

History



Find out about Paxton Tower's Lodge's past . . .

Croeso! (say *cress-oh* - that means welcome in Welsh).

My name is Thomas Morgan, but I'm usually called Tom. I'm eleven years old and I'm Welsh and I've lived here all my life. My Dad is the caretaker of Paxton's Tower. Have you been up to see it yet? Here it is:

Can you see people in a horse and cart driving up to it? I bet you just ran up through the gate didn't you?

My Dad looks after the Tower and collects the money from all the people who come from far and wide to visit. It costs 3 pennies (that's old pennies) to go up close and look at the Tower, but in your time, you can go up and see it for free! Dad also has a bit of land to look after and some animals. Mum's busy looking after the house and all my little brothers and sisters! They can be very troublesome. Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Facts:

Memorial: A memorial is a building or a statue designed so that you would remember a person who died whenever you looked at it.

Gothic Revival began in England in the 1740s. It "revived" bits of Gothic architecture that you find in very old cathedrals. Features such as arched or pointed windows, **pinnacles** (small spires) and decorative patterns were popular.

A **folly** is an expensive, fancy building without a real purpose.



The Tower is an amazing building don't you think? It looks like a castle, but really it's a **folly** and it's built in the **gothic revival** style. It was built about 1810, over two hundred years before your time, because Sir William Paxton wanted to build a **memorial** to Admiral Nelson.

Nelson was a British naval commander who was very famous for victories at sea against the French during the Napoleonic wars. He won the Battle of Trafalgar at sea in 1805, but was also killed during the fighting.



Have you seen the view from the Lodge? Well the view from the Tower is even better. Go up and see it for yourself!



I love to run about up there, playing with my brothers and sisters. We play hide and seek and have lots of fun. Dad says that even though Sir William Paxton says he built the Tower to honour Nelson, he also built it for fun too!



Here's Sir William Paxton. He was born in 1745, in Edinburgh. He made lots of money out in India and wanted to **improve** all the land around Middleton Hall where he lived.

He wanted to show how **cultured** (say kul-chur-ed) he was by building a tower because at that time, it was very fashionable to have a tower as a folly or an eyecatcher on your land. A bit like having the latest big fancy car or phone in your time!!

Would you rather have the latest fancy new phone or build an amazing tower like Paxton?

Fact:

Improve: To improve means to make something better, Paxton wanted to make the land look better and grow more crops.

Cultured: To be cultured means to be a citizen of the world; to know about art and books and have good judgement.

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 III **– who ruled when Paxton’s Tower Lodge was built.**



Hi Georgie!

So when did you become king?

I became King on 25 October 1760 when I was just 22.

What are you most famous for?

I went mad, don't you know!

What is your favourite thing to do?

I like playing with my youngest children. I had 15 in all!

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

I tried to tax the Americans in the colonies and do you know what? They declared their independence!

Design



What does Paxton's Tower Lodge 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 Paxton's Tower Lodge?

.....

Castle

Tall

Pretty

Folly

Stone

Brick

Symmetrical

Home

Square

Elegant

Friendly

Tower

Paxton's Tower Lodge was built between 1810 and 1840 – Paxton's Tower itself was built between 1808 and 1812. The Lodge was built to house the caretaker for the Tower.

This kind of building is what we call a **vernacular** (say *ver-nak-u-lar*) building, which means that it was built for living in out of materials that could have been found locally.

The Lodge is typical of the kind of cottages that were built in Wales in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The walls have been **limewashed**. This helps protect them from the weather and also keeps the cottage looking neat. Limewash used to be very cheap to put on every few years – that's not so true today!

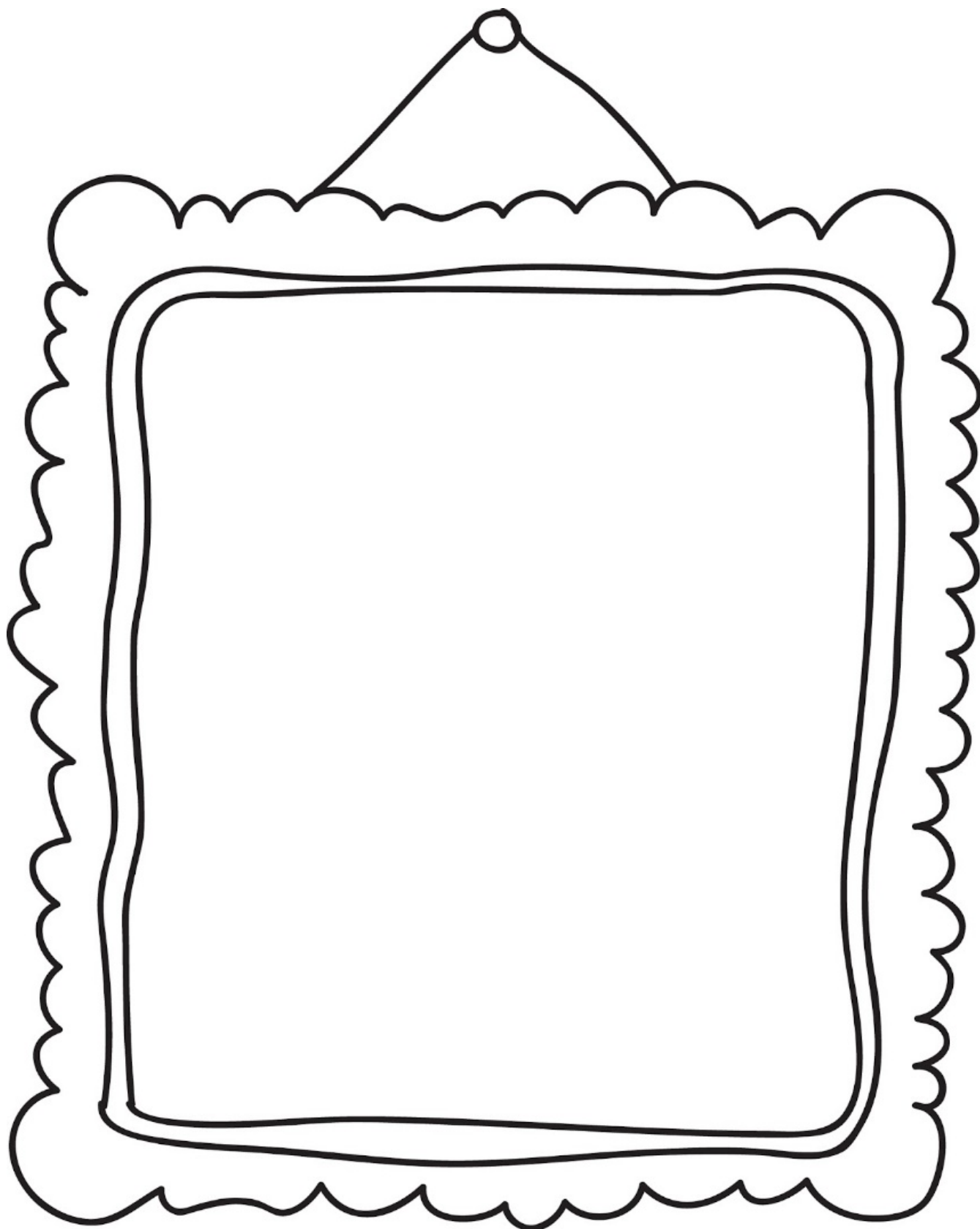


Fact:

Limewash is a mixture of lime (not the citrus fruit, silly but the stone) and water. It's a very traditional decorating product which allows the structure to "breathe" – allowing any moisture present to evaporate away rather than be trapped in the wall.



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 Paxton's Tower Lodge.**





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 buildings 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 – but stone still looked smart!

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.



In medieval and Tudor times, stone was taken out of the ground by hand. By the time Paxton's Tower Lodge was built in the 1810s, stone was blasted out of the ground with explosives - like it is today. The one in the picture shows what quarries look like now.



Paxton's Lodge is built of rubblestone, which means the blocks are rough.

People who work with stone are called stonemasons. They build walls, and sometimes 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.

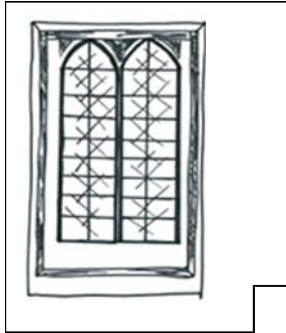
Mallet

Chisels

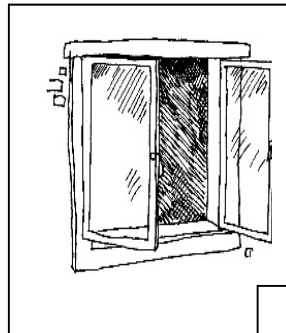




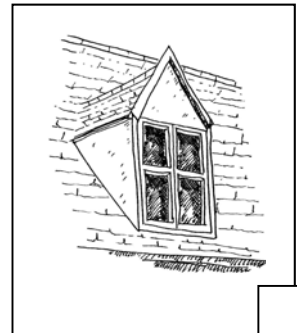
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows does Paxton's Tower Lodge have?



Pointed or Gothic



Casement (it opens)

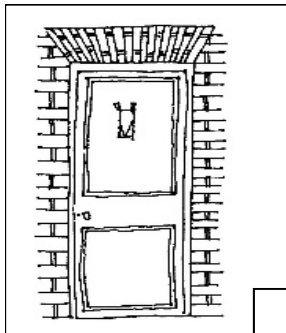


Dormer or attic (in the roof)

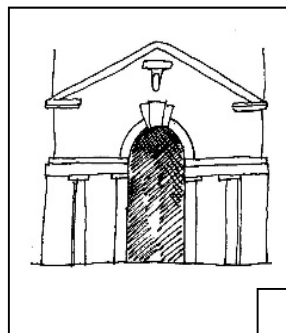
Fact:

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.

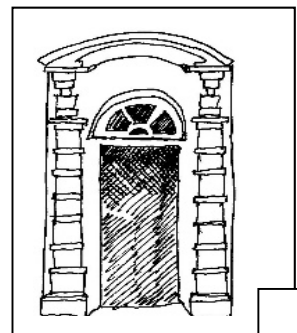
Entrances can be grand or simple. What is the front door of Paxton's Tower Lodge like?



Doorframe

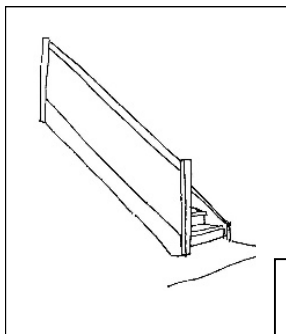


Porch

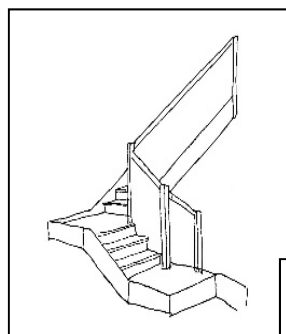


Canopy

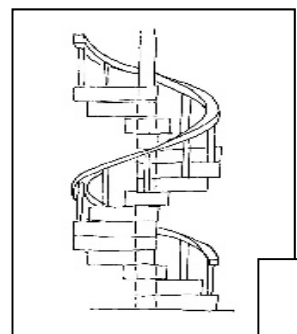
There are many different styles of staircases. Which style is closest to the staircase at Paxton's Tower Lodge?



Straight



Quarter turn



Spiral

Quest



Lodge

Go outside and see if you can find where this photo was taken? What can you see hanging on the wall? What do you think the roof is made from? _____

Yes, you're right, they're both made from slate.



Fact:

Slates are usually used **on roofs** but at Paxton's Tower Lodge they are also hung on the side of the building.

This is to prevent wet and damp from bad weather getting into the building.

There are lots of slate mines in Wales and it was very popular when the cottage was built.

Can you find big pieces of slate on the inside of Paxton's Tower Lodge? **Go back inside the house** and have a look. The second picture on this page might give you a little clue if you get stuck.

Then search over the whole house, and write a list of all the places you can find slate inside and outside Paxton's Tower Lodge:

-
-
-
-

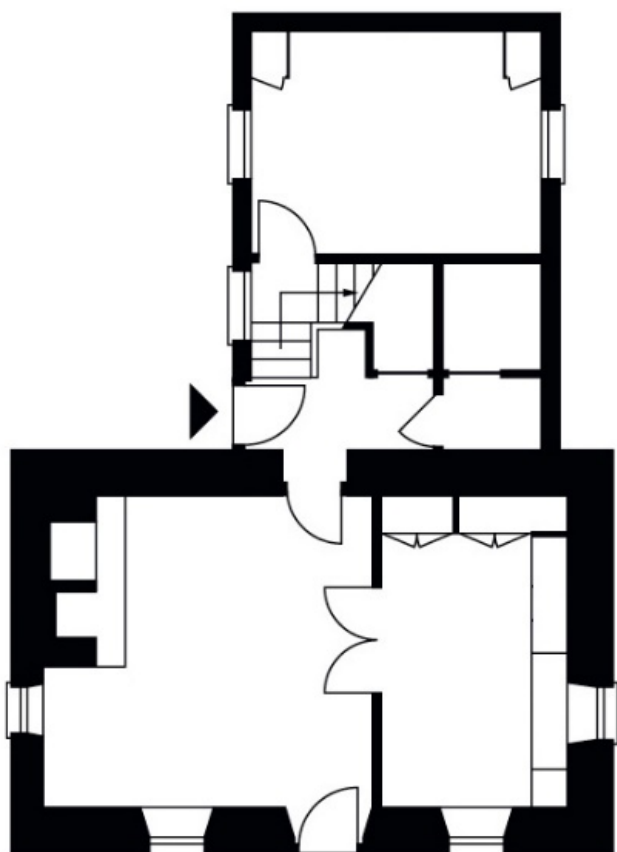
Is there anything else interesting that you've found? Jot some notes about it below.



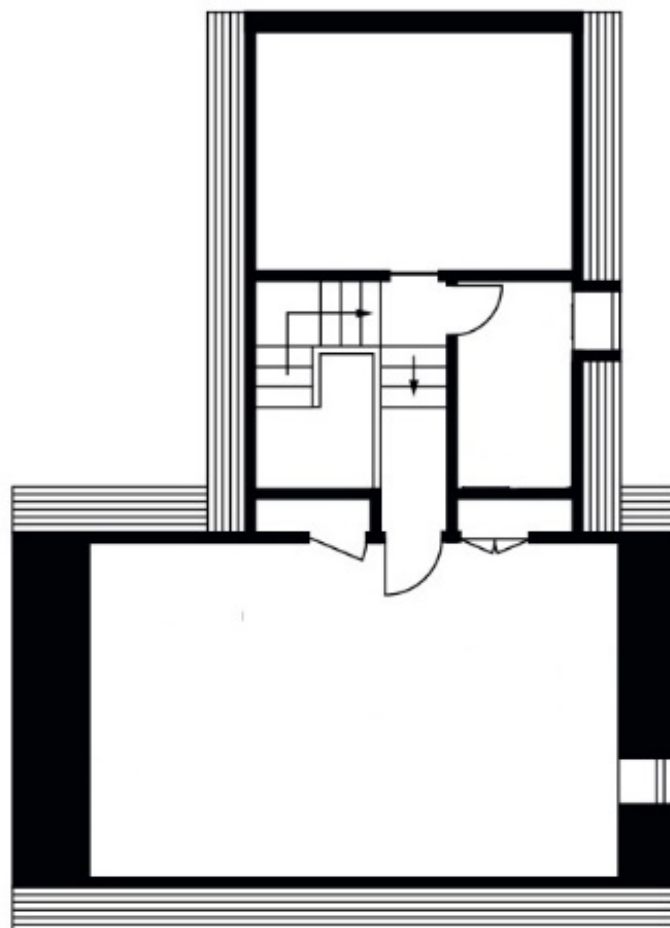


Living in Paxton's Tower Lodge

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Paxton's Tower Lodge 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 the bedroom you are sleeping in with a star. ★



Ground Floor

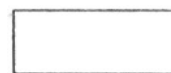


First Floor

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



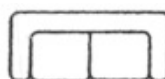
Rectangular (or a round) table



Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



Can you find an example of each of these things inside Paxton's Tower Lodge?

Describe, or draw the object when you find it.

Your favourite chair

Your favourite window

Draw the pattern of a rug on the floor

In the box below, draw a picture of a view from Paxton's Tower Lodge. Can you see any old or interesting trees? Are there any animals around?

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a view from Paxton's Tower Lodge.



Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. Why was Paxton's Tower Lodge built?

To remember Admiral
Nelson.

To build the highest
tower in Wales

To make extra rooms
for guests.

To give workmen
something to do.

2. Which of these words could not be used to describe Paxton's Tower?

Eye catcher

Tower

Folly

Manor house

3. What animal will you definitely not see near Paxton's Tower Lodge?

Squirrel

Pheasant

Giraffe

Deer

4. What was the main job of the caretaker who lived at Paxton's Tower Lodge?

To take photos of the
visitors

To keep the Tower
clean and tidy

To collect the money
from the visitors

To look at the view

5. Who was on the throne when Paxton's Tower Lodge was built?

Victoria

Henry VII

George III

Elizabeth II

6. How much did it cost to go up and see the Tower when Tom lived in the Lodge

30p

3 new pennies

3 pounds

3 old pennies

7. Which capital city is Paxton's Tower Lodge closest to?

Cardiff

Edinburgh

London

Belfast

8. What is the roof of Paxton's Tower Lodge made of?

Rushes

Slates

Grass

Tiles

9. What is limewash?

A cocktail

Bubblebath

A decorative material

A fruit

10. What is the name for a baby deer?

Cygnets

Squab

Fawn

Beige

To find the answers skip one page...



Paxton's Tower Lodge Word Search

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

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

PAXTON	EYECATCHER	DEER	VIEWS
TOWER	GOTHIC	PHEASANT	WOOD
LODGE	MEMORIAL	SQUIRREL	WALKS
PROSPECT	ATTIC	WALES	LOW
NELSON	PICTURESQUE	ESTATE	BEAMS

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

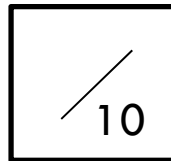


Answer sheet:

Quiz answers:

1. To remember Admiral Nelson
2. Manor house
3. Giraffe
4. To collect the money from the visitors
5. George III
6. 3 old pennies
7. Cardiff
8. Slates
9. A decorative material
10. Fawn

How many did you get right?



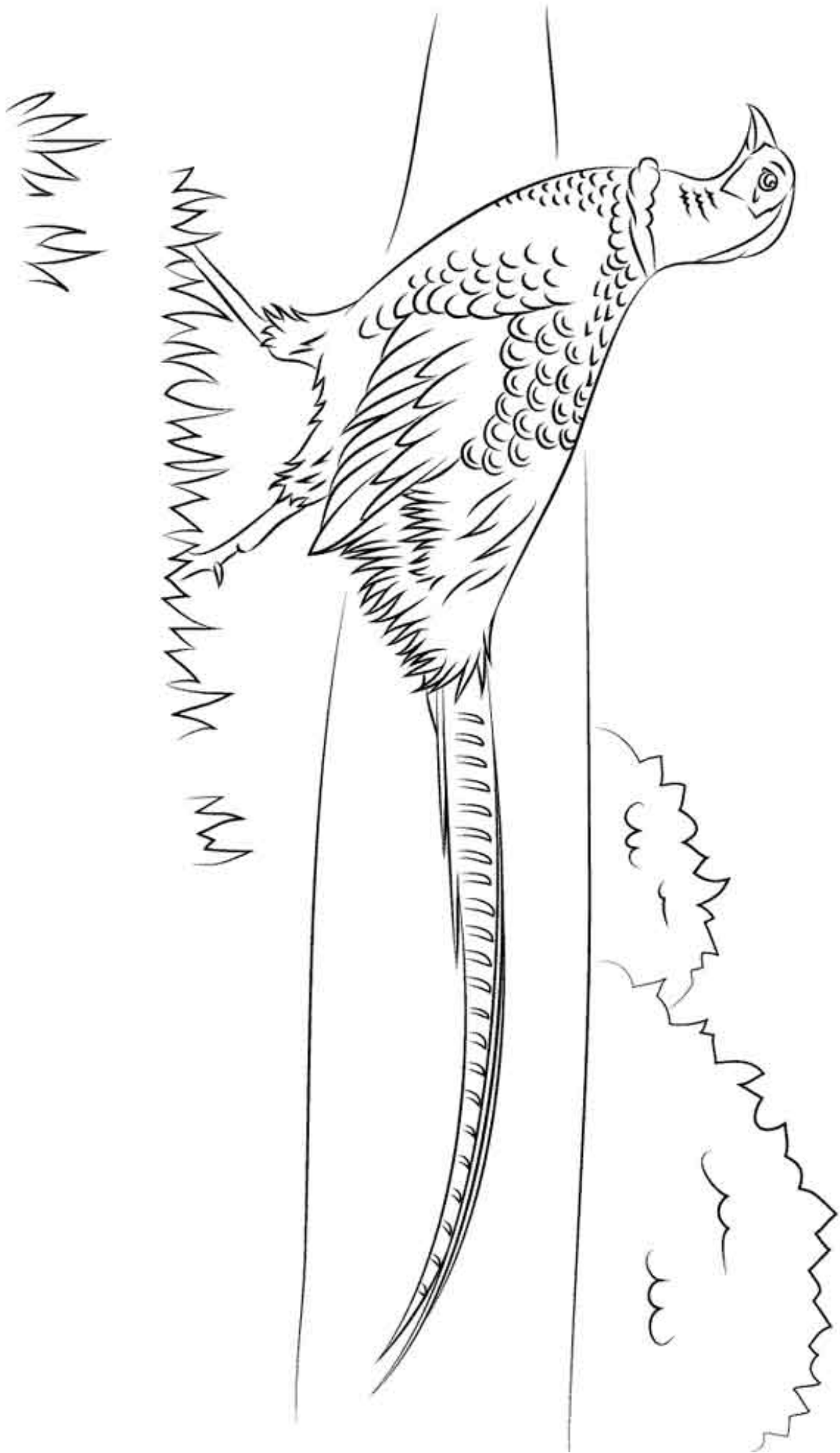
Pheasant Facts:

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.

Over the page there is a picture of a pheasant (say *fez-ant*).

Why not look up the pheasant in the Bird Book in the Landmark bookcase to copy the colours?

Have you seen any pheasants during your stay? The male bird is colourful in order to attract a mate. You might see him surrounded by a group of females which are a dull brown colour.



Design your own Tower

When Sir William Paxton built his Tower, it was quite a fashionable thing to do if you had lots of money. Have a go at designing your own tower, you can make it like Paxton's Tower, or you can make it up completely from your own imagination! Be as creative as you want – there are no rules!

Give your tower a name too.



Make some Welsh cakes (Picau ar y maen)

These spiced cakes are also known as bakestones in Wales because they were traditionally cooked on a flat stone over a fire. When spices became available in the 17th century these were added for extra flavour. You can use a frying pan instead of a bakestone! Ask an adult to help you.

Ingredients

225 g self-raising flour
110g g unsalted Welsh butter
1 large egg, beaten
1 tbsp raisins or currants
85 g golden caster sugar
A little milk if needed

Fact:

Picau ar y maen (say 'Pikay air ee mine')

These are traditional Welsh tea cakes popular in Wales for the last 200 years.

- In a large bowl, rub the butter into the flour until it looks like fine breadcrumbs.
- Add the sugar, dried fruit and then the egg. Mix to combine, and then push together to make a dough. If the mixture feels a little dry, add a little milk.
- Lightly flour your work surface. Roll out the dough until it is about 5mm thick. Cut into rounds about 10 cm wide. If you don't have a cookie cutter, use a drinking glass instead.
- Rub a frying pan with a little unsalted butter.
- Place over a low-medium heat, and cook the Welshcakes slowly until golden underneath and slightly puffed.
- Turn them over and cook the other side until golden. They need about 2-3 minutes on each side.
- Remove from the pan and dust with caster sugar while still warm. You can eat them warm or cold, with or without butter on top. Yum!





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.

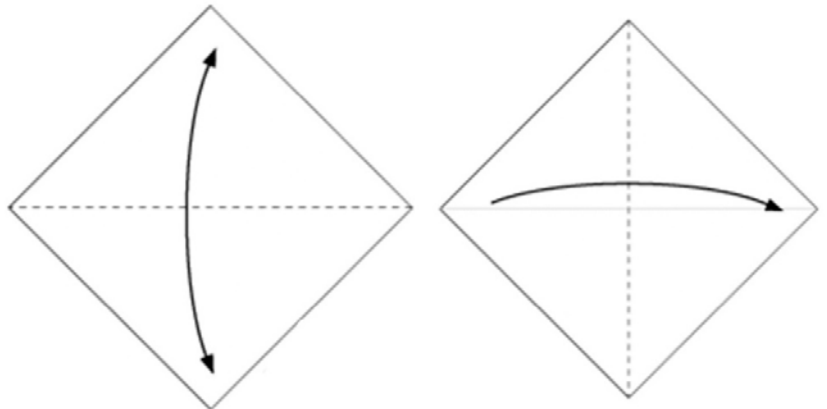
You will need:

- Paper
- Scissors
- Colouring pencils

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

Step One:

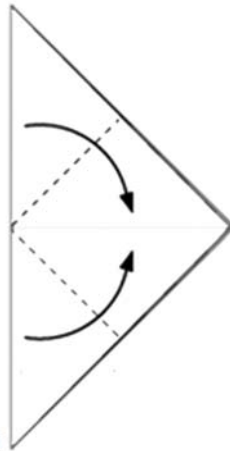
Cut the A4 piece of paper into a square. Follow the dotted lines on the sheet on the next page.



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

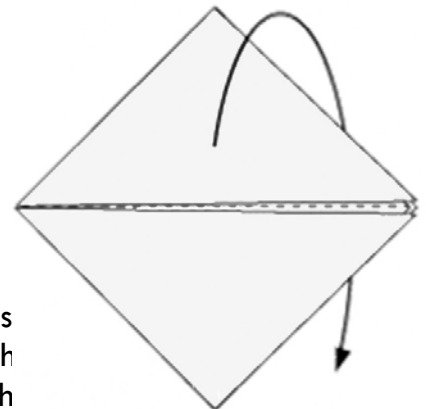
Step two:

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:

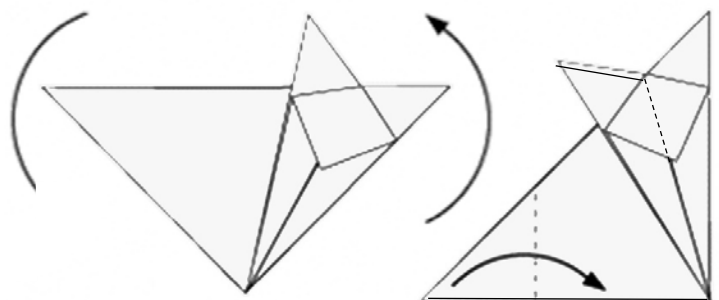
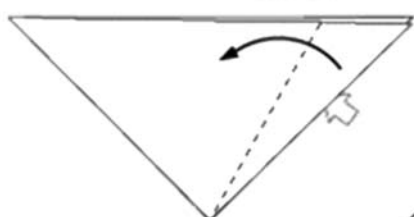
Fold the first flap back a little bit like in the diagram to make a fox ear.

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 s angle. Then fold the oth create the fox's tail. Th the fox's face!



CUT OUT TO MAKE YOUR ORIGAMI FOX

