

History



Find out about Freston Tower's past...



An Elizabethan city apprentice

Hello! Welcome to Freston Tower! My name is Henry and I'm 14 years old. I lived and worked at Freston House as Thomas Gooding's **apprentice** (say *app-ren-tiss*). He was a rich **merchant** and the man who built the tower you're staying in!

The tower was built in 1578-9 ready for a visit from Queen Elizabeth I. Good Queen Bess was touring through Suffolk in 1579 and came to Ipswich which is just over the river.

The idea of a royal visit was very exciting but also a lot of hard work. Rich families were asked to give the Queen somewhere to stay during the tour and this was no easy task – she was very fussy and only wanted the best of food, entertainment and comfort.

Fact:

Coat of Arms were individual designs painted on a shield. In Thomas Gooding's time you would have to have permission from the Queen to have your own coat of arms.

A **merchant** sold or traded goods often brought over from other countries. An **apprentice** was a young man being trained for the job in the future.

Thomas really wanted to impress the Queen and so designed this tower which would have been seen from the royal barge as it came down the River Orwell.

The Queen granted Thomas his **Coat of Arms** back in 1576 and he proudly displayed it on the tower ready for her visit so that she'd know just who had built it. What a way to show off!

The Coat of Arms was very recognisable – six red lion heads separated by a horizontal red bar on a yellow background. Can you find it on today's curtains?



Thomas Gooding's coat of arms



On the day Queen Elizabeth arrived, everybody was in a real party spirit. The streets of Ipswich had been cleaned and decorated with banners, flags and bunting. The beggars had even been taken off of the streets so that they didn't offend Her Majesty! The bells in the church rang out and there were musicians playing beautiful music as she passed by.

I caught a glimpse of her being carried along in her **canopied Litter** – she was wearing the most amazing silk dress and was dripping in jewels. I heard one lady in the crowd describe her as a goddess!

Fact:

A **Litter** is a wheelless vehicle powered by humans, to carry people. They were made up of a platform with poles which the porters used to carry on their shoulders. The Queen's litter had a canopy to keep her shaded from the elements.

Once the Queen had passed through the county and all the excitement had died down, life returned to normal in Ipswich. Freston Tower was used as an entrance to a warehouse for Thomas Gooding to store goods off his ships. This warehouse building has long since disappeared but you can still see the marks of where it was on the outside.

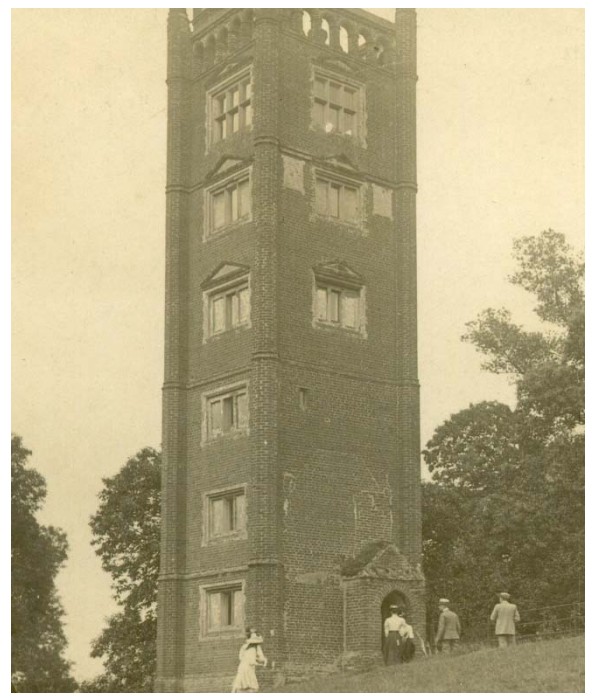
The picture on the right shows Freston Tower before it was taken on by The Landmark Trust – note the boarded up windows, small porch and the outline of the warehouse building on the wall. Can you still see the outline?



Queen Elizabeth being carried in her canopied litter

I'm told that even though the people loved the Queen's tours, the **noblemen** weren't so keen. Elizabeth was put up in their houses whilst she travelled around the country and all at their expense! These noblemen would have to make great improvements to their houses if the Queen chose to stay.

Perhaps Thomas was hoping she'd stay at his house and that's why he built the tower – imagine bragging to your friends and fellow merchants that the Queen of England came to stay!





The Legend of Ellen de Freston...

A story by Reverend. R. Cobbold was published in 1850 which weaved together true historical facts and fiction.

In this story, in around 1480 Lord de Freston built this tower for the education of his lovely, talented and golden haired daughter, Ellen. This was at the suggestion of William Latimer who held Freston Manor at the time and who was in love with Ellen.

Ellen was to learn a different subject on each day of the week on a different floor of the tower. The lessons were Charity, Tapestry, Music, Painting, Literature and lastly Astronomy which she studied on the top floor. Which subjects do you study at school?

Fact:

Dendochronology is the science of dating things by looking at the patterns of growth rings in timber and tree trunks. Each ring is a year: in wet years the tree grows faster than in dry years.

Have you ever counted the rings on a branch or tree stump to see how old the tree was? It's the same technique!



Fact:

A **tapestry** is a heavy wall hanging made of handwoven fabric with a picture design. Before wallpaper was invented rich people used tapestries as a way to make rooms more interesting and beautiful.



The story, although a lovely one, isn't true. We can prove this through **dendochronology** (say den-doh-cron-olo-gee) which tells us that Freston Tower was actually built in 1578/79 and not the 1480's.



Unruly Rulers

Who were the Tudor and Stuart kings and queens?

This lot were a blood thirsty bunch, always chopping off heads. **Tudor** and **Stuart** are the family names of the kings and queens. The first Tudor was Henry VII in 1485 and they lasted till Elizabeth I. Then the Tudors' cousins, the Stuarts, ruled from James I to Anne.



King Edward VI

Henry VIII's only son, he had some big shoes (and clothes) to fill! King at nine and dead at 16. Poor Eddie.

1509

King Henry VIII

6 wives, only 1 son. Angry at the Pope horrible Henry made himself Head of the Church destroying all the Catholics churches.



1547

Lady Jane Grey

Only 16 when she became Queen for just 9 days before Mary Tudor took the throne. Off with her head!



1553

Queen Mary I

Back to Catholics again. Bloody Mary was her name, burning Protestants was her game.

1553

Queen Elizabeth I

Good Queen Bess knew leaving religion alone was best. (Unless the Catholics attacked!) Had lots of boyfriends but married none.



1558

King James I

What a silly king, he kept thinking witches were trying to kill him! He even wrote a book on witches.

1603

King Charles I

Bad King Charlie wanted to rule without Parliament. That started a civil war which he lost. Onto the block went Charlie's head. One chop and he was dead.



1625

Oliver Cromwell

Not a king but still a ruler. He didn't like the royals and made himself Lord Protector of England. He didn't last too long.

1649

King Charles II

A merry monarch who brought back fun and games Oliver had banned!



1660

King James II

A bit dim was this king. He tried to make everyone Catholic again, then ran away when they said no.

1685

Queen Mary II & William III

She and her husband took her dad, James II's throne in the Glorious Revolution. Not so glorious for James.



1688

Queen Anne

A sickly queen who loved to eat!

1702-1714





Meet Queen Elizabeth I

– who ruled when Freston Tower was built.



Hi Lizzie!

So when did you become queen?

I became Queen on 17 November 1558 when I was 25.

What are you most famous for?

I defeated the Spanish army who tried to invade England. How dare they?

What is your favourite thing to do?

I loved having a bath and being clean, I have 4 baths every year! I was the cleanest woman in England. And I LOVE sweets.

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

I pretended to be a Catholic when my half-sister bloody Mary was queen; once she was dead I turned England Protestant again!

Design



What does Freston Tower 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 Freston Tower look similar to other buildings in the area?

Castle

Pretty

Stone

Symmetrical

Square

Friendly

Tall

Industrial

Brick

Home

Elegant

Low

Freston Tower is made of red brick with a pattern of blue bricks that you can see on the sides of the building nearest the river. This kind of brick decoration is called **diapering** (say *die-per-ing*).

Fact:

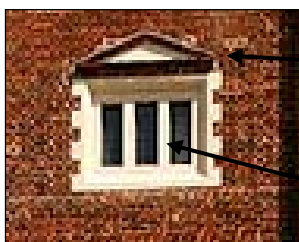
A **diaper** in terms of brickwork isn't the same as what the Americans call a nappy! It means a diamond pattern created in different coloured bricks.



Looking at the tower from the outside, can you count how many windows there are? Did you include the bricked up windows on the stair turret?

The windows at Freston are called **mullioned** (say *mull-ee-yond*) windows. A mullion is the name for the vertical parts that divide the window. The surrounds are made of brick but are made to look like stone, which was an expensive building material in Suffolk in Elizabethan times.

Can you see how the windows change in style as the tower rises? They are biggest and most grand on the top floor, with triangular **pediments** (say *ped-ee-ments*). That's because the top floor was the best room!



Pediment is the triangle on top of the window

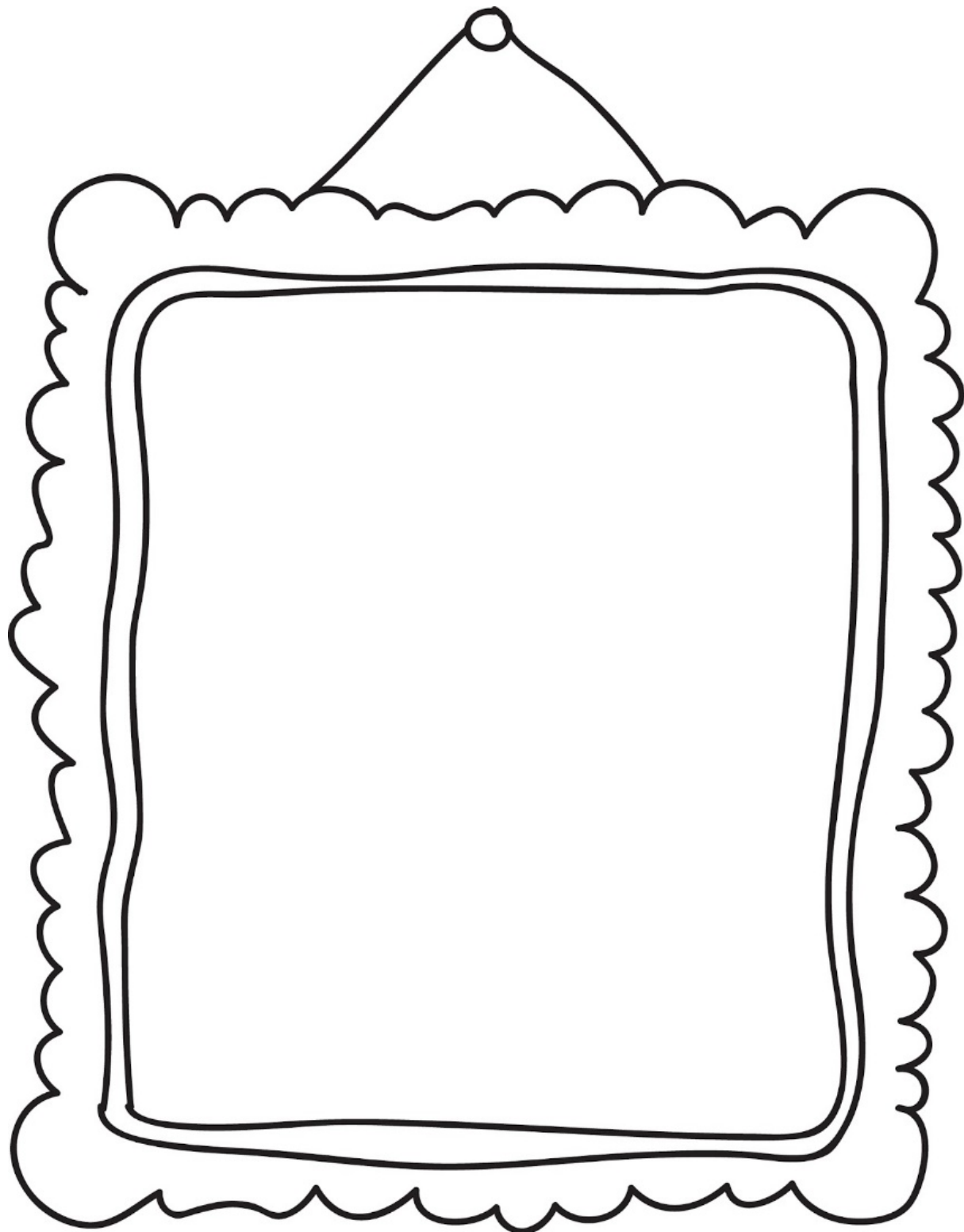
Mullion (say *mull-ee-on*) is the vertical part of a window.



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 Freston Tower.

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





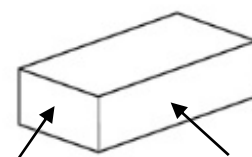
What is Freston Tower built from?

Fact:

The earliest bricks date back to about 7,500BC and were made of mud. The mud was packed into wooden moulds. They were then turned out and left to dry in the sun until they were hard. The first fired bricks were made around 3,000BC. Fired bricks are harder and last longer in wetter climates.

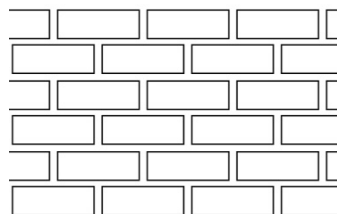
Today we make bricks in factories by mixing together clay, sand and lime. This mixture is poured into a mould, dried and then fired in an oven at 1100 degrees.

Bricks have a long and a short face like this.



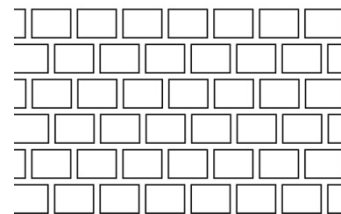
Header (short) Stretcher (long)

They are arranged in layers, or courses which have different patterns.



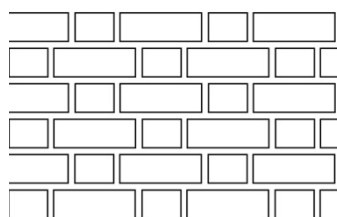
Stretcher bond

The simplest bond to lay – using the long face of the brick.

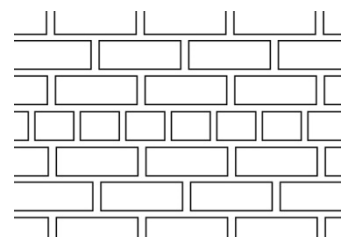


Header bond

The bricks are laid with the header facing outwards. The header is the end of the brick.



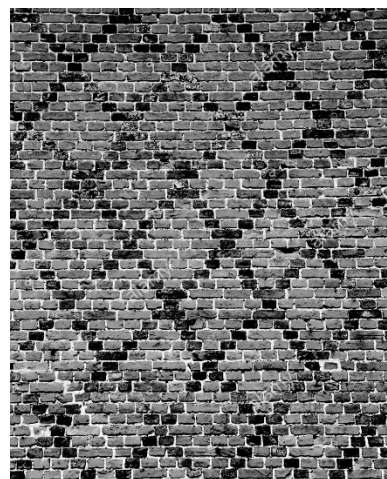
Flemish bond Bricks are laid with one header and one long face.



English bond Three rows of long face and one row, of headers.

Try colouring in the short end on the brick patterns above, so you can see the pattern.

Some architects and builders were a bit more creative and designed very beautiful walls like these ones here. They used different coloured bricks to make these patterns.





Phew – that’s a lot of stairs...

How many steps are there at Freston Tower?

Have you noticed how the staircase has its own little tower? This is called a **stair turret**.

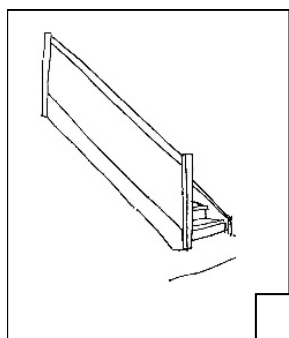


Fact:

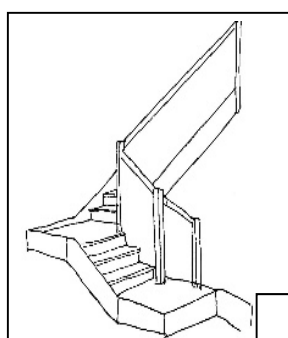
A **turret** is a little tower attached to a building. Sometimes it is on a roof; sometimes it contains a spiral staircase.

Staircases are made up of **treads** and **risers**. The **treads** are the parts which you step on, the **risers** are the vertical parts between each **tread**.

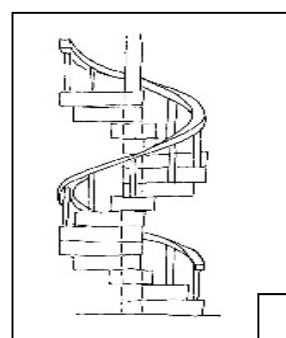
There are many different styles of staircases. Which style is closest to the staircase at Freston Tower?



Straight



Quarter turn



Spiral

Fact:

Have you noticed that spiral staircases go clockwise when you’re going up and anti-clockwise when you’re going down? Most people carry their sword in their right hand and if they were climbing the stairs to attack, they would be showing more of their body to the defender above them.

The staircase at Freston tower is made up of a mixture of oak and elm wood. Can you tell which bits of the old staircase had to be replaced? Do you have stairs in your home? Are there as many as Freston?

Quest



Discover more about Freston Tower.

Freston Tower has seen many families come and go since it was first built in 1578. That's nearly 450 years ago! Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

Can you find this fireplace?

This fireplace is a confusing one given that Freston Tower has no chimney! During the restoration Landmark found that this wasn't a fireplace at all but a doorway which led to another building, lost long ago.



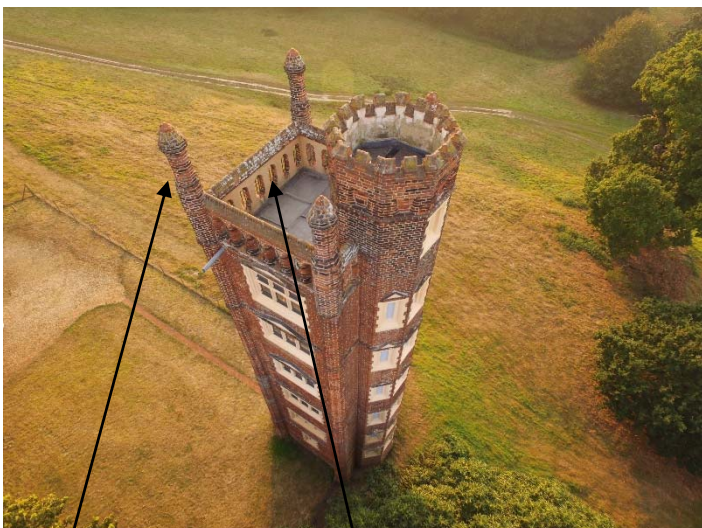
Where might you find this piece of woodcarving?

Being a tall tower with a small **footprint**, there isn't a lot of storage space so this large cupboard was brought in as a solution. Which floor is it on?

Fact:

When talking about buildings, a **footprint** means the space that the building takes up on the land. It's not the same as the footprint you make with your muddy boots!

Towers usually have very small footprints.



pinnacle

parapet

Have you been out on to the roof terrace yet? Look at the corners of the building and you will see the **pinnacles**. These were added as fancy decoration (say *dec-or-ay-shun*) and give the building a dramatic **silhouette** (say *sil-oo-et*).

When Landmark took on the building all of the pinnacles were leaning outwards and had to be straightened out and strengthened.

Fact:

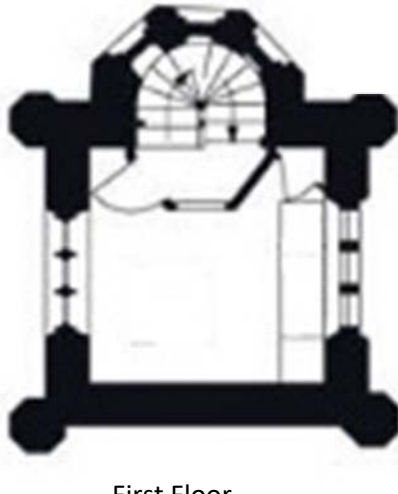
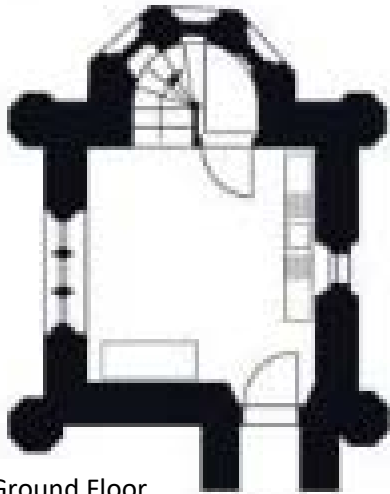
In architecture, a **pinnacle** is a vertical ornament that sits on top of building. A **parapet** is a low wall along the edge of a roof.

A **silhouette** is the outline created by an object.



Living in Freston Tower

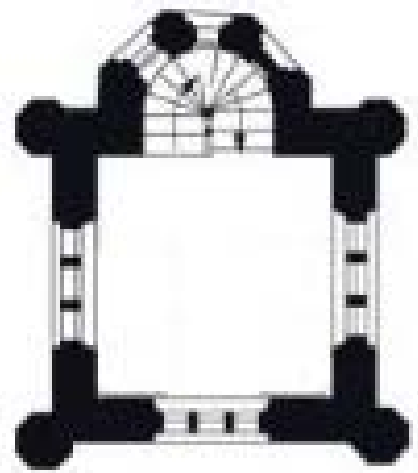
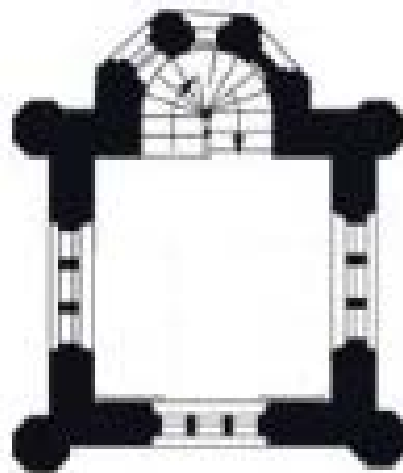
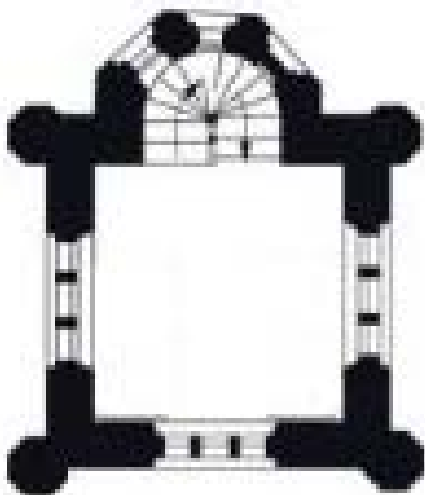
The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Freston Tower has six floors. The plans below show you the shape the rooms. Take a walk around each floor. Can you identify the rooms and write on the plan how they are used today? Mark the bedroom you are sleeping in with a star.



Ground Floor

First Floor

Second Floor



Third Floor

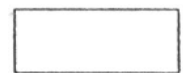
Fourth Floor

Fifth Floor

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



Bed



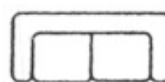
Rectangular (or a round) table



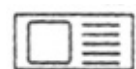
Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



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

Your favourite piece of furniture

The windows. (Look at the difference in the windows on each floor of the tower.)

The pattern of a rug on the floor

Fact:

Some people say that Freston Tower was built as a lookout tower to spot pirates and smugglers coming down the river Orwell.

Look out of one of the top floor windows, how many boats can you see on the river? Are any carrying the pirate flag?



In the space below, draw the view from your bedroom window. What can you see in the distance? Are there any animals in the fields or any trees that look very old and interesting?



Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. Which year was Freston Tower built?

1992

1578

1600

2012

2. Who built Freston Tower?

James Bond

Elizabeth I

Thomas Gooding

Oliver Cromwell

3. What is the name of the patterned brick work on the tower?

Nappy

Underpants

Diaper

Longjohn

4. When was Thomas Gooding granted his coat of arms?

1576

1622

1500

2000

5. What is a tapestry?

A dance

A wall hanging

A type of music

A rug

6. What is a pediment?

A triangle on top of a window

A treatment for your feet

A type of rock

An Elizabethan beer

7. What river can you see from the tower?

Thames

Orwell

Nile

Avon

8. Who was on the throne when Freston Tower was built?

(Psst. Look at Unruly Rulers...)

George V

Elizabeth I

Henry VII

Victoria

9. What type of animal is on Gooding's coat of arms?

Hamster

Dog

Lion

Monkey

10. When did Mrs Hunt give Freston Tower to Landmark?

(Take a look at the History Album!)

1984

1962

1965

1998

To find the answers skip two pages...



Freston Tower Word Search

Now have a go at the word search. The words to find are things that you can see in and around the tower. The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

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

RIVER ORWELL

STAIRS

MULLION

RISERS

TAPESTRY

PEDIMENT

TREADS

PIRATE

BRICKS

DIAPER

FOOTPRINT

TALL

BOATS

TURRET

TOWER

WINDOWS

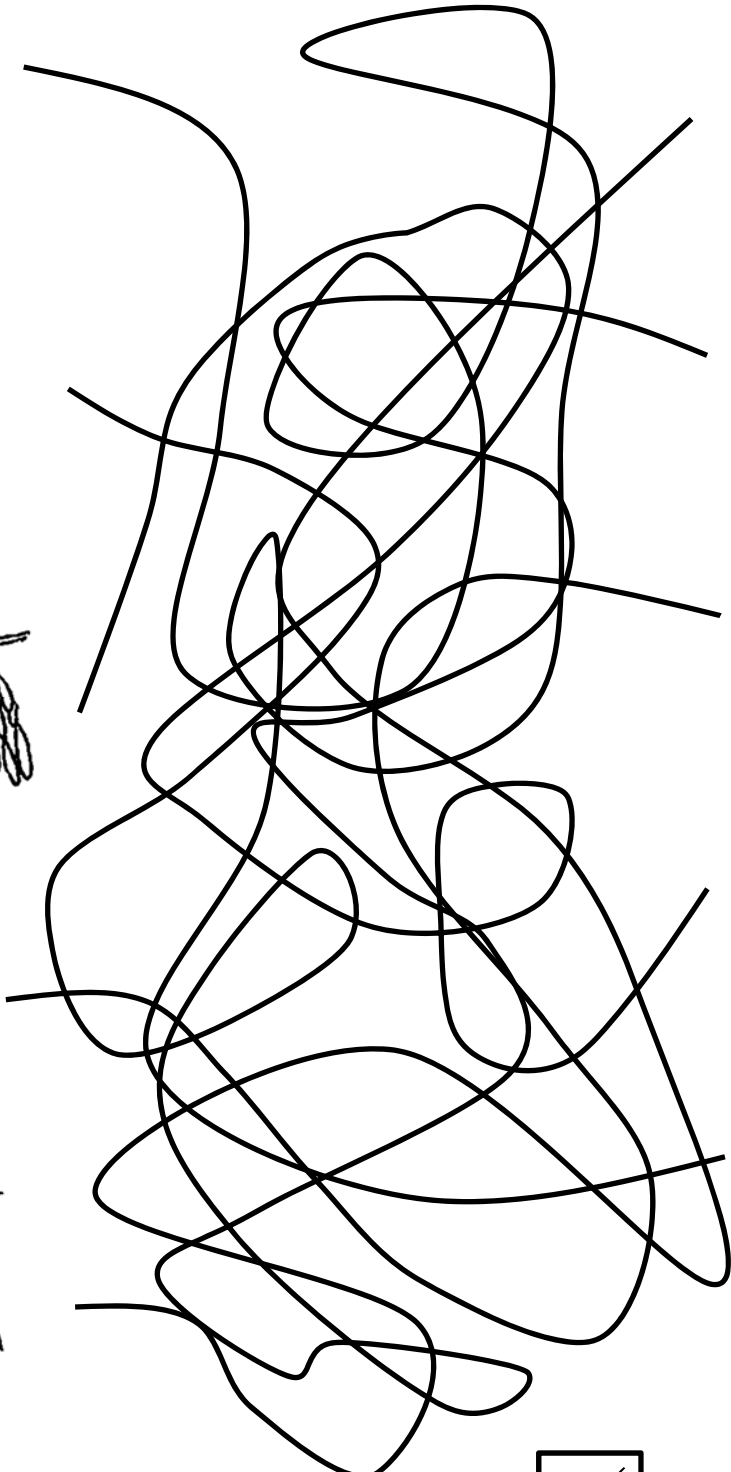
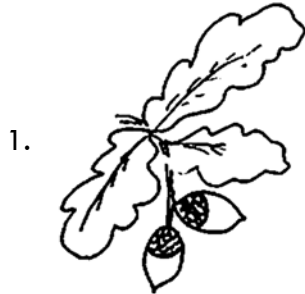
How many of these words did you find? Put your score in the box.

16



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.
Look out for these when you go for a walk!

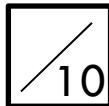


Answer sheet:

Quiz answers:

1. 1578
2. Thomas Gooding
3. Diaper
4. 1576
5. A wall hanging
6. A triangle on top of a window
7. Orwell
8. Elizabeth I
9. Lion
10. 1998

How many did you get right?



Fact:

A lion was often used on coats of arms. It symbolised courage, nobility, royalty and strength.

What animal would you have on yours?

Create



Design your own coat of arms

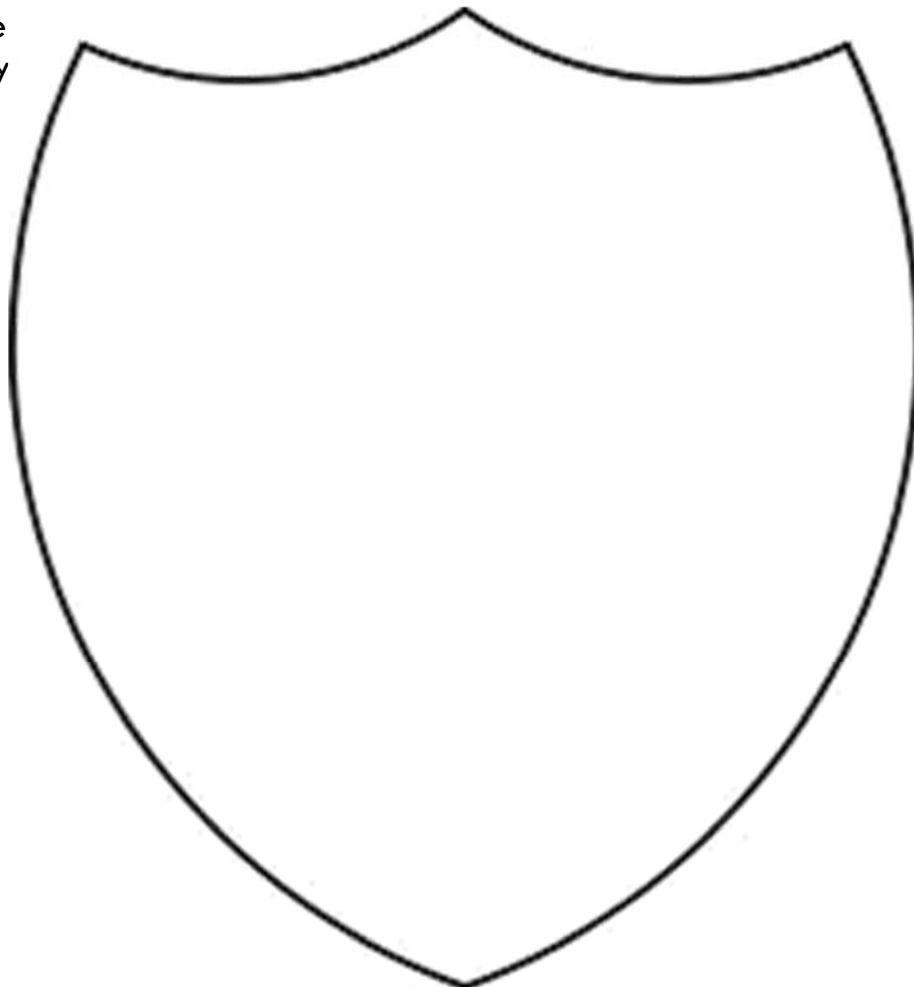
Traditionally coats of arms were used to identify knights in battles or tournaments. It would have been displayed on their shield or on a banner. The coat of arms belonged to their family. With a helmet on, you couldn't see a person's face and a battle was very confusing. The designs were made by people called heralds. Each pattern and symbol had its own meaning and name.

Each knight had a slightly different design based on whether they were the first (or second etc.) son in the family and who they married.

In the space below design your own shield. Use the herald's list to help you. Use your imagination and draw something that you feel describes you!

What colours will you use?

- Purple = Purpure
- Orange = Tawny
- Black = Sable
- Green = Vert
- Blue = Azure
- Red = Gules
- Gold = Or



Bars
=
Religion and honour



Pale
=
Military Strength



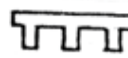
Fess
=
Honour



Bend
=
Defence



Bendlets
=
Protection



Label
=
First son



Crescent
=
Second son



Mullet
=
Third son



Martlett
=
Fourth son



Annulat
=
Fifth son



Fleur de lis
=
Sixth son



Rose
=
Seventh son



Lion
=
Bravery



Eagle
=
Immortality



Rock Cakes

Don't worry – they aren't made with actual rocks, they are just called that because their cracked surface looks like a rock!

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

225g self-raising flour	150g dried fruit
75g caster sugar	1 egg
1 tsp baking powder	1 tbsp milk
125g unsalted butter	2 tsp vanilla extract

Preheat the oven to 180°C: gas: 4, fan: 160°C

- Line a baking tray with baking parchment
- Mix flour, sugar and baking powder in a bowl and rub in the butter until mixture looks like breadcrumbs. Then mix in the dried fruit
- In a clean bowl, beat the egg, milk and vanilla extract together
- Add egg mixture to the dry ingredients and stir until the mixture comes together as a thick, lumpy **dough** (say *doh*)
- Place golfball size spoons of mixture onto the baking tray. Leave a space between them as they will flatten and spread during cooking
- Bake for 15-20 minutes, until golden brown. Allow to cool for a few minutes and then put them on a wire rack to cool
- Enjoy whilst they are still slightly warm – yum!





Design your own tower

Imagine you've just bought a big country house. You want to show off and decide to build a tower in the grounds. In the box below design tower – it can be as tall and fancy as you like! You can draw your country house in the background if you like.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a tower and a country house.



Colour in this picture of Queen Elizabeth I...

