_

O \_\_\_\_\_

R \_\_\_\_\_

T \_\_\_\_\_





## Design your own flag

Since ancient times flags have been used to identify groups of people, countries and armies. Flags are mainly used today to represent a country. Did you know that Devon has its own flag? It's called St. Petrocs's Flag and looks like the picture below. The flag is on a green background with a black outlined cross running through it.

Each colour has its own meaning:

- Yellow: means truth, loyalty and justice
- White: means bravery and strength
- Red: means peace and honesty
- Blue: means generosity
- Green: means determination
- Black: means hope, joy and love

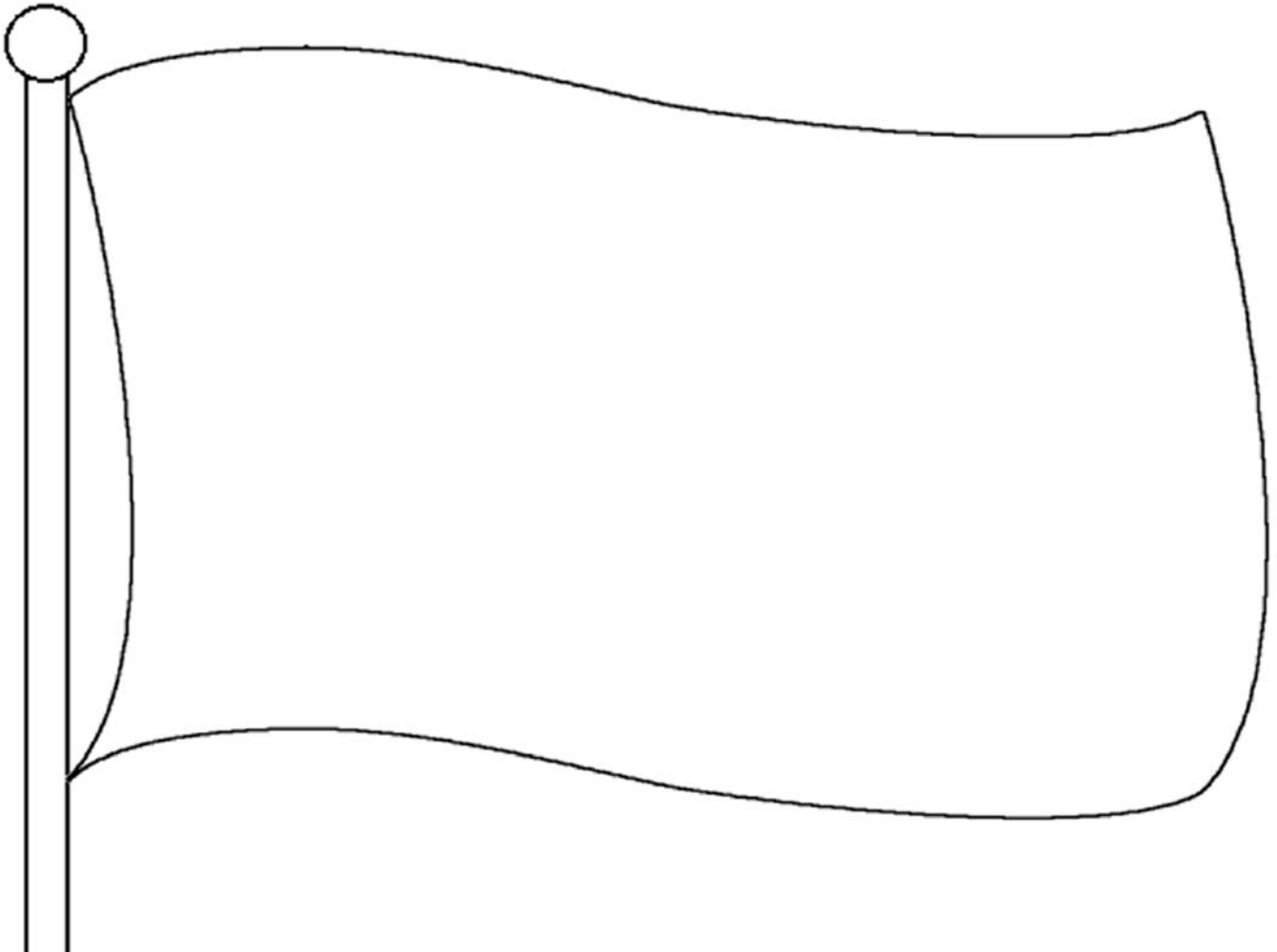


Flags also have lots of different symbols:

Stripe Cross Star Crescent Circle



Have a go at designing your own flag that best describes you! It can be as colourful and have as many shapes and pictures as you like.





## **Design Your Own Fort...**

**Think about what shape it would be? Would you build it up on a hill or dug into the ground like Crownhill? Where would you place your magazine and your guns? How tall would you make your ramparts?**

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing or writing a design for a fort.



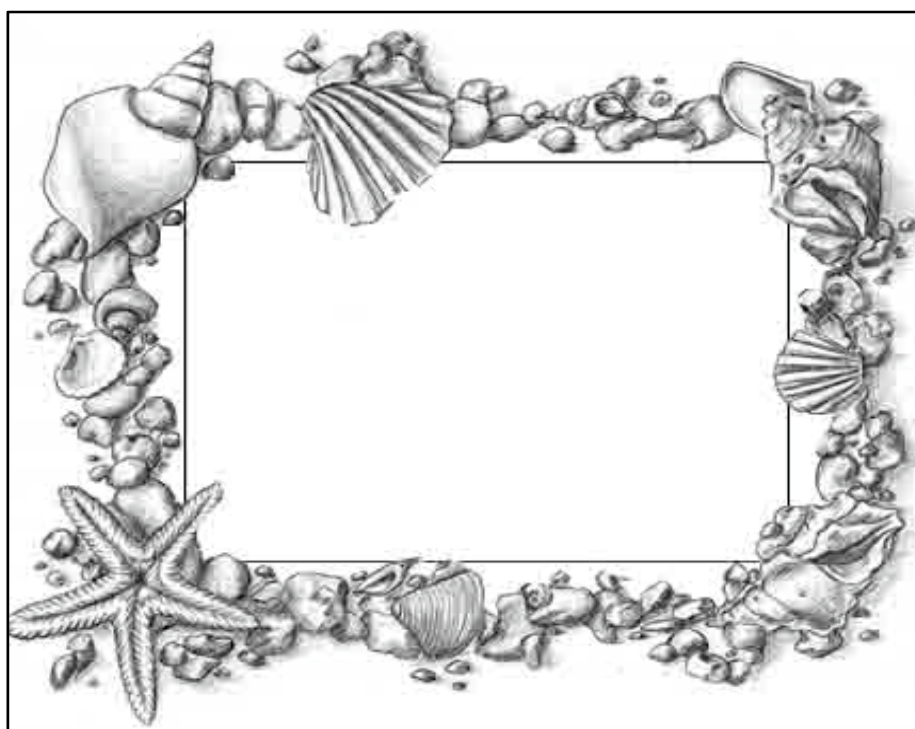
## Create a shell photo frame

This is the perfect way to remember the seaside when you get home. You will need lots of different shells or little pebbles for this so if you go to the beach make sure you collect some. Get as many different shapes and sizes – it will make your photo frame more interesting!

You will need:

1 photo frame (it can be one you already have or get one from a charity shop)  
Shells  
PVA glue (make sure it's this sort of glue)  
Spatula/ old paint brush  
Glitter paint

- Make sure that all your shells are clean and dry.
- Cover the table with a tablecloth or newspaper – it may get messy!
- Now you can decorate – to stick the shells onto the photo frame put some PVA glue onto the edges of the shell using a spatula/ old paintbrush. Press the shell onto the frame - careful not to knock the shells already on the frame as you glue more shells on.
- Leave the glue to dry for at least 3 hours (it may take longer)
- Check glue has dried by gently trying to move shells
- Once dry the frame is finished - unless you want to paint the shells or put some glitter paint on the shells to make them sparkle!
- When you get home put in a photo of your holiday at Crownhill Fort.





## Bake some scones

If you haven't ever had a scone you are missing out! Devon and Cornwall are famous for their scones. They are plain cakes that you cut in half and spread clotted cream and jam on each side. This is called a cream tea. Mmmm I could eat scones all day!

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

75g of butter

1 large egg

225g of self-raising flour

2 tbsp milk

Pinch of salt

Clotted cream

40g caster sugar

Jam

Pre-heat the oven: fan 220 °C : 425 °F : Gas 7

- Grease a baking tray.
- Sift flour and salt into bowl. Rub butter into the mixture until it looks like breadcrumbs. Add the sugar.
- Beat the egg and buttermilk together in a separate bowl.
- Add the egg and milk mixture to the flour mixture. Mix it all together with a spoon and then with your hands. This is called dough (say 'doh').
- Put some flour on the work top and then put the ball of dough onto it.
- Roll the dough into a circle (about 2.5cm thick). Then cut out the scones (if you don't have a cutter use a glass, making sure it too gets flour on the rim).
- Put them onto the baking tray and brush them with milk. Bake on the top shelf for 10-12 minutes.
- Let them cool and then serve with lots of clotted cream and jam! Yum!

