

History



Find out about the Gothic Temple's past...

Hello! Welcome to the Gothic Temple.

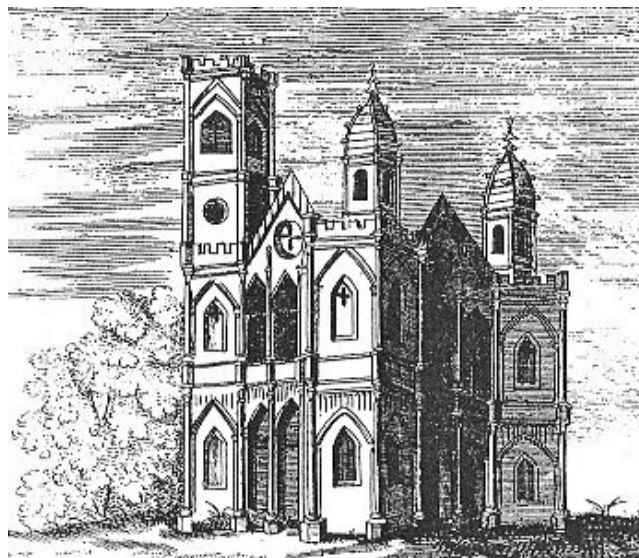
My name is Annie and I live in a cottage near Stowe with Mum and Dad and my two brothers, Tom and Will. The year is 1748 and I just turned ten! We often go exploring in the grounds of Stowe House. Dad is a gardener and works in the parkland there. There are always lots of gardeners about and builders too. That's because his Lordship, Lord Cobham, can't stop building monuments, temples and all sorts of garden buildings in his huge grounds!

His Lordship's real name is Richard Temple and he was a Field Marshal (that's very high up in the army). He is proud of his house and grounds and loves to improve both.

I like visiting the Head Gardener's daughter, Bridget she's only two. Her dad is **Lancelot Brown** – the garden designer who later became very famous. They live in a pavilion on the estate. He always booms "Hello Annie!" when he sees me and makes a joke – "now what shall I demolish next to make way for beauty?"



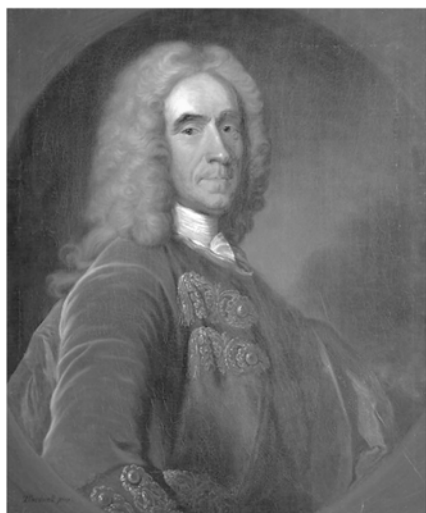
Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (1716 - 1783)



Fact:

Lancelot Brown – was nicknamed **Capability Brown**. He was a famous landscape garden designer. He swept away old-fashioned formal gardens and sometimes whole villages – just to improve the views. He saw how a parkland could be improved and said to the owner "your property has capability". He improved on nature – he carefully placed trees or garden buildings to frame views and dug out lakes too.

He designed over 170 parks and gardens.



Lord Cobham was also proud of his ancestors (everyone has them – they're your grandparents, great grandparents, great-great grandparents.. you get the idea)! He had statues of his early ancestors made and put round the Temple for everyone to admire (they were moved later). He also had the ceiling painted with his family coat of arms (not everyone has those) but sadly, he didn't live to see the ceiling finished.

There is a statue of Lord C on top of a huge pillar in the garden. His wife wanted him up there to remember him.



It takes us all afternoon to walk round the estate – it's so big! Dad showed us the Gothic Temple when the builders were still working on it. No one ever thought of staying overnight or even having a picnic there. That's because it was designed to look like an ancient church from a faraway land. Lord Cobham calls the rooms inside shaped like circles 'chapels'.

We never stay long inside Gothic Temple as it was a bit gloomy because there weren't so many windows as you have now. Even in summer, it was quite cool inside. Everyone would whisper too because they thought they were in a church.

What I like best is going to the top of the big tower to look at the views of the garden. There were lots of trees round the building when I was here so it was fun to be high up and see beyond. The gardeners and builders looked like busy ants!



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

Over the years, the estate changed hands and many trees that I remember disappeared. Gothic Temple then stood out in the landscape. When Stowe House became a school in the 1920s, they used the Gothic Temple for storage! The school also had to care of the garden buildings. It was a big job and so Landmark offered to help.

In 1969, Landmark restored the building and made it a comfortable place to stay. I hope you enjoy your holiday in this special and historic landscape, exploring the grounds and garden buildings just like 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**

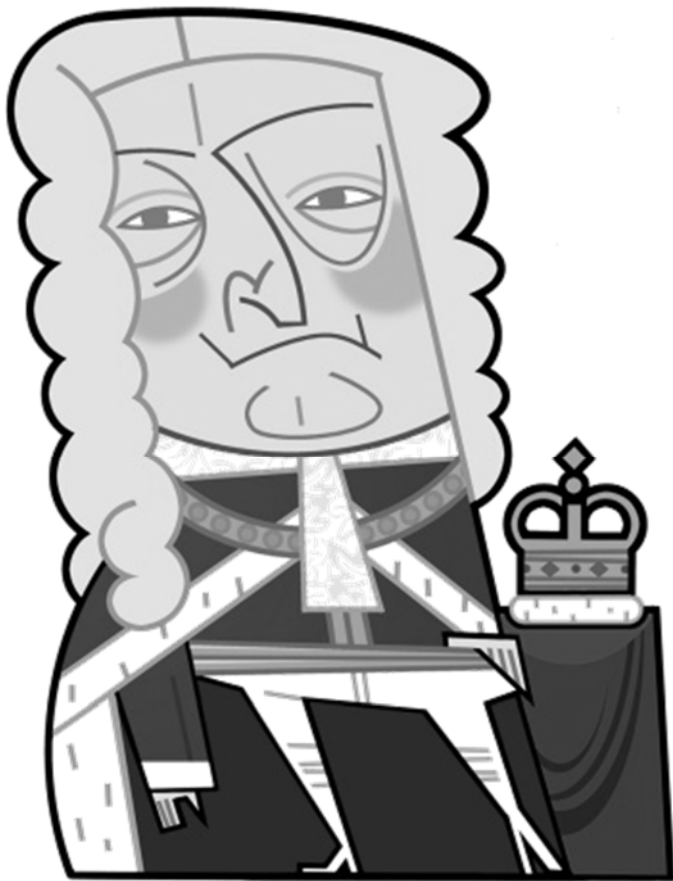
A simple king who wanted to be a sailor but was too stupid to command a ship. He would sometimes offer people a lift in his carriage!





Meet King George II

– who ruled when the Gothic Temple 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.

Design



What does the Gothic Temple 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 Gothic Temple?

.....

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

Today a building like the Gothic Temple is called a **folly**. Lord Cobham liked adding buildings to his estate at Stowe and he had pots of money! He had over 40 garden buildings, follies, and monuments built. In the 1740s he asked the architect (say *ark-ee-tek*), James Gibbs to build the Gothic Temple, only back then he called it the Temple of Liberty.

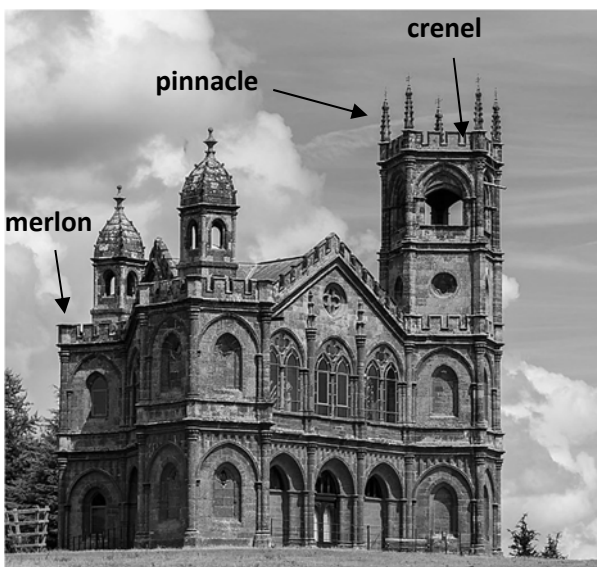
At the time, many public buildings were built in a **classical** style. Lots of rich people went on grand tours of Italy in the 1700s and 1800s. They came home with souvenirs like paintings but they wanted more. They couldn't bring home a Greek temple or a Roman villa so they had architects build them.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

The Gothic Temple is special because it was built in a style called **Gothick**. Even before it was finished, visitors thought it was a very, very old building! Annie knew the truth as she saw it going up.

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 temples, 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**.



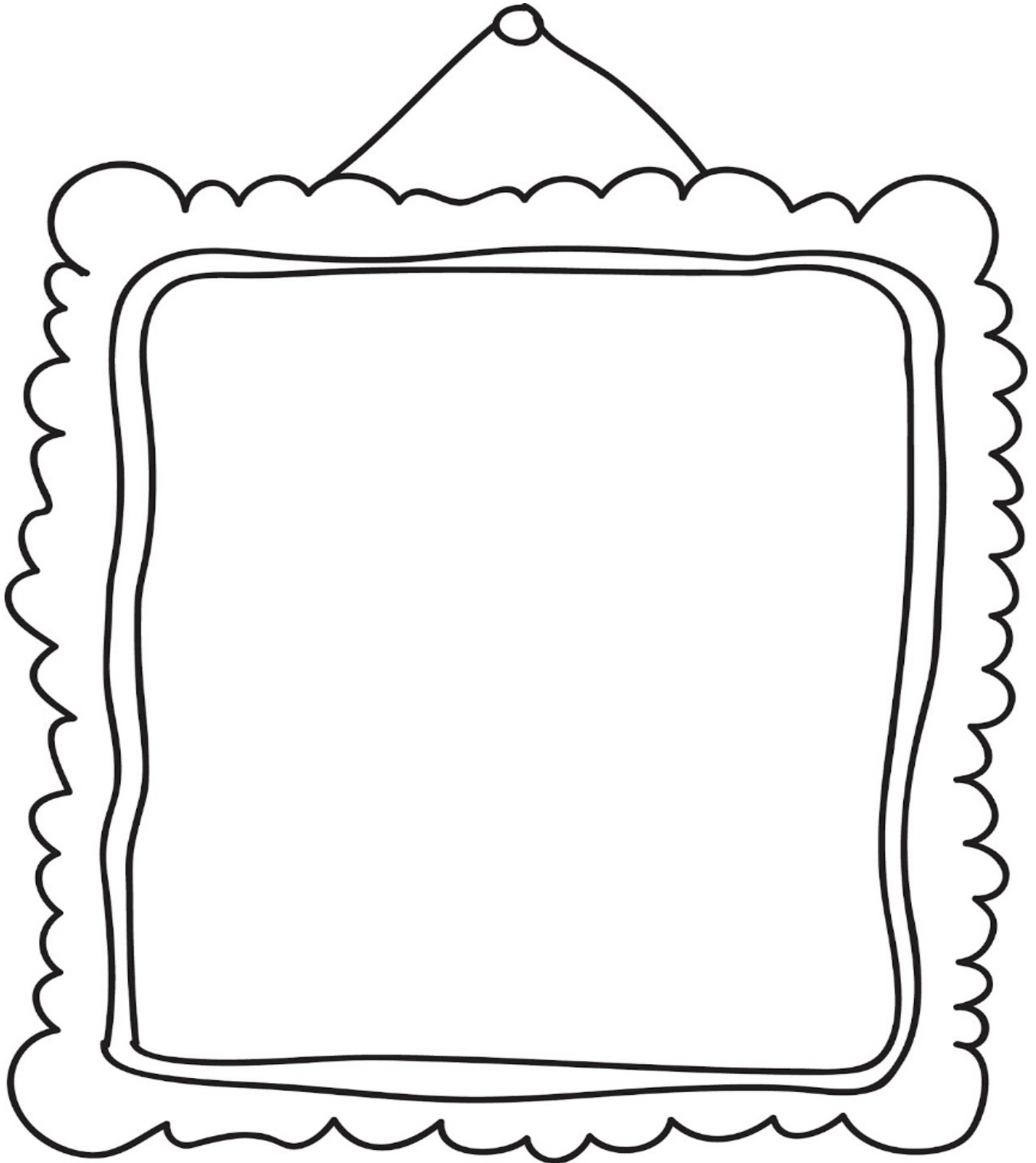
James Gibbs was inspired by the buildings of the Middle Ages and so he copied the pointy arch windows that you find on cathedrals. He added crosses too. Later, another architect added the fancy **pinnacles** (small spires) on top of the big tower.

And let's not 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 Gothic Temple.**

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 Gothic Temple 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 Gothic Temple was built when stone was still taken out of the ground by hand. They used a local orange coloured stone called **ironstone**. 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

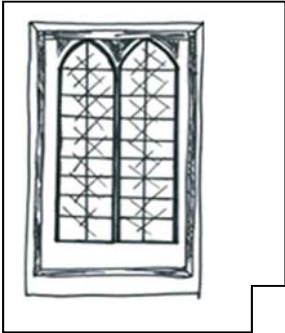


Chisels

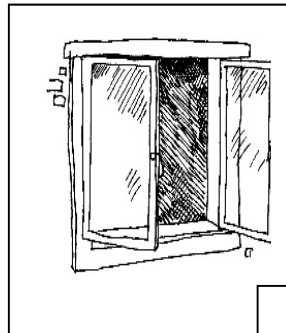




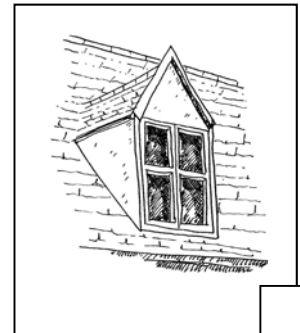
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows does The Gothic Temple have?



Pointed or Gothic



Casement (it opens)

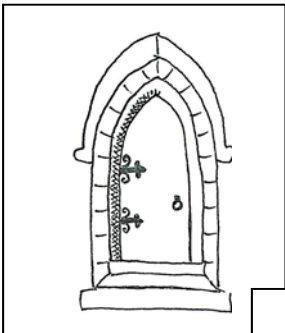


Dormer or attic (in the roof)

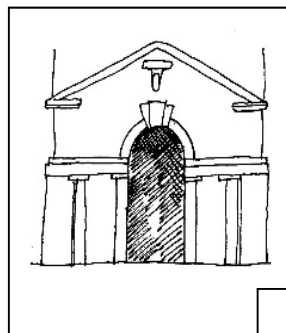
Fact:

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.

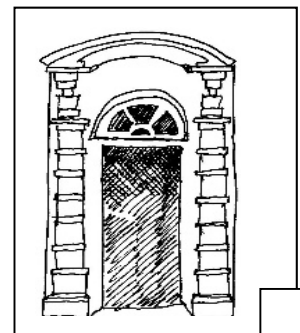
Entrances can be grand or simple. What is the front door of The Gothic Temple like?



Gothic

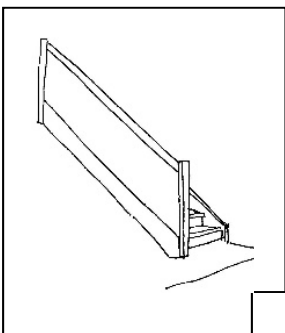


Porch

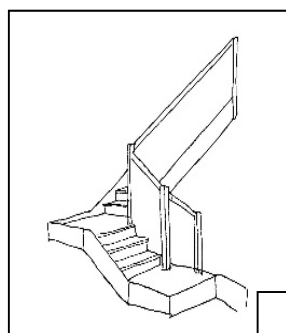


Canopy

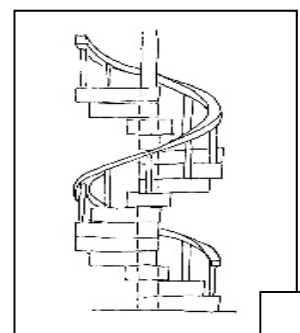
There are many different styles of staircases. Which style is closest to the outside staircase at The Gothic Temple?



Straight



Quarter turn



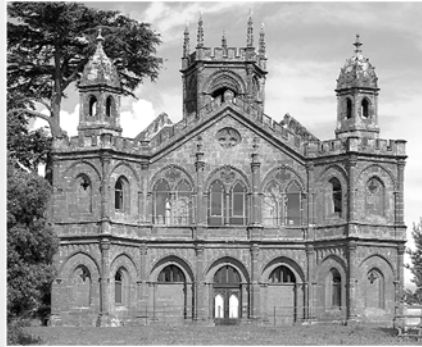
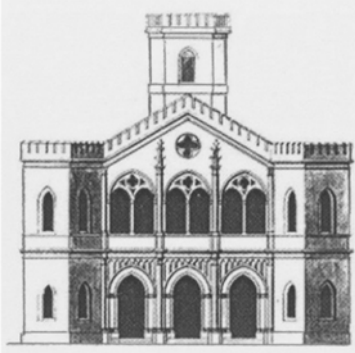
Spiral

Quest



Discover more about The Gothic Temple

The Gothic Temple has been here for over 270 years. Follow this Quest to discover more about it. Look at the drawing below. This was James Gibb's original design. Now look at the photo beside it. What do you see that is different? Put arrows where things are different.



There are two pepper-pot lanterns on top of the smaller turrets. Another architect added these a few years after the temple was finished (cheek)! Pinnacles were also put on top of the big turret. How many pinnacles are there?

Go outside and walk round the building. What is its overall shape? (*hint: it's not square*)!

Look at the two small turrets. How many sides do they have?

What shape are the rooms inside the small turrets? Draw the shape here:



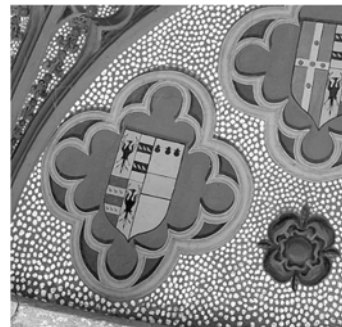
Do you see this shape in the stonework? It's hard to miss. Some windows are this design too. It's called a **quatrefoil**.

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, look up at the painted ceiling. It's in the shape of a dome (that's like an upside-down tea-cup). You can take a closer look if you go to the gallery upstairs.

Do you see the quatrefoil shapes? Inside each is a shield with a **coat of arms** design.



Fact:

Coat of arms were individual designs painted on a shield. They show the arms of Lord Cobham's ancestors. They show different symbols important to the family. That's an eagle on the shield.

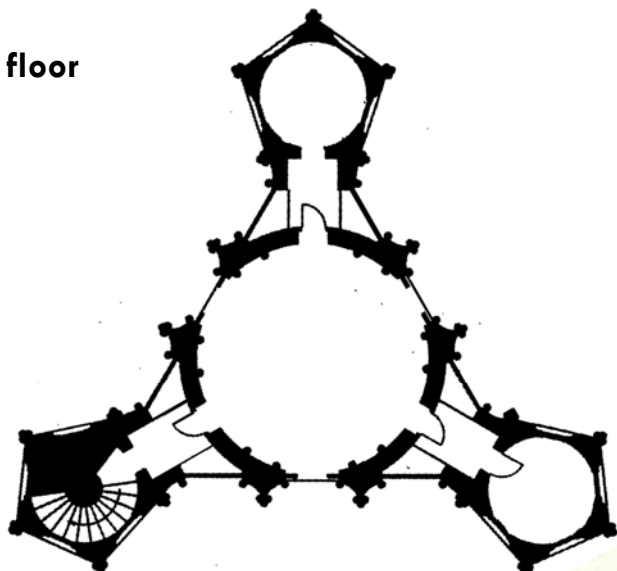
The painted ceiling looks like one you could see in a very old medieval church in the Middle East (an ancient region by the Mediterranean Sea). From below, the gold dots of paint look like very tiny tiles called mosaic.



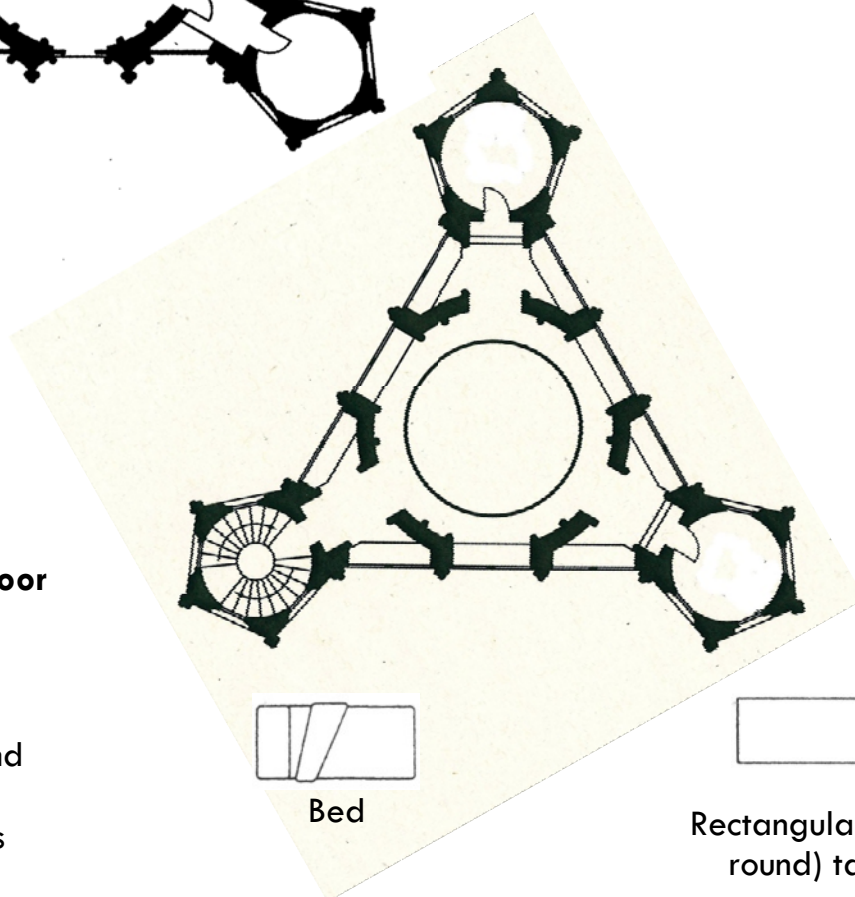
Living in The Gothic Temple

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. The Gothic Temple has two floors. The plan below shows you the shape of them. Take a walk around and write on the plan what each room is used for.

Ground floor



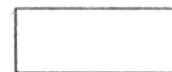
First floor



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



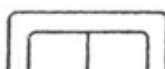
Rectangular (or a round) table



Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



Can you find an example of each of these things inside the Gothic Temple. 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

Was your favourite window one with painted glass? Why not draw your own design for a new painted glass window at the Gothic Temple. Use the box below and use as many colours as you like.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a new painted glass window design.



Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. What is the Gothic Temple made of?

Bricks

Wood

Ironstone

Straw

2. What is the shape of the Gothic Temple?

Sausage

Square

Triangle

Banana

3. What do the lanterns on top of the two small turrets look like?

Stockpot

Pepperpot

Teapot

Salt shaker

4. Which of the following do you not find on the Gothic Temple?

Quatrefoils

Pinnacles

Turrets

Drawbridge

5. Which George was King when the Gothic Temple was built?

George I

George III

George V

George II

6. What was the nickname of Lancelot Brown?

Digger

Sustainability

Capability

Earth

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

Tulips

Bluebells

Snowdrops

Daffodils

8. What type of landscape setting did Gothic Temple have when it was built?

Coastal

Woodland

Jungle

Desert

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

George

Nigel

James

Edward

10. In which county is Gothic Temple?

Berkshire

Buckinghamshire

Oxfordshire

Surrey

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.

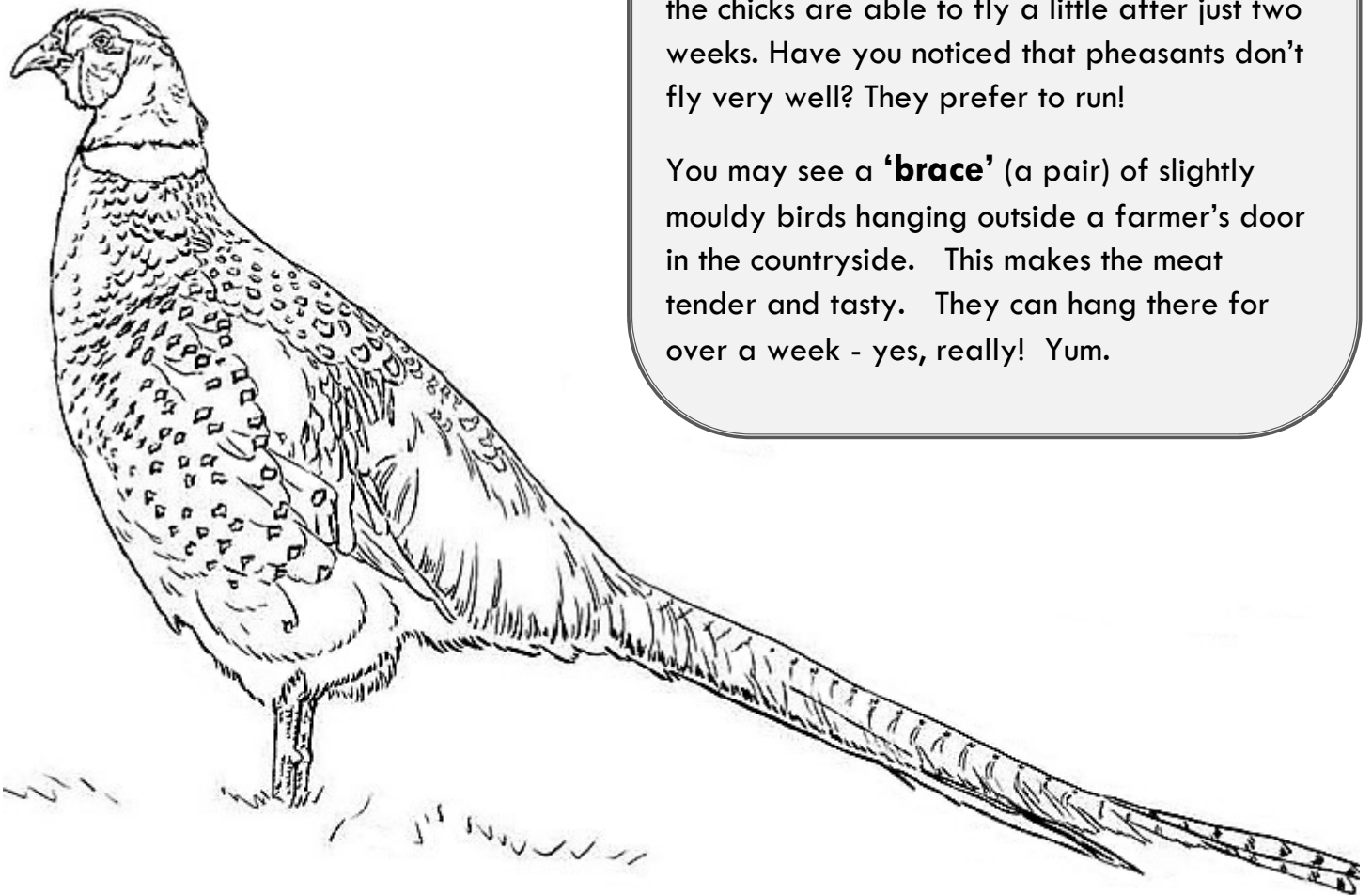
Pheasant Facts:

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!

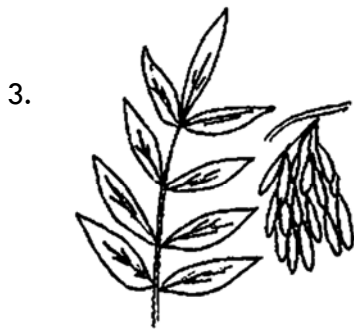
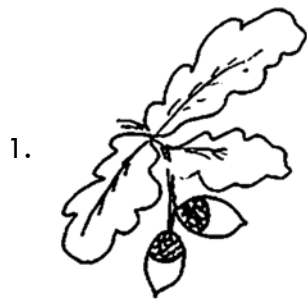
You may see a **'brace'** (a pair) of slightly mouldy birds hanging outside a farmer's door in the countryside. This makes the meat tender and tasty. They can hang there for over a week - yes, really! Yum.





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.

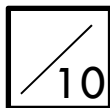


Answer sheet:

Quiz answers:

1. Ironstone
2. Triangle
3. Pepperpot
4. Drawbridge
5. George II
6. Capability
7. Snowdrops
8. Woodland
9. Nigel
10. Buckinghamshire

How many did you get right?





The Gothic Temple Word Search

Now have a go at the word search. Think about different parts of the building and landscape when filling in the word search. The words to find are at the bottom of the page. Put a ring round them when you find them in the grid and tick them off the list as you go.

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

CRENELLATION

TOWER

GOTHIC

IRONSTONE

GARDEN

ARMS

TURRET

GLASS

QUATREFOIL

TREES

FOLLY

DOME

GALLERY

OAK

ROOF

MOSAIC

TEMPLE

STAIR

WINDOW

FIELD

TRIANGLE

PEPPERPOT

TILE

COBHAM

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

For 25 points, find this bonus word: BRIDGE

24



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 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 some scones

If you've never had a scone you are missing out! 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

225g of self-raising flour

Pinch of salt

40g caster sugar

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!





Design your own coat of arms






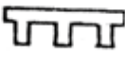








Traditionally coats of arms were used to identify knights in battles or tournaments. It would have been displayed on their shield or on a banner. The coat of arms belonged to their family. With a helmet on, you couldn't see a person's face and a battle was very confusing. The designs were made by people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

