

History



Find out about Monkton Old Hall's past...

Hello! Welcome to Monkton Old Hall, my name is Griffri. I'm twelve years old. My friends usually call me Griff, you can too.

Fact:

A **Priory** is a religious house where monks or nuns live. A monk was a holy man who gave up his life to serve God. Nuns are holy women.

The **hospitium** (say hos-pi-ti-um) is a place of shelter, or a guesthouse, at a monastery or religious house.

A **pilgrim** is a person who journeys to a holy place for religious reasons. A **Prior** is the head monk who's in charge.



This building was built as part of the **Priory** here at Pembroke. It's the guesthouse or **hospitium**. The Priory was founded in 1098 but the hospitium was built later. No one is exactly sure when it was built, but right now, its 1400, so I live over 600 years before you. Crazy, eh! In my time, Wales isn't really part of England yet – even if King Henry IV would like it to be!

I love working here in the guesthouse's kitchen but we're kept really busy. It's a bit like a hotel, lots of people stay the night here. Most of them are **pilgrims** travelling to St David's. That's a small city with a beautiful cathedral on the South West tip of Wales. We have to make loads of meals for pilgrims as well as the monks.



Our priory is small, it only has one **prior** and four or five other monks, but there are lots of us servants to help run the priory.

Have you been outside in the garden yet? It's great!

If I get a break from the work, I whizz out there and if I'm sent out to get herbs, I run really fast so I can have a quick look at the Castle. It's the best view!

Here are some pilgrims on their way to St. David's.



We all work hard here everyone doing their own job. One day, I'd like to be in charge of the kitchen myself. 'Cos I'm a child, I have to follow orders from everyone and I have to do all the jobs that no one else wants to do, like cleaning out the pots and pans. It's hard work, especially if the stew's been burnt. All I have is a bundle of twigs and I have to use sand to rub off all the burnt blackened bits but I can't imagine living or working anywhere else!

Over a hundred and thirty years later than Griff's time, around 1530, King Henry VIII fell out with the Pope in Rome. Henry made a law that there were to be no more monasteries and drove everyone out of Monkton Priory! In 1539, all the main priory buildings built to worship God were knocked down because Henry wanted simpler ways to worship. Everything special in those buildings, all the treasured objects now belonged to the King, who sold it to his courtiers! Because it was only the guesthouse, Monkton Old Hall was left standing.

Over the years, Monkton Old Hall became much less important and it became a farmhouse. After that, it became very neglected. Local people put their rubbish in the cellar under the hall. The building came to be used as a rubbish dump – how sad is that?

This story has a happy ending though. An amazing woman called Miss Muriel Thompson bought the Old Hall in 1933. She loved the house and had lots of energy. She earned her living writing about gardens for magazines and she created a beautiful garden. To begin with, she had very little money and she would go and collect **driftwood** from the beach and bring it back in a trailer behind her car. She used the driftwood to make chairs and tables which were the right size for the big rooms and which didn't cost her much! Clever, eh?



Fact:

Driftwood is wood that is found floating on the sea or washed ashore onto the beach.

Can you see the driftwood chairs and tables in the photo?

Miss Thompson's goddaughter, Cheryl Campbell gave Monkton Old Hall to the Landmark Trust in 1979. That's why you can be here today, enjoying a holiday in the old hospitem of the priory – just like the pilgrims!

Unruly Rulers



Who were the medieval (say 'med-ee-evil') kings?

Medieval means in the Middle Ages. This is roughly from when William the Conqueror and the Normans invaded England in 1066 until Henry VIII (that's the 8th) became king in 1509.



King William II Rufus

He was killed hunting.
People say that Henry I ordered it!

1066

William the Conqueror

He wasn't even English he came from France.



1087

King Henry I

He stole the throne from his older brother who was away on Crusade.



1100

King Stephen

Another king who stole the throne, it was meant to be his cousin Matilda's!



1135

King Henry II

Some of his knights heard that he was angry at Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury. That was the end of poor Thomas, the knights killed him.



1154

King Richard I The Lion Heart

A brave king, he was always fighting a war.



1189

King John

Bad King John, he was a cruel and horrible man. He died eating too many peaches!



1199

King Henry III

He was a good king who gave money to the poor and liked to pray.



1216

King Edward I

He invaded and conquered both Wales and Scotland ruling both of them!



1272

King Edward II

Another bad King, he only listened to his best friend Piers Gaveston and died a nasty death in a dungeon



1307

King Edward III

He was a good king, even if he did start the 100 years' war.



1327

King Richard II

He tried to rule without parliament, so the barons helped the next Henry become king.



1377

King Henry IV

He stole the throne from Richard when he was fighting in Ireland. Hard luck Richie!



1399

King Henry V

He wanted to be King of England and France. You guessed it, he started a war!



1413



King Edward IV

He secretly married Elizabeth Woodville. Some say she was a witch!

1422 King Henry VI

He became king at 8 months old! He was weak and hated war. He never fought in any battles.



1461

King Edward V

He was 10 when he became king for 86 days. Then uncle Richard put him and his brother in a tower.



1483

King Richard III

He was a bad king. People say he had his nephews murdered in the Tower of London so he could be king instead.

1483



Meet King Henry IV – who ruled when Griff lived at Monkton Old Hall.



Hi Henry!

So when did you become king?

I became King on 30 September 1399 when I was 32.

What's your nickname?

Some people call me 'Henry Bolingbroke' because I was born at Bolingbroke Castle in Lincolnshire in England.

What are you most famous for?

I stole the throne from King Richard when he was away fighting in Ireland!

Design



What does Monkton Old Hall 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 Monkton Old Hall look like other buildings in the area?

What's different about it?

Castle

Pretty

Stone

Symmetrical

Square

Friendly

Tall

Thatched

Brick

Home

Elegant

Tower

Monkton Old Hall has been in place for over six centuries. We think it was built in the 1300s. That's over 600 years ago! We're not sure exactly when Monkton Old Hall was built. There aren't any parts of the house that are dateable. We often use **dendrochronology** but at Monkton none of the timbers or beams are original.

What other building materials can you find outside and inside Monkton Old Hall?

Look at the words in the box.

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

What is dendrochronology? (say *dend-row-cron-ologee*).

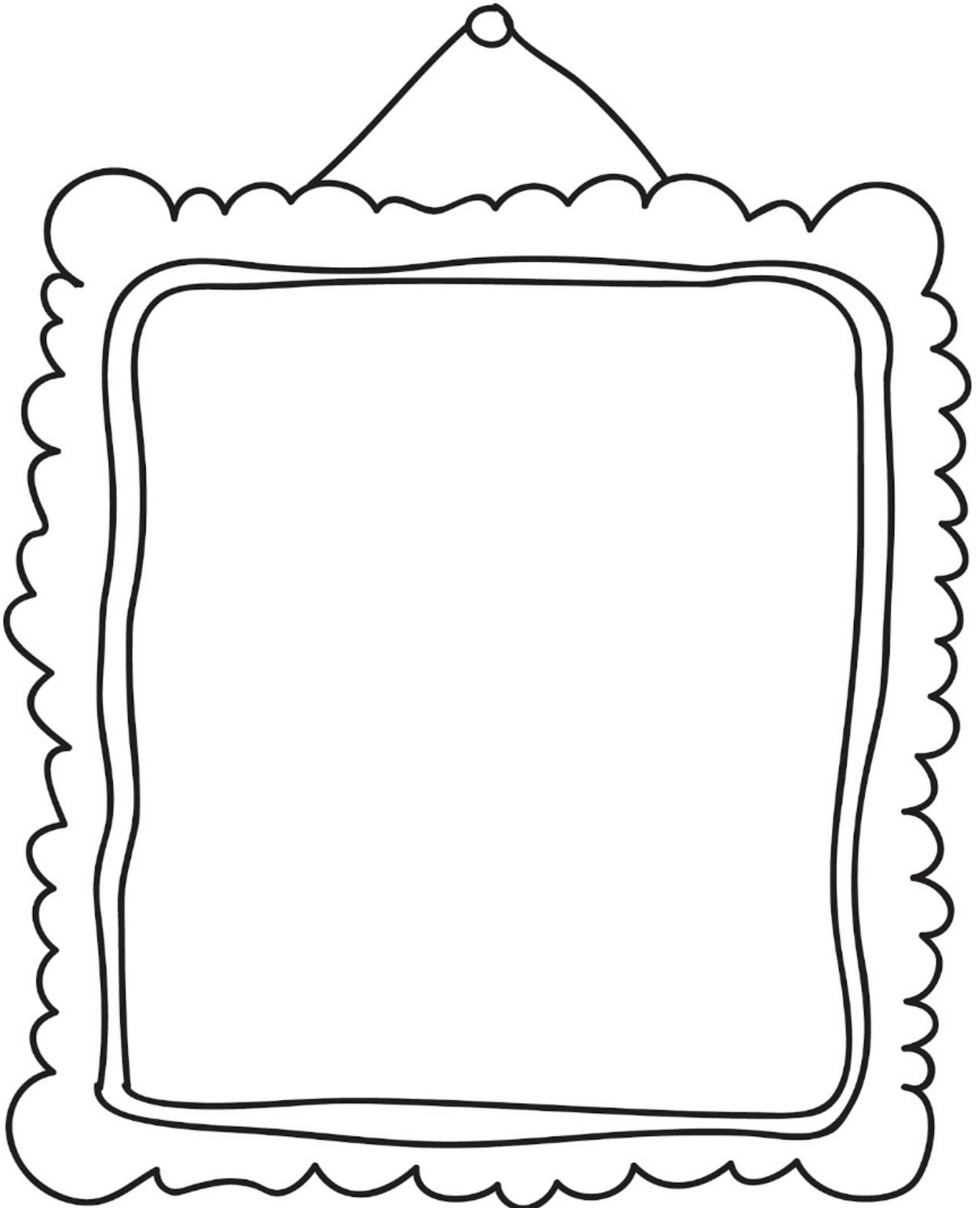
Scientists can use this process to work out how old the trees that made the beams in a building are... but at Monkton, all the timber was renewed in the 19th Century.

Timber is wood used in a building.

- Concrete
- Wood
- Plastic
- Clay
- Metal
- Stone
- Glass
- Flint
- Ceramic
- Brick



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 Monkton Old Hall.**





What is Monkton Old Hall 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.



Monkton was built when stone was still 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.



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.

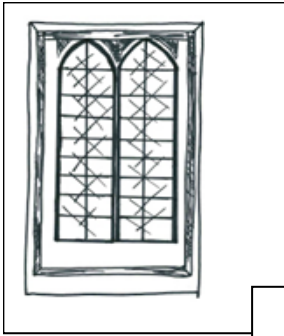
Mallet

Chisels

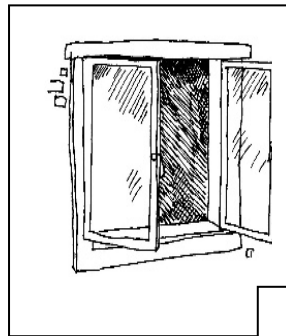




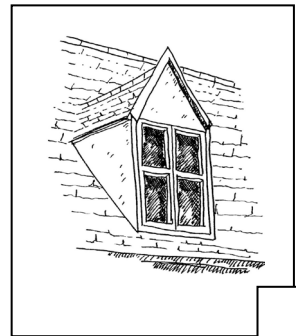
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows does Monkton Old Hall have?



Pointed or Gothic



Casement (it opens)

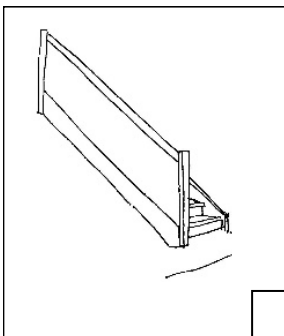


Dormer or attic (in the roof)

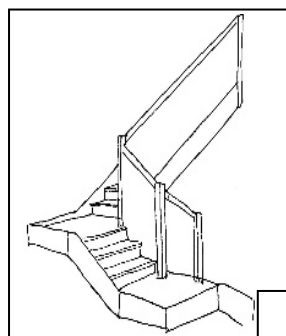
Fact:

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.

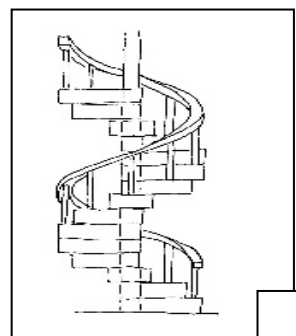
There are many different styles of staircases. Which style is closest to the staircase at Monkton Old Hall?



Straight

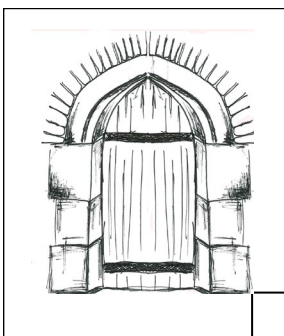


Quarter turn

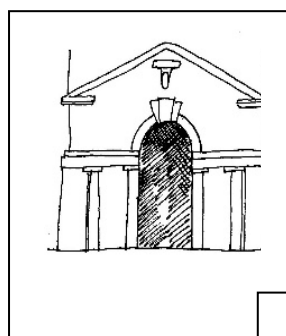


Spiral

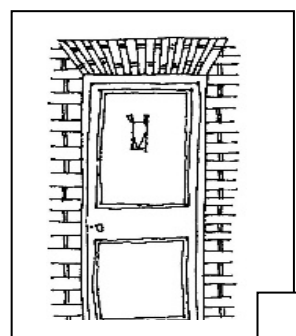
Entrances can be grand or simple. Which front door is most like the one at Monkton Old Hall?



Tudor arch



Porch



Doorframe

Quest



Discover more about Monkton Old Hall

Monkton Old Hall has stood here for about 650 years! During that, time things have changed inside and outside the building. Isn't it an amazing place? Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

Have you been up and down the spiral stairs yet? Go carefully and see if you can count how many steps there are? Put your answer in the box.

Can you find this view of Pembroke Castle?

Maybe you'll go and visit it.

Count how many complete diamonds there are in the window. Put your answer in the box.



Look at the photo on the right. See if you can stand in the exact spot that this photo was taken.

Are you in the right place? It's quite a puzzle isn't it?

(Clue: The painting is in the hall but you should be in a different room!)



Look at the photo on the right. Go outside and see if you can stand in the exact spot that this photo was taken.

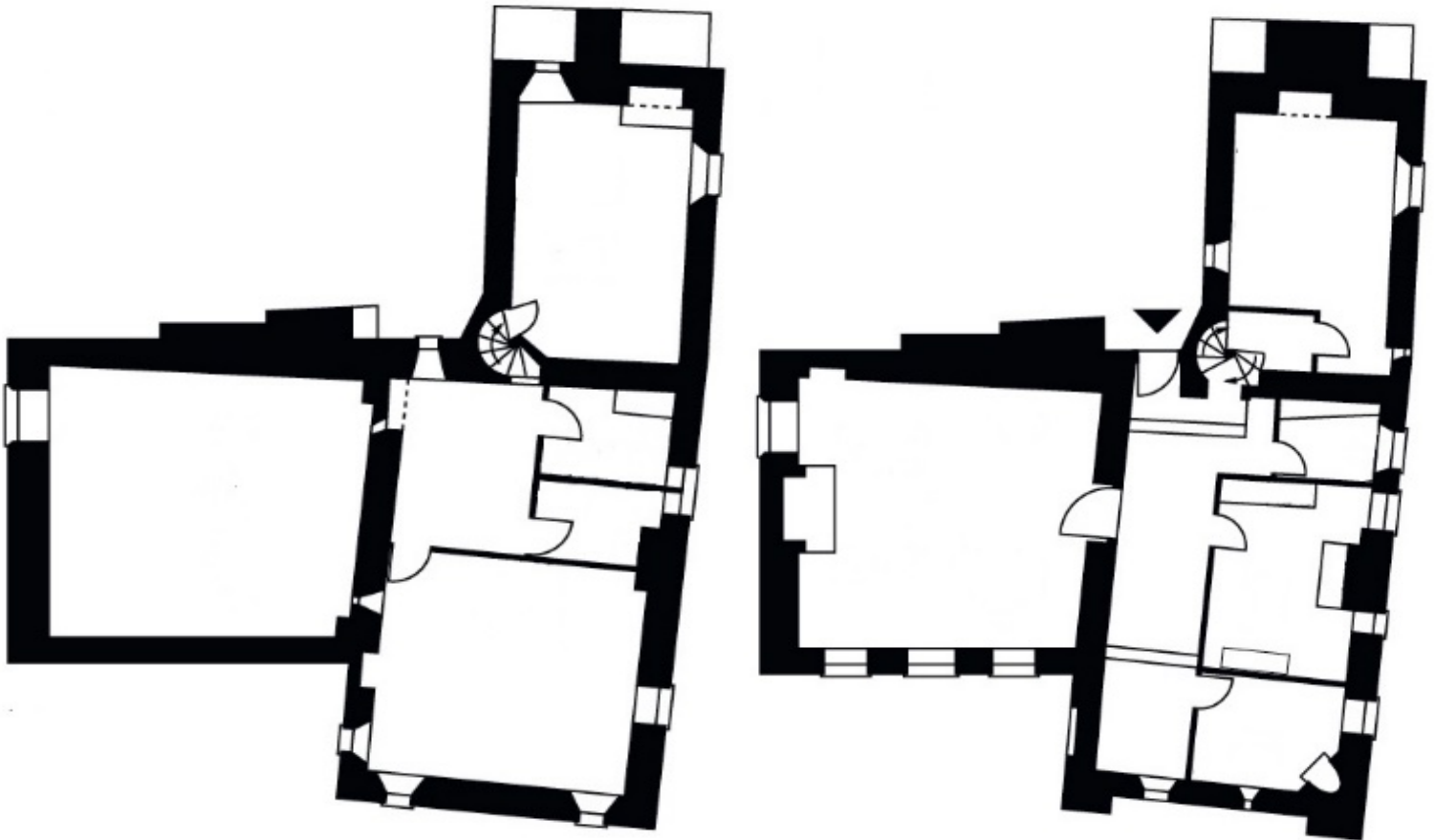
Are you in the right place? Is it sunny like the photo? Jot down what the weather is like for you now.





Living in Monkton Old Hall

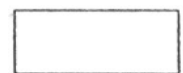
The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Monkton Old Hall has two main floors and two mezzanine floors. The plans below show you the shape of each room. Take a walk around. Write on the plan what each room is used for. Mark the bedroom you are sleeping in with a star.



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.



Bed



Rectangular (or a round) table



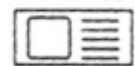
Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



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

Your favourite chair

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

Draw the pattern of a rug on the floor

In the box below, draw the view from your favourite window. What can you see in the distance?

Pssst!.....Have you found the undercroft yet? It's under the main hall.



Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. Why were there lots of visitors when Griff worked here?

Visitors to Pembroke Castle stayed here	Lots of pilgrims stayed when they travelled to St David's	Lots of monks lived here & their families came to see them	Visitors would come to see special sailing races on the sea
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2. What is a hospitium?

A guest house	A chapel	A library	A grand hall
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3. Which castle can you see a great view of from the garden?

Harlech Castle	Monkton Castle	Cardiff Castle	Pembroke Castle
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4. What was the title of the person who looked after the Priory?

Abbot	Prior	Monk	Canon
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5. Where is St David's?

Central Wales	North East Wales	South West Wales	North West Wales
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6. Around what year were the main priory buildings knocked down?

1100	1066	1539	1600
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7. What year did Miss Muriel Thompson buy Monkton Old Hall?

1913	1393	1933	2013
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8. What did Miss Thompson use to make furniture for Monkton Old Hall?

Driftwood	Redwood	Plywood	Dogwood
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To find the answers skip two pages...



Monkton Old Hall Word Search

Now have a go at the Monkton Old Hall word search. The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

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

MONKS	MONKTON	GUESTHOUSE	VIEWS
PRIORY	OLD HALL	HOSPITIUM	STONE
GARDEN	PEMBROKE	PILGRIM	WALKS
SPIRAL	CASTLE	ROUTE	BEACH
STAIRS	MEDIEVAL	WALES	COAST

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

/
20



Who caught what?

Each object played an important part of a monk's life. Match the monk to the object.

1 2 3 4 5



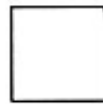
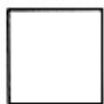
cup

candle

fish

bell

book



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

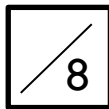
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5



Quiz answers:

1. Lots of pilgrims travelled to St David's
2. A guest house
3. Pembroke Castle
4. Prior
5. South West Wales
6. 1539
7. 1933
8. Driftwood

How many did you get right?



In the space below make your own Monkton Old Hall quiz and test the adults! Remember to make it super hard!

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Learn a little Welsh...

Impress the people you are staying with by learning a little bit of Welsh.

Welsh can be tricky to learn, as some of the letters sound different from how they would in English.

<u>English</u>	<u>Welsh</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>
Hello	Sut mai	Sit mae
My name's	Fy enw i yw	Vuh an-oo ee yu
Goodbye	Hwyl fawr	Hueyl vowrr
You're welcome	Croeso	Kroy-ssoh
Please	Os gwelwch ynnda	Os gewl-ookh uhn thah
Thank you	Diolch	Dee-olkh
How are you?	Sut ydych chi?	Sit uh-deekh khee?

Have you seen any Welsh words whilst you've been staying here? Next time you go out, see if you can spot the word 'Araf' on the roads. This means 'slow-down'.

Write down any others you've seen in the space below and then look them up when you get home.



Design your own castle!

Have you been out to the garden and seen the view of Pembroke Castle? Imagine that you are designing your own castle and draw it here. You can be as creative or as crazy as you like!

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying the majority of the page below the text. It is intended for the student to draw their own castle design.



Make a traditional Welsh Rarebit (easy!)

The cheese needed for a good Welsh Rarebit uses a harder cheese than was made in Wales so the Welsh had to swap their sheep for hard Cheddar from England.

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

Ingredients:

4 slices of bread	2 tsp Worcestershire sauce, if you like
225g grated, hard cheese like Cheddar	1 level tsp mustard, if you like
1 tbsp butter	2 tsp flour
4 tbsp milk (or beer!)	Shake of pepper

Pre-heat the oven: fan 140 °C or electric 160 °C: Gas 3

- Put the cheese, butter, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, flour and pepper into a saucepan.
- Mix well and then add the milk or beer to moisten.
- Stir over a gentle heat until all is melted. Stop stirring when it becomes a thick paste.
- Leave to cool for a few minutes while you toast the bread on one side (if possible).
- Spread the rarebit paste over the untoasted side and put under a hot grill until it starts to bubble and go brown in places. Doesn't that smell good! Make sure you let it cool down a bit before you eat it.



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. Here's the Welsh flag, which you'll probably have seen before.

Each colour has its own meaning:

Yellow: means truth, loyalty and justice

White: means bravery and strength

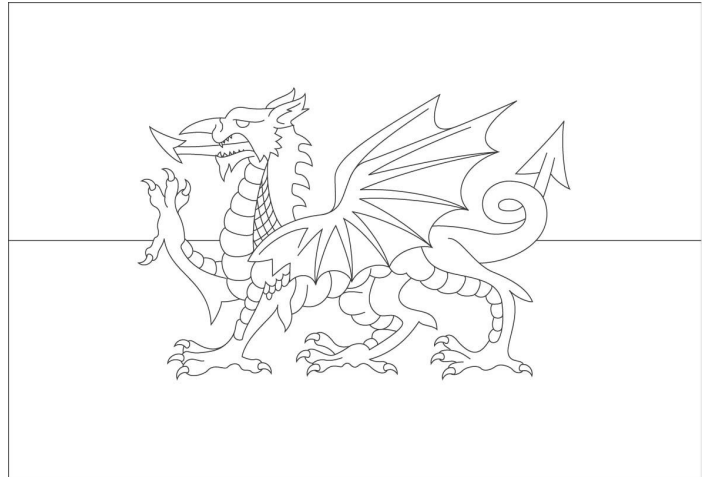
Red: means peace and honesty

Blue: means generosity

Green: means determination

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.

