

History



Find out about Howthwaite's past...

Hello! Welcome to Howthwaite. My name is Mrs Dawes and I was the parlour maid for Miss McDougall who this house was built for in 1925. Miss McDougall came from a family of rich **millers**, you may have eaten cakes and biscuits made from McDougall's flour!

I lived in the village down the hill and walked up to Howthwaite everyday. If the sun was shining I didn't mind the walk, but if it was snowing it was dangerous – the paths got very slippery and I almost fell on my bottom a couple of times!

The cook was lucky, she got to live in one of the small rooms upstairs (now your bathroom!) so she didn't have to brave the cold weather. But she had the tough job of baking all of the bread for the house which, when Miss McDougall had guests to stay, would be a lot of bread!

Getting all the coal to fire up the **range** was a really tough job – I didn't envy the poor coalmen who carried the buckets of coal down the steep path from the garages. They were given a big tip at Christmas time for their trouble though.

Fact:

A **range** is a very big cooker, usually with two or more ovens and six or more burners on the hob.

Fact:

A **parlour maid** (say 'par-lor') cleaned and tidied the downstairs rooms and served refreshments at afternoon tea.

A **miller** is someone who grinds wheat into flour.



Miss McDougall was a popular lady in the village and we all enjoyed working for her. She held lots of tea parties here at Howthwaite and her friends often came to stay for weeks at a time. Everybody enjoyed the peace and quiet and the views – views which inspired the famous poet, William Wordsworth. Have you heard of him?





When the Second World War started in 1939, Miss McDougall's nephew, Simon, was **evacuated** to Howthwaite. It was much safer for children to be in the countryside during the war rather than in the big towns and cities which were targets for bombs.

Fact:

During the Second World War just over 800,000 children left their homes in the cities to live in the countryside. Some children returned home after a few weeks although some stayed until the end of the war in 1945.



Children left their parents in the War and headed for the countryside with their name on a label and just a small bag of their things. Would you be excited to go on an adventure or scared to leave your home?

Unfortunately Miss McDougall died in 1948, only a few years after the war had ended. Howthwaite was sold to a retired headmaster called Mr Dixon. He took out the large range and replaced it with a smaller stove.

In 1963 the house was sold on again to a Mr Sykes – he changed the kitchen into a dining room and had all the woodwork on the outside of the house painted bright blue!

Miss McDougall and a lady called Mrs Dodgson helped to look after Simon and they had great fun together. I remember watching them playing in the garden, planting beautiful spring flowers down the hillside and using the summerhouse as a den. Sometimes I think they forgot that there was a war going on!



Howthwaite in the 1960's





The Lake District; a truly inspiring place...

The Lake District is very wild and beautiful. It has inspired many writers and artists. Here are two of the most famous.

William Wordsworth – 7th April 1770 to 23rd April 1850

William Wordsworth is a famous poet who lived in Dove Cottage, just below Howthwaite. Read on to discover a little more about his life...

Both Wordsworth's parents died before he was 15 and he and his brothers and sisters were sent off to live with different relatives. In 1787 he was reunited with his sister Dorothy. Dorothy was also a poet and William took a lot of inspiration from her.

In 1799 they moved in to Dove Cottage, along with William's wife Mary and his three children. They lived there until 1808 and he wrote some of his best poems here.

Wordsworth loved the Lake District and its scenery so much that when he heard of plans to extend the railway from Kendal to Windermere much later in 1844 he was very angry. He wrote a poem called "On the Projected Kendal and Windermere Railway". He wanted to keep the Lakes to himself and didn't like the idea of lots of tourists visiting.

Wordsworth became **Poet Laureate** (say *law-ee-ate*) in 1843 due to launching the Romantic Age in English Literature along with another poet called Samuel Taylor Coleridge. He was the only Laureate not to write an official verse.



Here is the start of Wordsworth's most famous poem: it's called Daffodils.

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze

Fact:

The **Poet Laureate** is appointed by the king or queen as the nation's favourite poet. On the advice of the Prime Minister, Queen Victoria chose Wordsworth. Poet Laureates are expected to write an official verse for important national events – but Wordsworth never did!



Beatrix Potter — 28 July 1866 to 22nd December 1943. I bet you've read some of her stories!



Beatrix bought her home Hill Top, Sawrey -only 11 miles from Howthwaite- in 1905 with the proceeds of her first book the Tale of Peter Rabbit.

Hill Top was her favourite place and she found inspiration for some of her most best loved tales in its beautiful surroundings. Tom Kitten, Samuel Whiskers and Jemima Puddleduck were all characters created here.

Beatrix Potter did not just write children's books. She was an **illustrator** (say *ill-oo-strai-tor*), business woman, **conservationist** and farmer. Christened Helen after her mother, but preferred to be known by her more unusual middle name, Beatrix.

1913, aged 47, she married William Heelis in London and the couple moved into Castle Cottage just across the way from Hill Top. It's clear that Beatrix did not want to be far from the beauty of the Lakes.

On her death, Beatrix owned 14 farms and 4,000 acres of land in the Lake District – wow! She left all of it to **The National Trust** to make sure that the landscape would stay the same as when she knew it.

Fact:

An **illustrator** is an artist who draws or paints pictures for books or magazines.

A **conservationist** is someone who cares about the nature around them and wants to protect it.

The National Trust is a charity which was founded in 1895 to preserve important landscapes and historical places – much like **The Landmark Trust!**

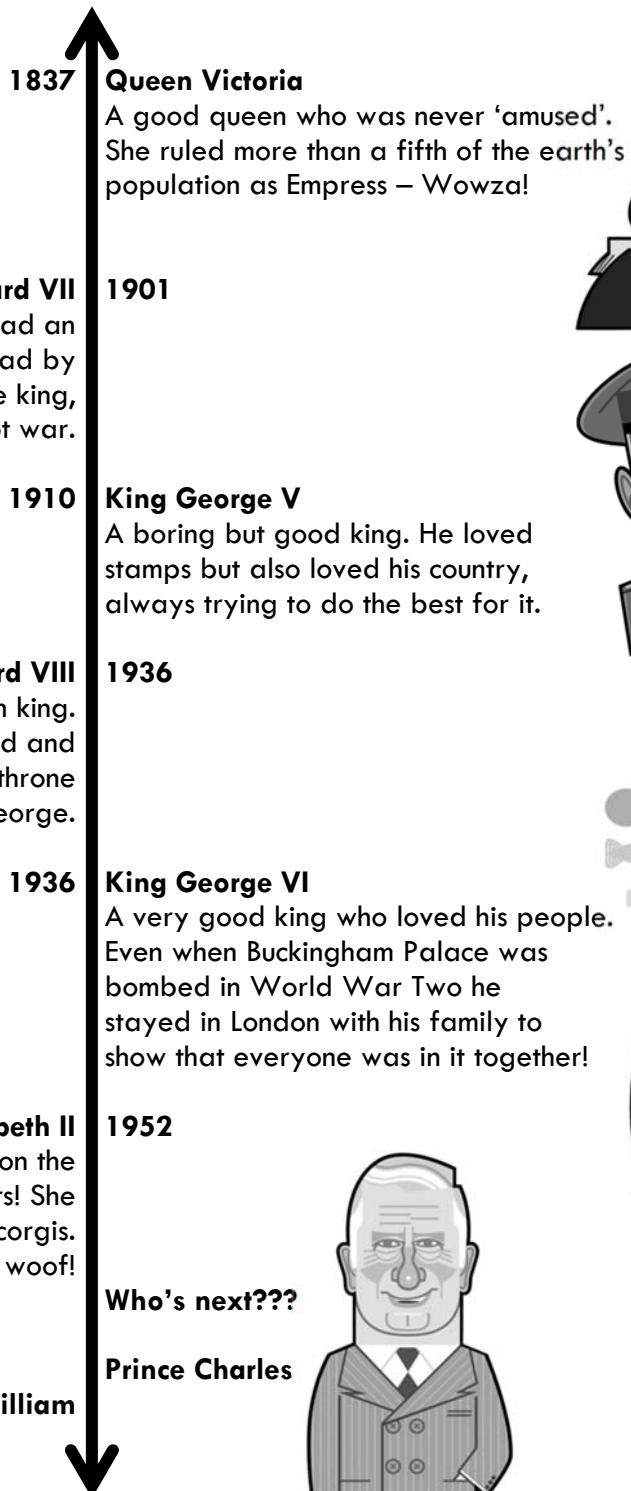
Write in the names of these characters from Beatrix's tales: you'll find the answers in the Puzzle section.



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 King George V

– who ruled when Howthwaite was built.



Hi Georgie!

So when did you become king?

I became king on the 6 May 1910 after my father died. I was 45 and set in my ways. I married Mary of Teck who was engaged to my older brother but he died before they could marry. We had a happy marriage.

What's your nickname?

My granddaughter, now Queen Elizabeth II, called me "Grandpa England".

What is your favourite thing to do?

For excitement, I like collecting stamps and sticking them in albums.

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

Well, I smoked an awful lot of cigarettes and especially fine cigars after dinner!



What does Howthwaite look like?

Can you walk all the way around it?

Does Howthwaite look like other buildings in the area? What's different? What's the same?

Howthwaite was built in 1925 – we don't know who the **architect** (say *ark-ee-tect*) is or even if there was one!

The walls are made from stone blocks which were **quarried** (say *qwa-reed'*) nearby and have a 'dry' finish which means that you cannot see the **mortar** between the blocks. It is there, you'll just have to look very closely! Some early houses in the Lake District didn't use mortar at all.



Fact:

Mortar is a mixture of lime with cement, sand and water. It is used in building to stick bricks or stone together.

Look up at the roof of the house. What do you think it is made of?

This material is found locally to Howthwaite.

Did you notice the shape of the chimneys?
Round chimneys are very common in this part of Cumbria.

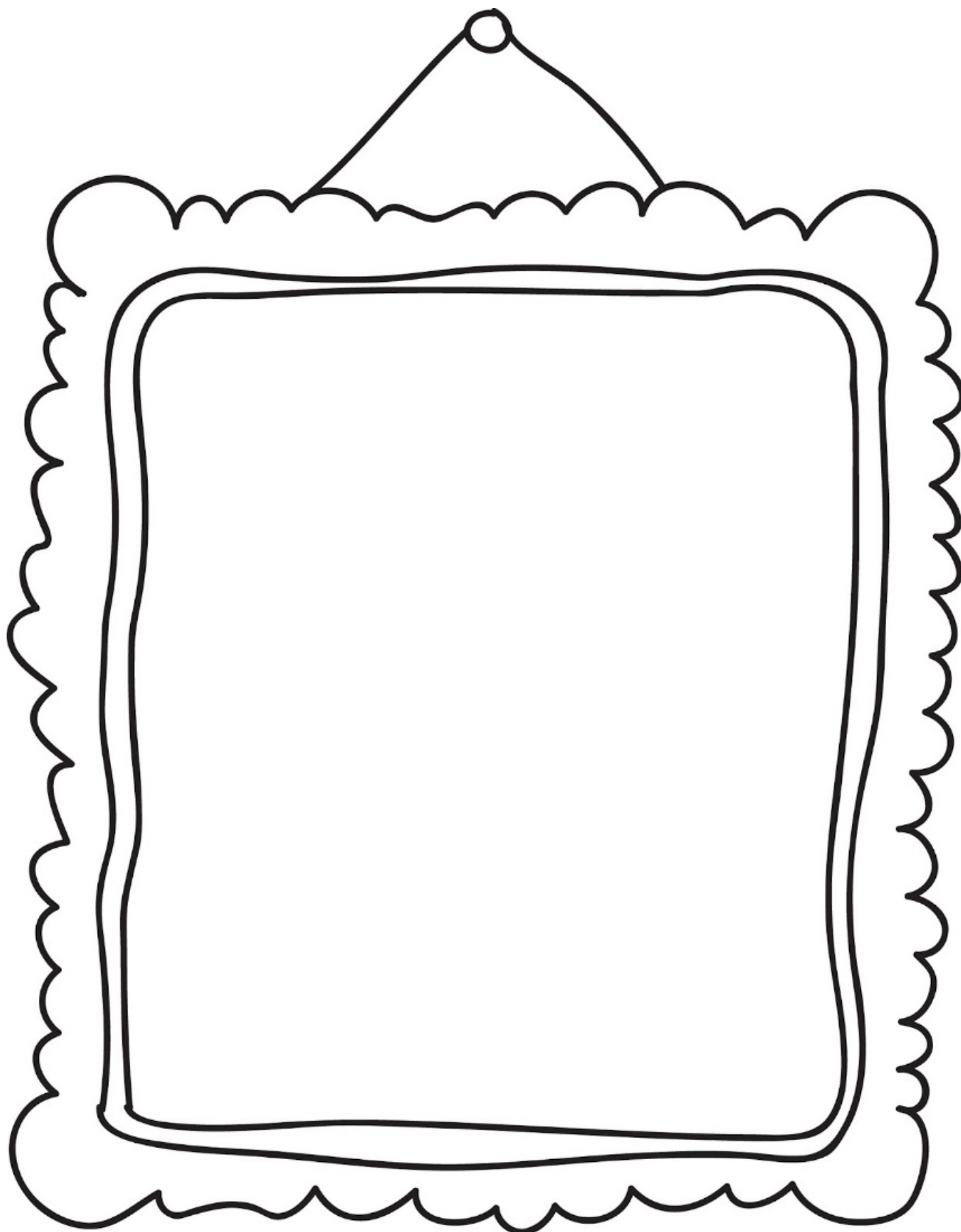




Buildings are quite easy to draw, particularly those with repeated patterns. They are usually made up of lots of geometric shapes, like squares, triangles and circles.

Have a go at drawing Howthwaite.

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





What is Howthwaite 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 stone to build Howthwaite came from the Helm Quarry (now disused), which is only a mile from Grasmere. The quarry belonged to the Wilsons, a local family firm of builders who built Howthwaite. 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. The stone window below has been carved into shapes called ogees. They use a mallet and special tools called chisels to shape the stone.



Quest



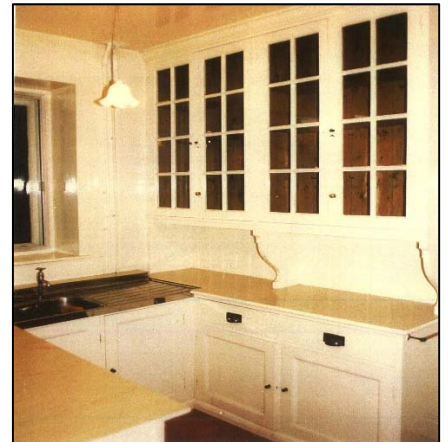
Discover more about Howthwaite

Howthwaite was built in 1925 by Miss Jessie McDougall. That's almost 100 years ago! Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

Can you find the summerhouse? It was actually built before Howthwaite, sometime between 1906 and 1913. Perhaps you can make it your den while you are here!



The glass front cupboards in the kitchen were Miss McDougall's idea and were very modern at the time. **Do you have anything similar in your home?**

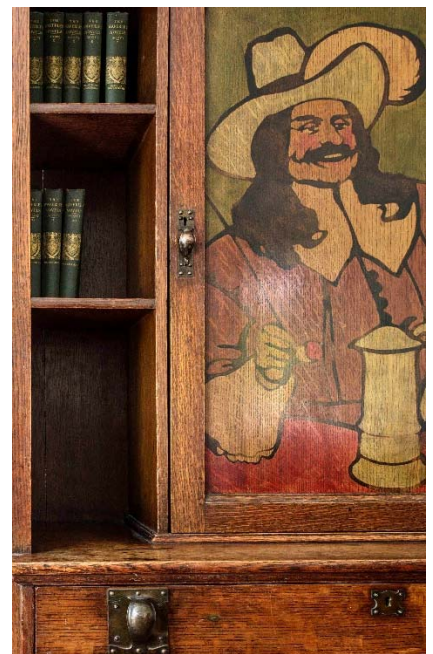


When you are outside, see if you can spot these objects. They may be just part of an object.



Have you seen anything else interesting in the house or garden?

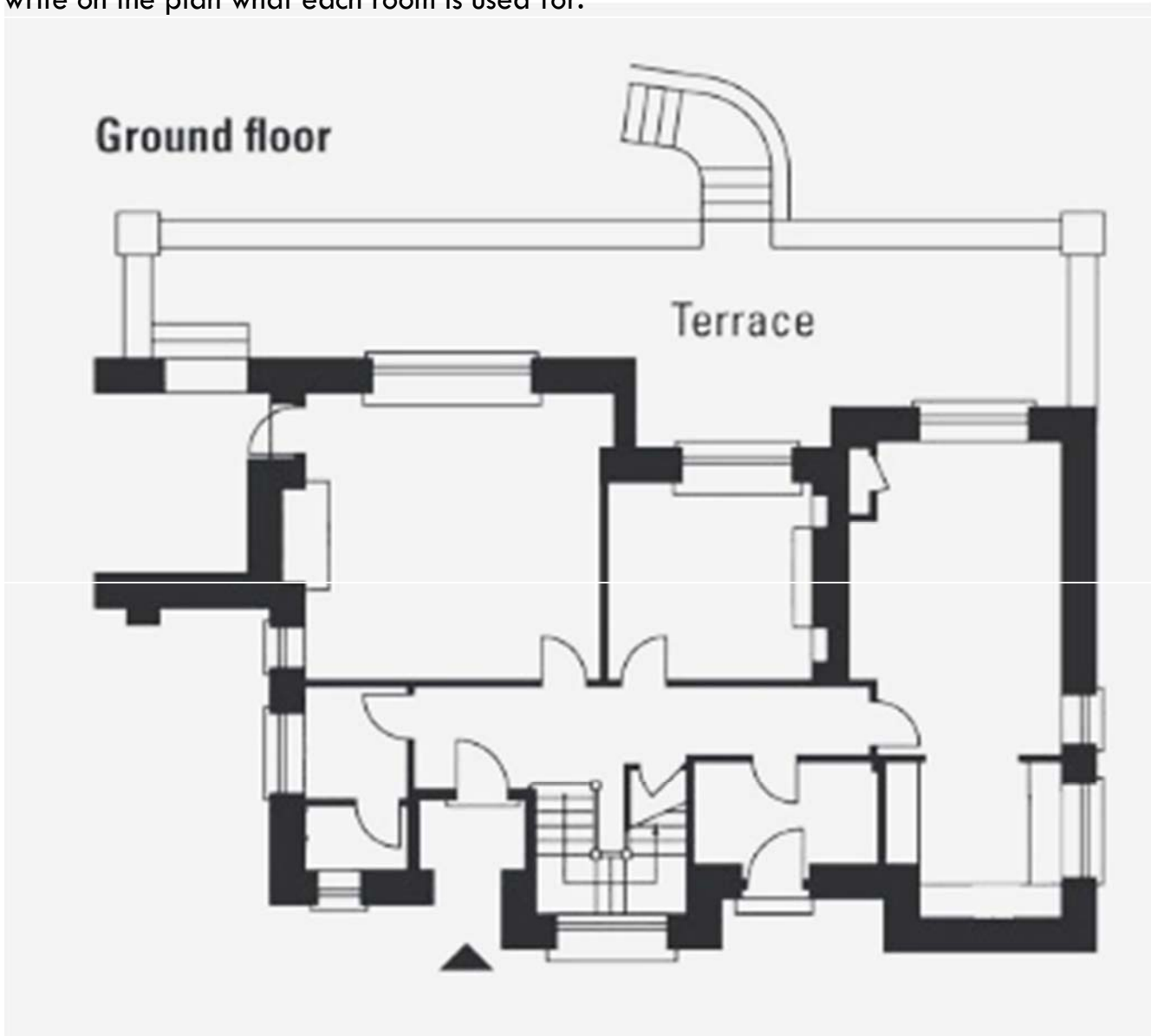
What about the painted cabinet in the sitting room?





Living in Howthwaite

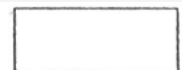
The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Howthwaite has two floors. The plans below show you the shape of each room on the ground floor. Take a walk around each room and write on the plan what each room is used for.



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



Bed



Rectangular (or a round) table



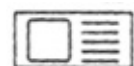
Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



Can you find an example of each of these things inside Howthwaite. 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.

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

A large empty rectangular box for drawing a favourite view from Howthwaite.



Bat Facts

Bats are mammals like humans (except they can fly!) A mammal is a creature that breathes air, has warm blood and gives birth to its babies. Bats fly using their “hands”. Like us they have two arms and two legs. Their skin stretches from their fingers to their body which makes wings for them to fly.

Bats are nocturnal (say ‘nok-turn-ol’). This means they come out at night and sleep all day. They sleep hanging upside down with their feet holding them in place. If you’re lucky, you might see them flying as the sun sets.

It’s quite hard finding food in the dark so bats use their ears to help them. They can ‘see’ with their ears (huh?) Bats shout as they fly and listen for echoes to bounce back to tell if something is there. That’s why they have such big ears – all the better for hearing with! But their “shouts” are so high we can’t even hear them.

FALSE MYTH ALERT: Bats aren’t blind! They can see just as well as us in twilight. But they only see in black and white (it must be like watching an old movie).

In the box below draw your own bat.





Howthwaite Wordsearch

Now have a go at the word search. Think about different parts of the building and the surrounding area. The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

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

BEATRIX POTTER
 WORDSWORTH
 QUARRY
 SLATE

DAFFODILS
 RANGE
 POET
 LANDSCAPE

LAKES
 EVACUATED
 DRY FINISH
 COTTAGE

VIEW
 COAL

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

/
14



Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. What year was Howthwaite built?

1624

1925

1800

1990

2. What was the McDougall family business?

Millers

Shoe Makers

Greengrocers

Butchers

3. What quarry did the stone for the house come from?

Helm

Honister

Hodge Close

Jackdaw

4. Who was on the throne when Howthwaite was built?

(Psst... look at unruly rulers!)

Edward VII

George V

Victoria

Elizabeth II

5. William Wordsworth's famous poem was named after which type of flower?

Bluebells

Roses

Daffodils

Lillies

6. Where was Beatrix Potter born?

London

Grasmere

Paris

Edinburgh

7. In which year did Miss McDougall die?

1976

1925

1948

1952

8. Who was Howthwaite sold to after Miss McDougall's death?

The Landmark Trust

Mr Sykes

Mr Dixon

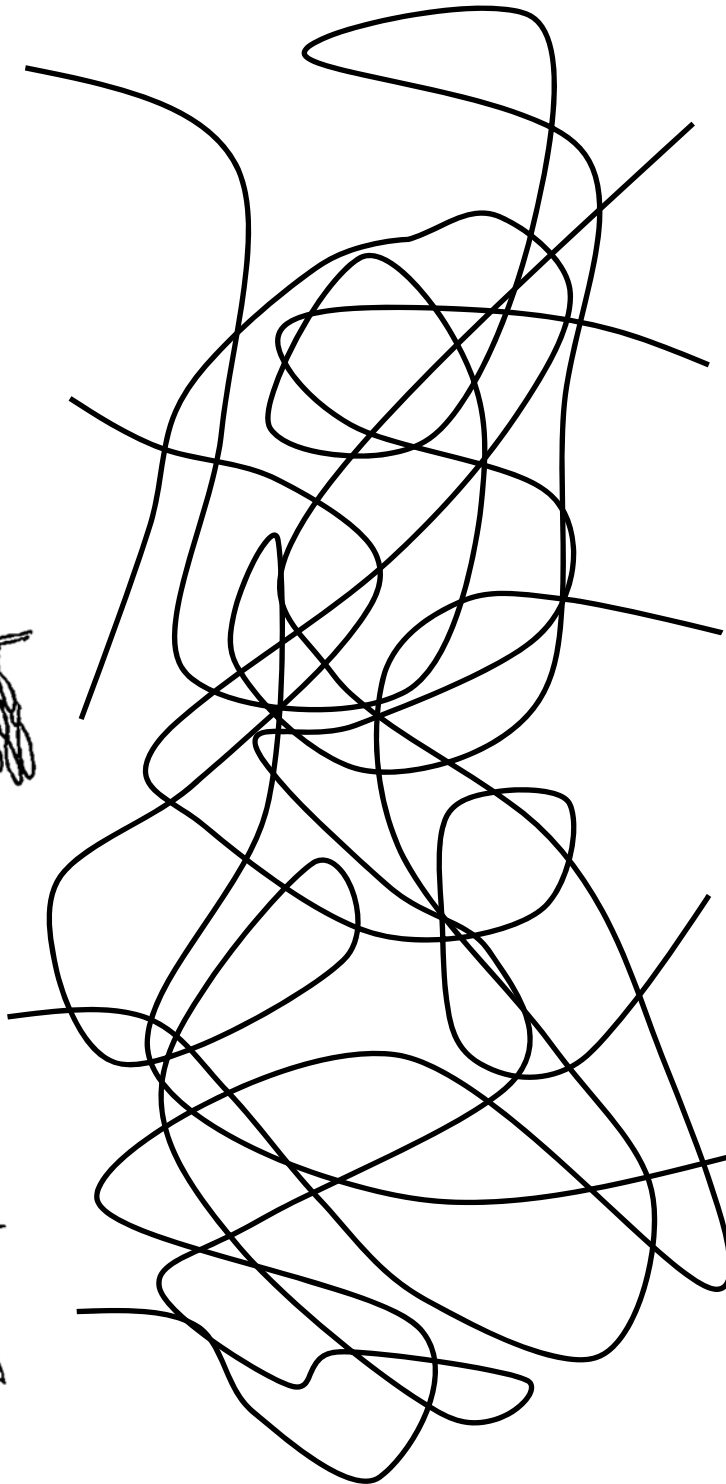
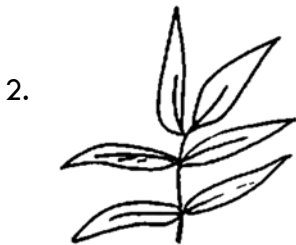
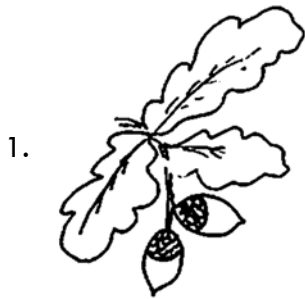
Beatrix Potter

To find the answers skip a page...



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. 1925
2. Millers
3. Helm
4. George V
5. Daffodils
6. London
7. 1948
8. Mr Dixon

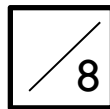
Beatrix Potter characters:

1. Squirrel Nutkin
2. Jeremy Fisher
3. Jemima Puddleduck
4. Tom Kitten

Fact:

Miss McDougall's family invented 'self-raising' flour – this type of flour contained chemicals which released carbon dioxide when cooked. This meant that you no longer needed to use a rising agent like yeast when baking bread.

How many did you get right?



Imagine you lived here in 1925. Write an acrostic poem describing life at Howthwaite. Each line has to begin with the letter shown. Maybe you'll be the next poet laureate!

H

O

W

T

H

W

A

I

T

E



Make traditional Grasmere Gingerbread.

Victorian cook, Sarah Nelson, invented this spicy recipe in the Lake District. She used to bake giant gingerbread letters to teach the local children the alphabet!

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

Ingredients

250g plain flour

1.5 teaspoons ground ginger

½ teaspoon baking powder

125g light soft brown sugar

150g lightly salted butter

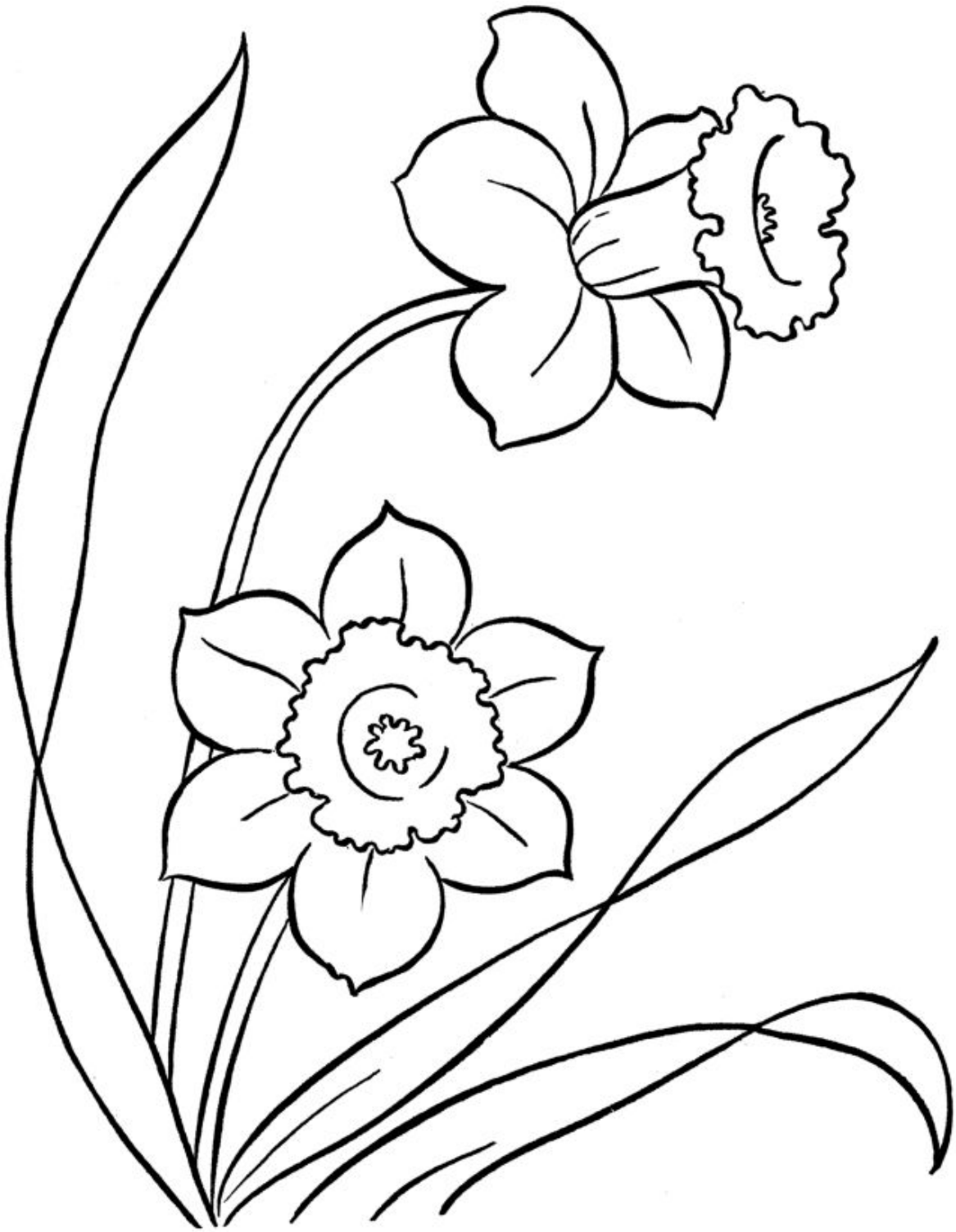
Pre-heat the oven: fan 160 °C or electric 180 °C: Gas 4

- Line a small roasting tin with baking paper.
- Sift the flour, ginger and baking powder into a bowl. Stir in the sugar.
- Melt the butter in a saucepan and pour over the dry ingredients and mix. It will be crumbly.
- Put the mixture into the tin in an even layer and then press it down lightly..
- Bake it in the oven for 30 minutes. Mark it into squares whilst it's still warm but don't try to move it from the tin until cold.





Colour in the daffodils.





Write a poem inspired by your surroundings.

Look at the History section and find the poem Daffodils by Wordsworth. Can you write two more verses of your own about daffodils in the hills? Each verse has six lines. Notice the pattern of the lines that rhyme and make yours do the same.

A

B

A

B

A

B

A

B

A

B

A

B



Make a woodland origami fox

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

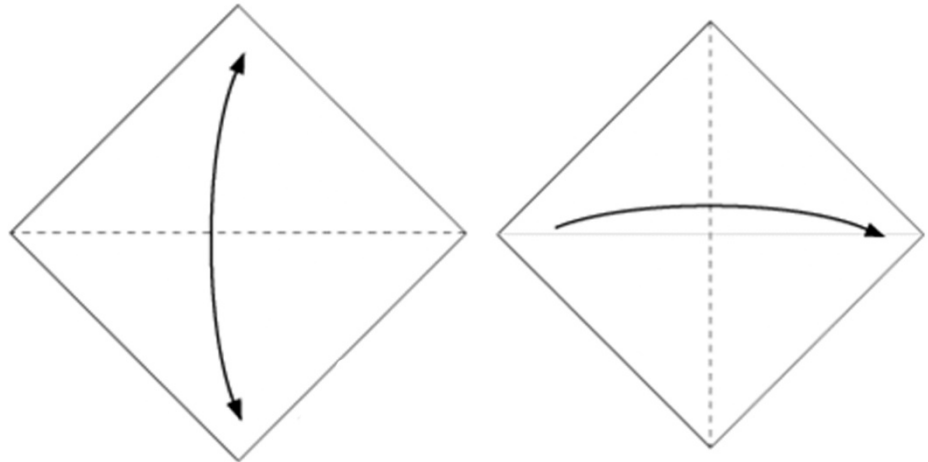
You will need:

- Paper
- Scissors
- Colouring pencils

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

Step One:

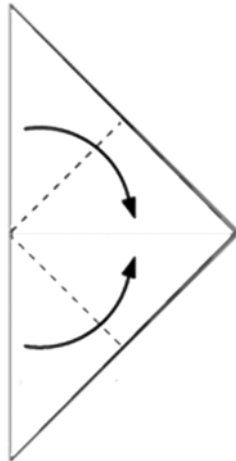
Cut the A4 piece of paper into a square. Follow the dotted lines on the sheet on the next page.



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

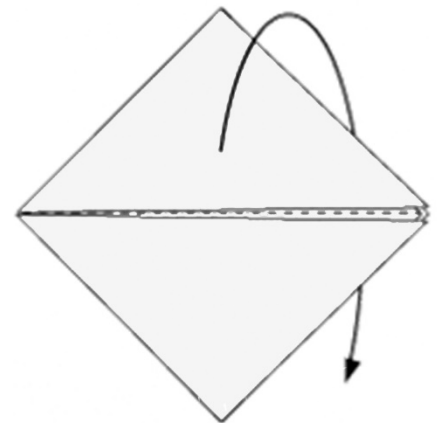
Step two:

Fold both sides in to make a diamond shape.



Step three:

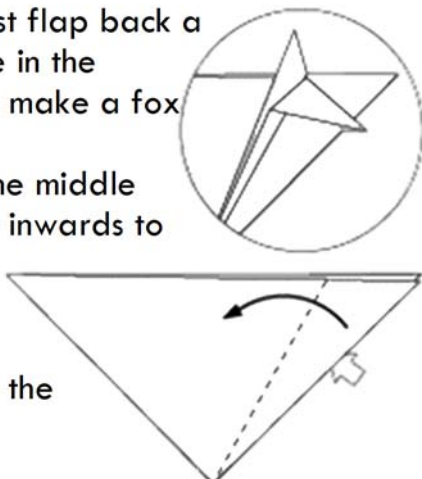
Once you have the diamond shape, fold the paper in on itself in half again so that all the flaps are on the outside edge.



Step four:

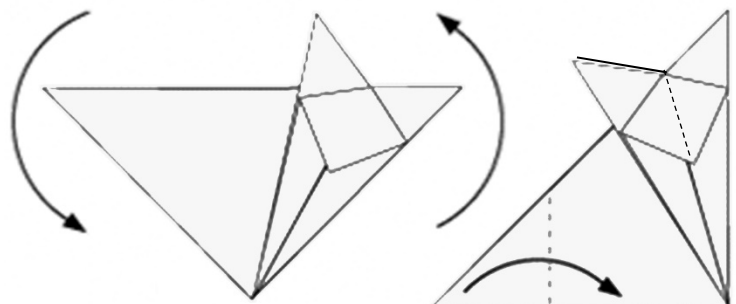
Fold the first flap back a little bit like in the diagram to make a fox ear.

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



Step five:

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



CUT OUT TO MAKE YOUR ORIGAMI FOX

