



Find out about Iron Bridge's past...

Hello! Welcome to Ironbridge! My name is George and I'm 10 years old. I've lived here with my mum, dad and two brothers for five years now. My dad's friend, Henry Smith, built Iron Bridge House in 1835 – dad is a greengrocer and uses the shop on the ground floor to sell his fruit, vegetables and other products. Mr Smith lets us live in the big house above the shop for a cut of the shop's **profits**.

The town has changed a lot since I was born – we used to live in a much smaller house and dad used to sell his veg from a cart at the market in nearby Madeley. In 1779, an **engineer** (say *enn-jin-ear*) named Thomas Telford built the iron bridge over the Severn Gorge – can you see it from the window?

Mum says it's the first bridge to have been made from iron, wow! People come from far and wide to see the bridge; a few years after the bridge was built, a new hotel called the Tontine opened so that visitors to the town could have somewhere to stay. A few more have opened up since then.

Facts:

Profit is the difference in the money earned and the money it cost to earn it.

An **engineer** is a person who designs, builds or maintains engines, machines or public works.



More visitors mean more money for the town and so new roads and buildings, like our new house, were built. Now in 1835, the town has its own post office, a couple of doctors' surgeries and lots of new, posh shops. The market where dad used to sell his produce has even moved across to Ironbridge now.

A late-nineteenth century view of Ironbridge. Can you spot Iron Bridge House?

Does the town look different today? How?



Not everybody in the town was happy about the new bridge though. Visitors, as well as locals, are charged a **toll** (say *toh-l*) to cross the bridge.

Instead some townspeople used **coracles** to cross the river to **poach** on the land on the other side. Dad loves telling the tale of Tommy Rogers, a coracle maker who was caught poaching on the land across the river. He was one of the people who helped build the new police station and cells when the town was re-built, and then he was one of the first people to be thrown in them!



A photo of Tommy Rogers, the coracle maker who was put in jail for using his boats to cross the river and poach.

Fact:

A **toll** is a sum of money charged for somebody to use a road or bridge to pay for its upkeep.

Coracles are small, lightweight boats made from a loosely woven wood frame, covered in animal skin.

Poaching is stealing fish or game animals on someone else's land without their permission.

My brothers and I help dad out at the shop; my favourite job is helping to unload the vegetable crates from the barges. They bring the produce from farms further up the river for dad to sell. There's a tunnel that runs all the way from the cellar down to the bank of the river – it makes me feel like a smuggler!

I love talking to the barge pilots – don't worry, no flying boats here, they just steer the boat down the river! They always have the best stories to share about the towns they've come from, and the things they've seen on their journey down the river.

My favourite story so far has to be the one where King William IV supposedly jumped from his royal barge to a passing fruit barge and took a handful of apples. Do you think the pilot was telling the truth...?

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!

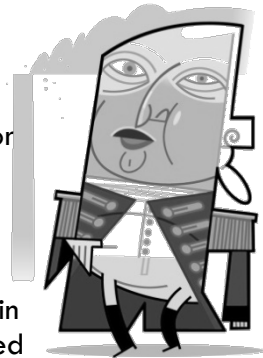


King George II 1727

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 William IV

– who ruled when George lived at Iron Bridge House.



Hi Will!

So when did you become king?

I became King on 26 June 1830 when I was 65.

What is your favourite thing to do?

I love to sail, I joined the Navy when I was thirteen. They told me I was too stupid to command a ship. Well who's silly now, I rule the Navy and a country now!

What is the best thing you did as king?

Ooh that's tough. I made it illegal for children to work in factories and I abolished slavery in the British Empire.



What does Iron Bridge House 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 the Iron Bridge House look like other buildings in the area?

Castle

Tall

Pretty

Industrial

Stone

Brick

Symmetrical

Home

Square

Elegant

Friendly

Low

Iron Bridge House was built in 1835 by a man named Henry Smith - the town of Ironbridge had become rich and popular since Thomas Telford built his famous iron bridge over the gorge there.

The size and design of the house show just how rich the town had become due to the increase in **tourism** as lots of people came to see the first iron bridge in the world.

Iron Bridge House is made from bricks likely to have been fired at a nearby brickworks, Blist Hill. It originally had six bedrooms, a double-fronted shop, store rooms, offices, stables, a coach house and even a 'bacon drying house'.

Fact:

Tourism is the name given to travel for pleasure or business. When you go on holiday or visit a new town, you are a **tourist**.



Telford's Iron Bridge crosses the river Severn which cuts through rich seams of coal. At the time Iron Bridge House was built, barges were used to transport food, goods and coal up and downstream the river. The introduction of the Severn Valley Railway in 1862 saw less and less river traffic, but the town still saw lots of visitors because the train station was at the end of the iron bridge.



What is Iron Bridge House built from?

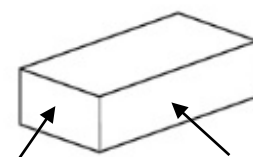
Fact:

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.

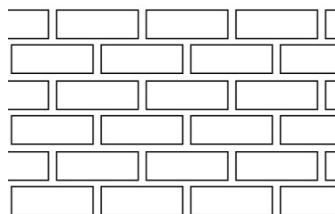
Try colouring in the short end on the brick patterns above, so you can see the pattern. Tick the bond that matches Iron Bridge House.

Bricks have a long and a short face like this.



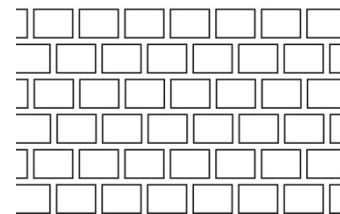
Header (short) Stretcher (long)

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



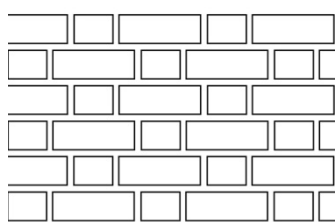
Stretcher bond

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

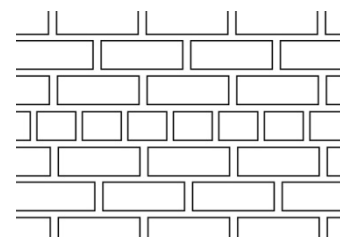


Header bond

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



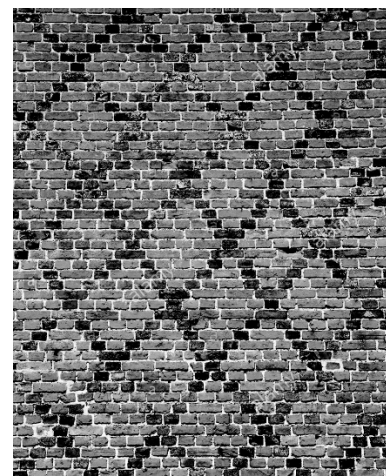
Flemish bond Bricks are laid with one header and one long face.



English bond

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

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.

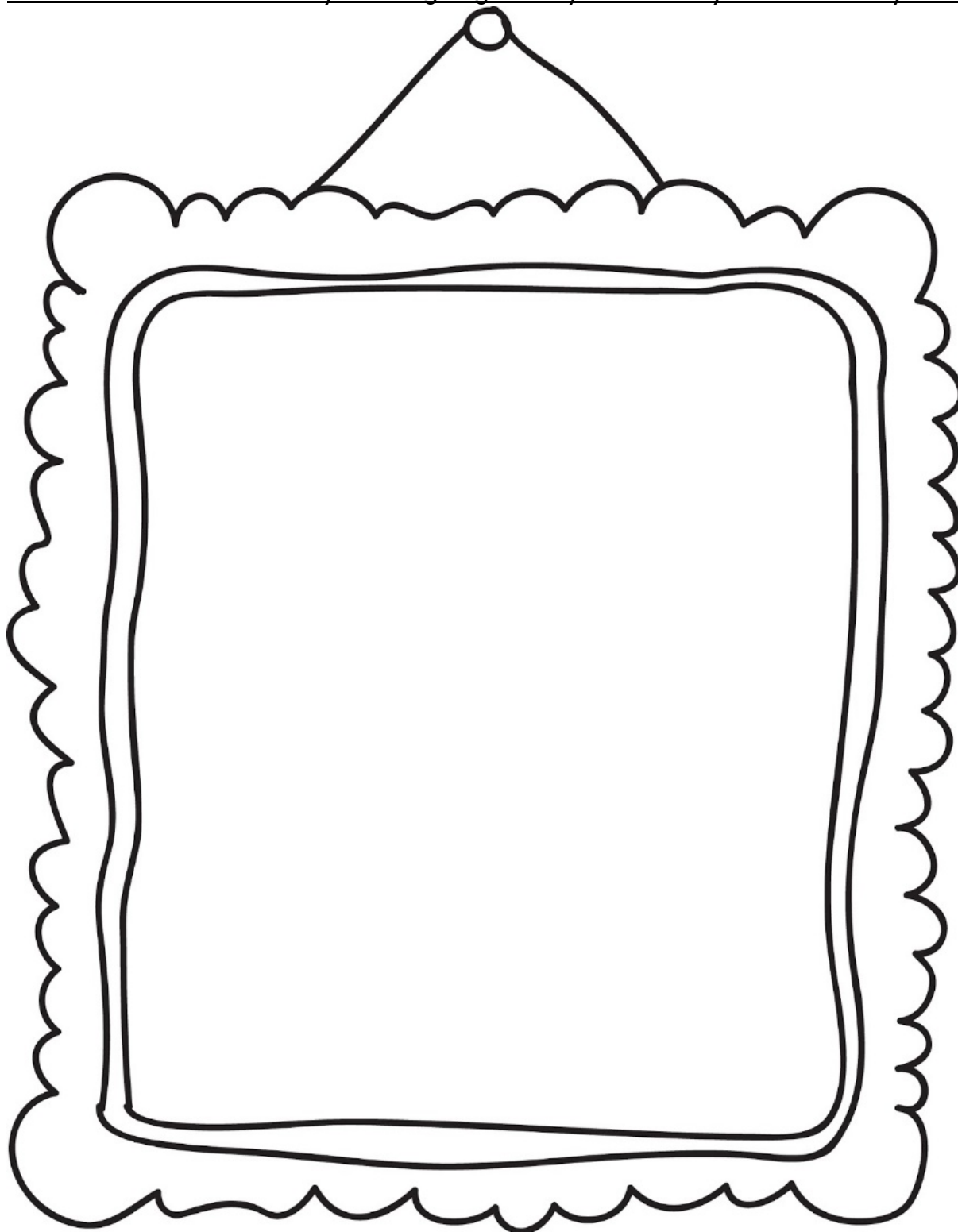




Buildings are quite easy to draw. They are usually made up of lots of geometric shapes, like squares, triangles and circles.

Have a go at drawing Iron Bridge House.

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



Quest



Discover more about Iron Bridge House

Iron Bridge House has been here for nearly 200 years. In that time, many things have changed both inside and outside. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

Fireplaces...

Take a walk around Iron Bridge House and have a look at the different styles of fireplace. Which one is your favourite and why?



Did you know?

A chimney fire can reach up to 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit – wow!

Go outside and look up at the roof of the building – can you see all the chimney pots? How many can you count?



That's a lot of windows...

Take a walk around the building - how many windows can you count? Why do you think the windows at the top are much smaller than those on the floors below? (Answer in the quiz section...)



Have you been up close to the Iron Bridge yet? Can you see the Roman numerals MDCCCLXXIX? Can you work out what date it is using the key below: _____

1 = I	4 = IV	7 = VII	10 = X	40 = XL	70 = LXX	100 = C	1,500 = MD
2 = II	5 = V	8 = VIII	20 = XX	50 = L	80 = LXXX	500 = D	
3 = III	6 = VI	9 = IX	30 = XXX	60 = LX	90 = XC	1,000 = M	



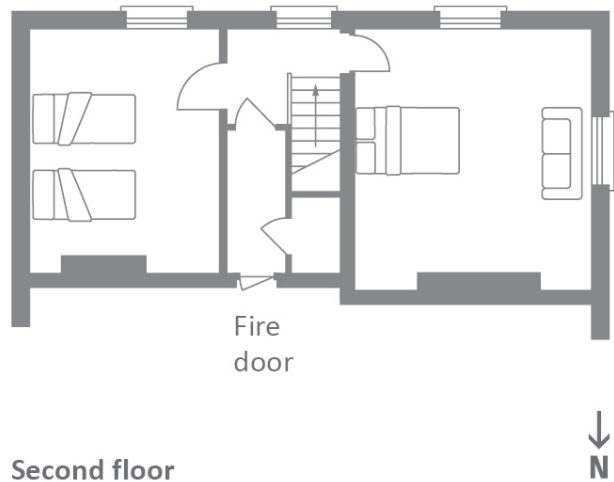
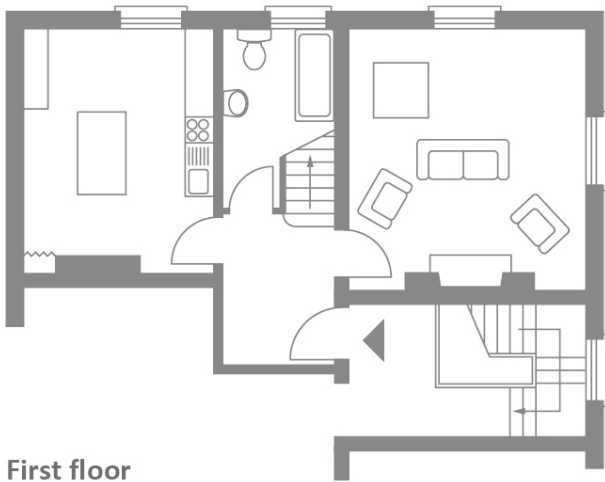
Living in Iron Bridge House

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Iron Bridge House has two floors. The plan below shows you the shape of each room. Take a walk around and write on the plan what each room is used for. Mark your bed with a star! ★



First Floor

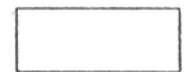
Second Floor



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



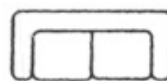
Rectangular (or a round) table



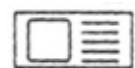
Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



Can you find an example of each of these things inside Iron Bridge House. 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

In the box below, have a go at drawing the view of Telford's Iron Bridge – it's made up of geometric shapes.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing a view of Telford's Iron Bridge using geometric shapes.



Iron Bridge House Word Search

Now have a go at the word search. Think about different parts of the building and other words associated with Iron Bridge House. The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

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

TELFORD
BRICKS
SHROPSHIRE
GORGE

ENGINEER
BRIDGE
MARKET
GROCER

TOLL
CORACLES
POACHING
RIVER

WINDOWS
CHIMNEYS
BARGE
IRON

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

16



Can you answer these questions correctly?

You'll need to read all the sections first!

1. What is a coracle?

A shell

A small boat

An instrument

A vegetable

2. Which county is Iron Bridge House in?

Devon

Norfolk

Shropshire

Berkshire

3. Who designed the Iron Bridge?

Thomas Telford

Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Edison

Thomas Andrews

4. In what year was Iron Bridge House built?

1635

1779

1835

1910

5. What is the name of the river that runs through the gorge?

Thames

Nile

Avon

Severn

6. What job does George's dad do?

Grocer

Ninja

Tailor

Baker

7. When was the Severn Valley Railway line introduced?

1622

1780

1862

1901

8. What is Iron Bridge House made of?

Stone

Timber

Flint

Brick

9. Who was on the throne when George and his family lived at Iron Bridge House?

(Psst. Check Unruly Rulers..!)

Edward VII

Victoria

William IV

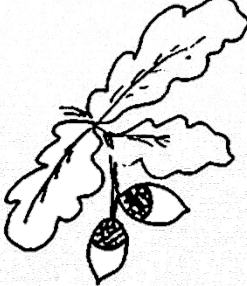
George V

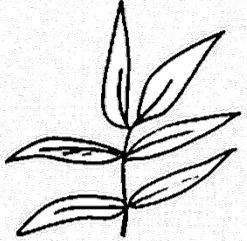
To find the answers skip a page...

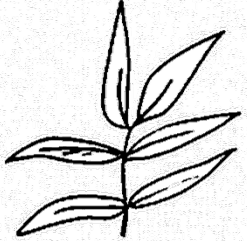


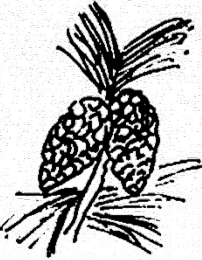
Which leaf belongs to which tree?


Match the leaf to the correct tree.


1.  Horse Chestnut

2.  Willow

3.  Pine

4.  Ash

5.  Oak



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

Look out for these when you go for a walk!

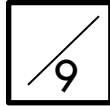


Answer sheet:

Question & Answer:

1. A small boat
2. Shropshire
3. Thomas Telford
4. 1835
5. Severn
6. Grocer
7. 1862
8. Brick
9. William IV

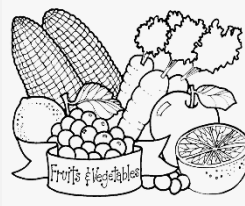
How many did you get right?



Fact:

Grocers didn't just sell fruit and vegetables; they stocked tea, coffee, sugar and rice as well as dairy products and meats.

People didn't have fridge-freezers like we do today so they did their shopping little and often, or ate a lot of pickled and preserved foods.



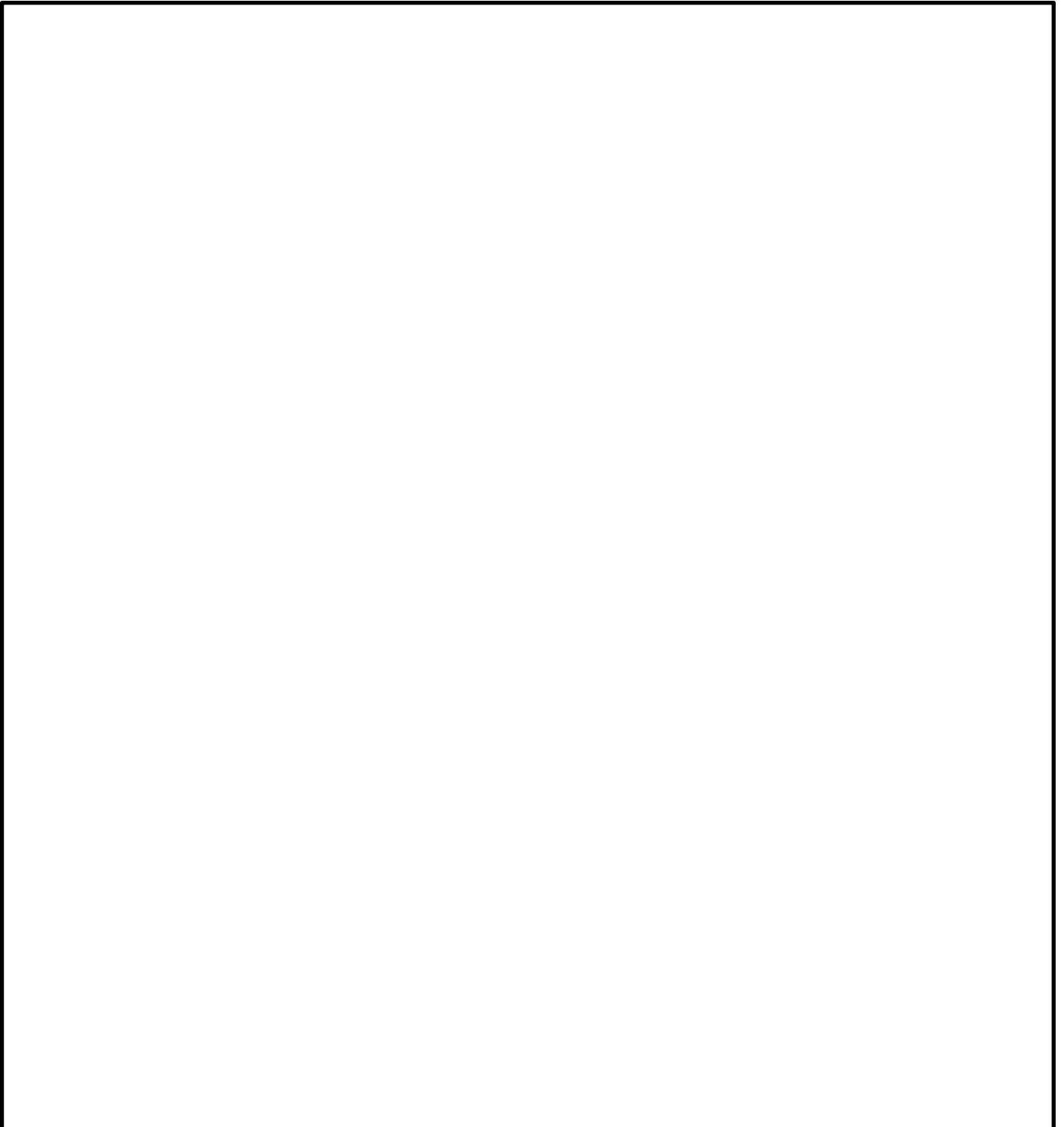
Can you think of some quiz questions to ask your family and friends?

Write them down here:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Design your own bridge

Imagine you've just been commissioned to build a brand new bridge. Think about the design and how much weight you need the bridge to hold, to choose the material that you'd build it in. The material will affect how you design it (for example wood can't be bent; iron can. Stones have to go on on top of another.) Label your drawing to show what your bridge is made from and put arrows to show where it gets its strength.





Bake some Shrewsbury biscuits

Ironbridge is close to Shrewsbury, and Shrewsbury biscuits are delicious. They were first mentioned in a recipe book dated 1658, that means this recipe is about three hundred and fifty years old. Shrewsbury biscuits have been mentioned in plays and were baked at The White House in America!

Here's a simple recipe for Shrewsbury biscuits. You will probably need the help of an adult.

125g butter or block margarine

2 egg yolks

150g caster sugar

Grated rind of 1 lemon or orange

225g plain flour

You can also add 50g of dried fruit with the flour, raisins, currants or whatever you have. You could try swapping the grated citrus rind for a teaspoon of caraway seeds or mixed spice.

- Pre-heat the oven: fan 180°C : Gas Mark 4
- Lightly grease two baking trays.
- Make sure the butter is at room temperature. Mix and then cream the butter and sugar together until they are pale and fluffy. Then add the egg yolks and beat well.
- Stir in the flour, grated lemon rind and raisins and mix to a fairly firm dough.
- Turn out onto a floured surface and knead before rolling out to a thickness of 5mm.
- Cut into rounds. Use a floured glass or a biscuit cutter about 6cm in diameter and place them onto the greased baking sheets.
- Bake for about 15 minutes, until firm and light brown.
- Cool on a wire rack. If not eating immediately, store the biscuits in an airtight container when cool.
- Enjoy eating your Shrewsbury biscuits!





Colour in this greengrocer

In the box why not design your own grocers sign using fancy lettering...



