

History



Find out about Bridge Cottage's past...

Hello, welcome to Bridge Cottage! My name is Peter Hockin. I've lived in Bridge Cottage with my mum, dad and 8 brothers and sisters since 1888. Can you imagine living in such a small house with so many people?! It gets so crowded and loud!

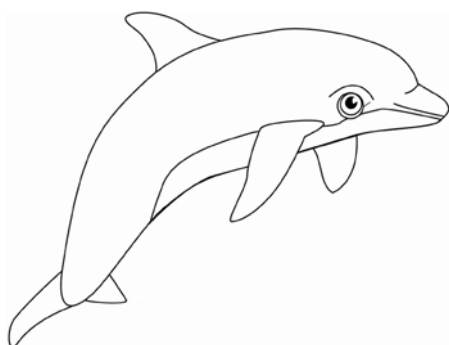
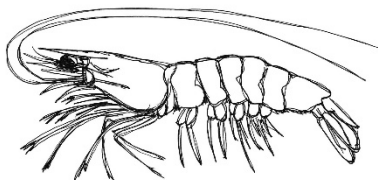
My dad **rents** Bridge Cottage from the Pine-Coffin family who own the Peppercombe estate. They have a big house up on the hill called Peppercombe Castle. It's not really a castle, just a very grand house with fancy gardens and tennis courts. When I want to escape the noise of my house, I walk all the way up the hill and admire the views. It's much more peaceful up there!



Peppercombe Castle – this building is no longer there, replaced by another Landmark – Castle Bungalow.

I really like living here; one of my favourite things to do is go shrimp fishing down on Peppercombe beach. My brothers and I have a couple of nets that we take down to the shore – the shrimp get trapped in the rock pools at low-tide so they are pretty easy to catch. We have competitions to see who can find the biggest one! I always win! Have you ever seen a shrimp before?

Once when we were on the beach we saw a group of **porpoises** playing and jumping out of the sea – it was amazing! I wonder if you've seen any during your stay?



Facts:

If you **rent** you will pay money as a fee to the person who owns the house or land you are living in or working from.

A **porpoise** is a mammal that lives in the sea. It looks a little like a dolphin but it's actually part of the whale family!



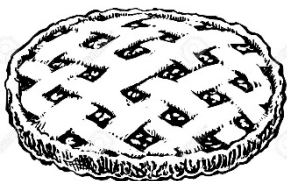
19th century washing tubs – the clothes would be soaked in the tub with soap and then scrubbed along the washboard. A mangle was used to get the extra water out before the clothes were hung up to dry.

My favourite job is collecting the apples from the orchard in autumn. I sometimes take a little nap in the shade of the trees – shhh, don't tell mum!

We sell the apples to another family on the estate and they made cider out of them – I'm told it's delicious.

We always hold a big basketful back though because mum makes the most delicious apple pie with them! We eat it with fresh cream from the dairy on the estate. Mmm...

What's your favourite pudding?

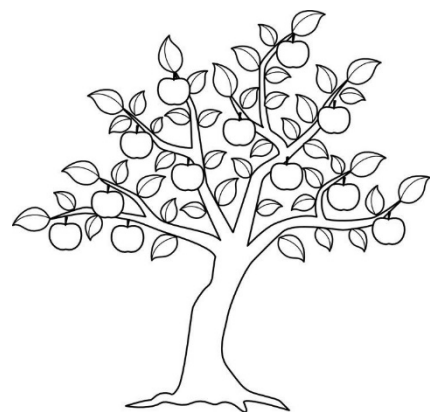


Although it's beautiful here, life is still difficult at times. We have to help a lot around the house and on the land. We have quite a big laundry room so mum takes in washing from other families on the estate and charges them for washing it. We all have to muck in to get the work done but washing other people's clothes is definitely not my favourite job – especially their smelly pants and socks! Yuk!

Do you have to help your mum and dad around the house?

Fact:

There would have been no running water at Bridge Cottage when Peter was living here. Water for the washing would have been collected from a local spring and carried up the hill in buckets. What hard work!



Have you been up the hill to Castle Bungalow yet? Did you know that the building was ordered from a catalogue! It was originally a boathouse on the lake at Portledge but Mrs Pine-Coffin wanted it moved to the top of the hill so she could use it as a summerhouse. How funny – moving a whole house!

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 Bridge Cottage** **was built.**



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 Bridge Cottage 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 Bridge Cottage look like other buildings in the area? What's different?

Glass

Pretty

Stone

Symmetrical

Square

Friendly

Tall

Industrial

Brick

Home

Elegant

Low

Bridge Cottage is what is called a 'vernacular building' – this means that it was made to live in and is built using locally available materials. It is made of rubblestone, mud and straw and is commonly known as a 'cob cottage'. The chimney is made of brick though and is very tall. Bridge Cottage is in a very sheltered spot and this tall chimney was needed to pull a good draft from the fire, if it were shorter, the fire would smoke and not stay lit.

The roof is thatched with water-reed and finished with a plain ridge – this is the tradition for thatched roofs in Devon.



The lean-to on the side of the cottage which now contains your bathroom, has a roof made from slate. Back when Bridge Cottage was built, in Devon and Cornwall the tiles were nailed directly onto the rafters instead of battens – this is called 'rag-slatting'.

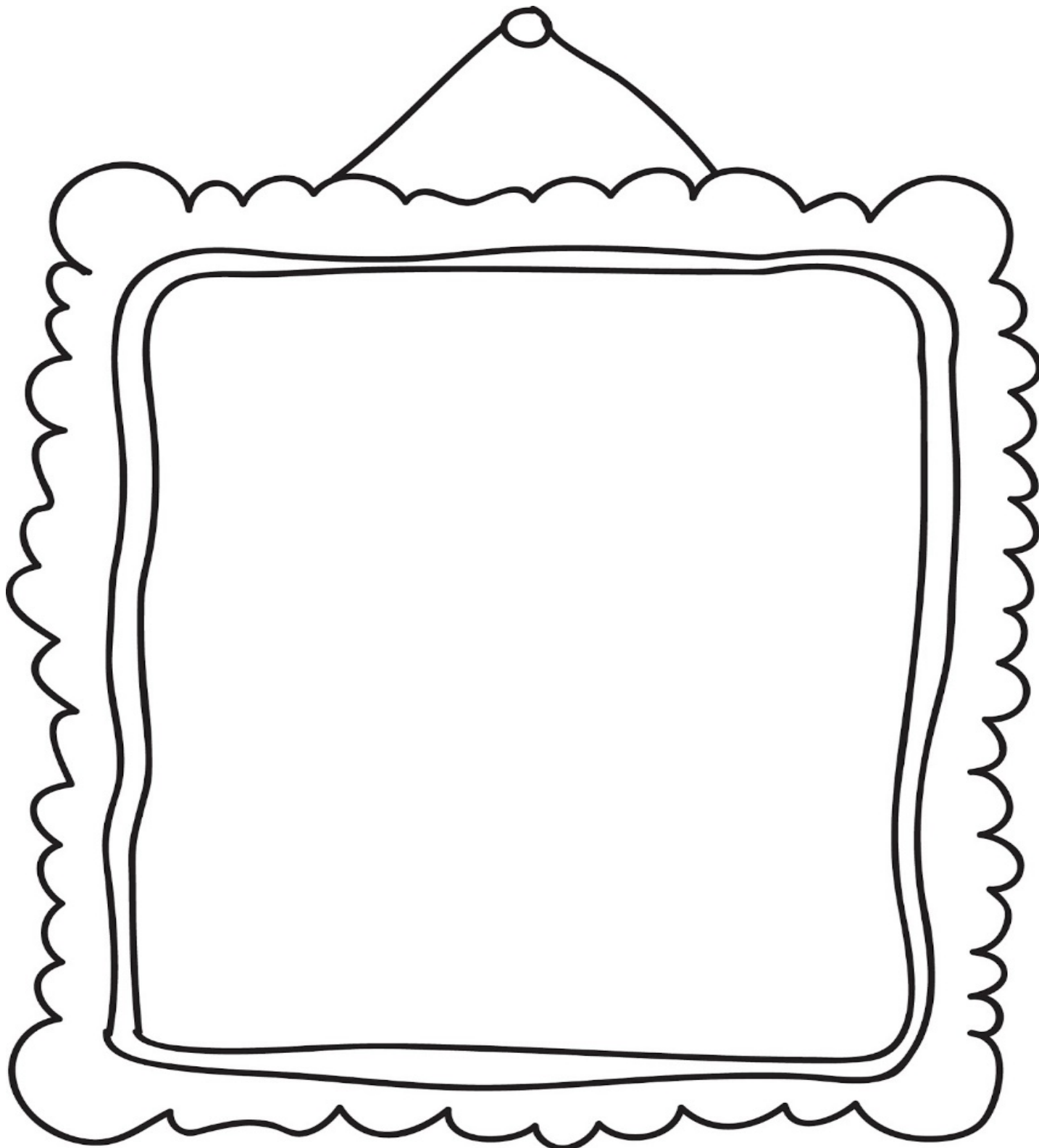
The pink colour was matched to a piece of the original render found on the cottage. What do you think of the colour?



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 Bridge Cottage. Which side will you choose?

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





What is Bridge Cottage's roof made of?

How to make a thatched roof:

It's hard work making a thatched roof (and scary if you're afraid of heights!)

1. Thatchers carry bundles of straw on their shoulders up ladders onto the roof.



2. They lay the straw out along the roof starting at the bottom, they use special thatcher's pins to hold the straw in place. They build the roof layer by layer until they have covered the roof. The thatcher smooths each layer of straw using a **leggit**.



3. After completing the layers for the roof the thatcher will put a layer at the top of the roof to make the ridge.

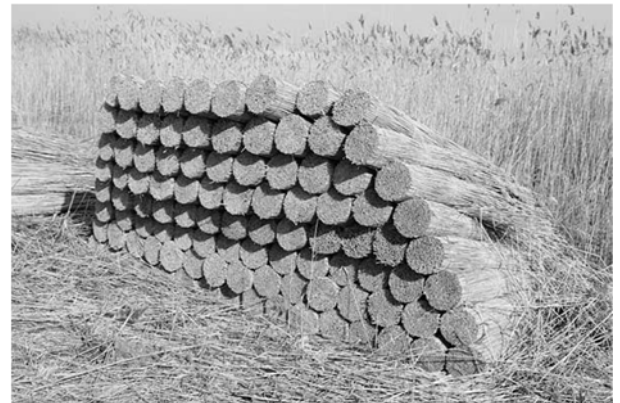


FACT:

A **Leggit** is a hand tool that pats the ends of the straw and reeds to make the roof smooth.



Thatch is a very old way of making a roof. It was very common up until the 1800s. After railways and canals were invented, it was quicker and cheaper to make roofs from slate which could be transported around the country more easily.

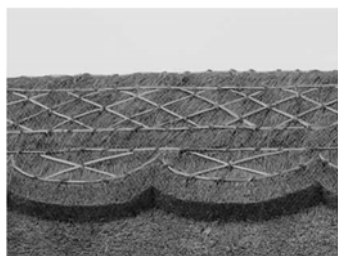


Thatch is made of water reeds or straw (yes the same wheat straw that makes bread!) To make thatch all you need is lots of dry long stems of it. Because it is a natural plant thatch doesn't last forever, it starts to decay just like any other plant. Who wants a soggy roof? A thatched roof will last 50-100 years before it has to be re-thatched.

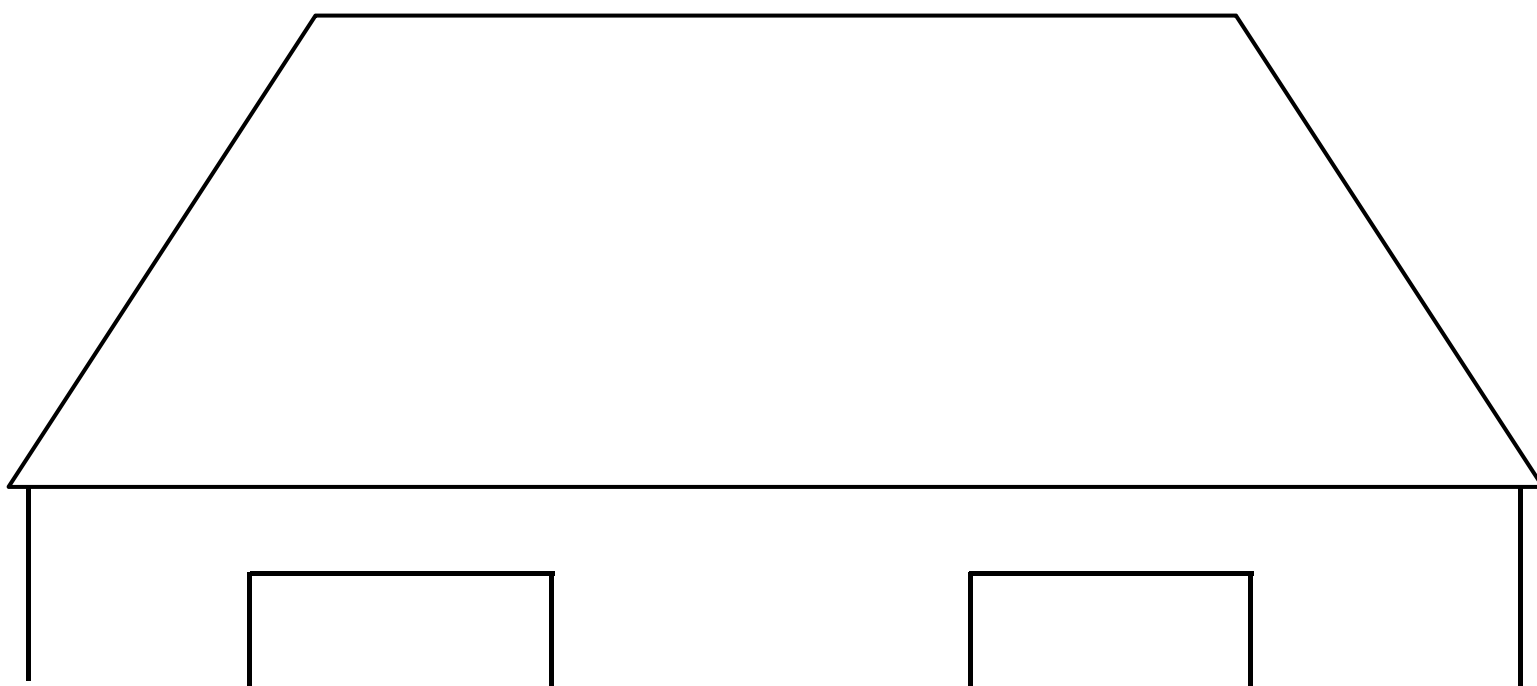




The top of a thatched roof is called a ridge. Some thatched buildings have fancy ridges that have an extra course of straw cut into a pattern. They fix sticks into the thatch to make the pattern on top. Here are some examples:



Design your own pattern for the ridge on the roof below, you can make it as fancy as you like! Sometimes people even put straw animals on the top of the roof, like a peacock or an owl.



I know what you're thinking – how does a plant keep the rain from getting in? A thatched roof has a steep slope and many layers making it thick. This means that the water runs along the straw dropping from one end of straw to the other. Because the roof is steep the water doesn't have a chance to work its way through the layers before it runs off. Next time you go outside, have a really good look at Bridge Cottage's roof!



Quest

Discover more about Bridge Cottage

Bridge Cottage has been here since 1830 – that's over 180 years old. The building itself hasn't changed much in that time, although the landscape around it has. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

Floorboards or ceiling?

Take a look at the ceiling in the living room – what you are looking at is actually the floorboards of the room above! This is a building tradition that has survived from the Middle Ages. Think about the ceilings in your house, what are they made from?



In the kitchen you'll find the range with its bread oven. This is a later addition to the house. Originally there was an open fire in this space and cooking was done over the open flames in specially designed pots with legs, like this one.



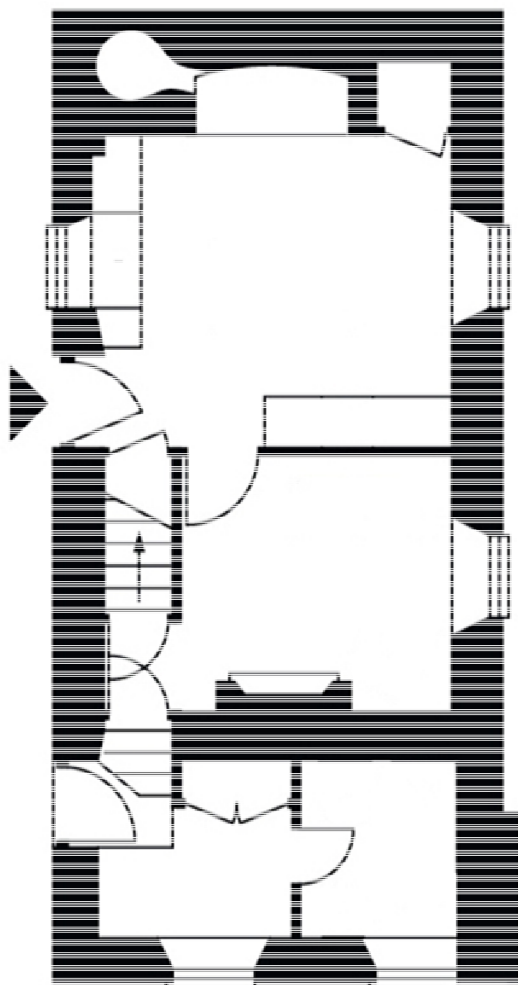
Go outside and walk around the building – can you see the wall made from stones taken from the beach? When Landmark took on Bridge Cottage it was very damp because earth had built up against the outside walls. The mud was cleared and the wall was made to keep the mud from slipping back. Clever eh?



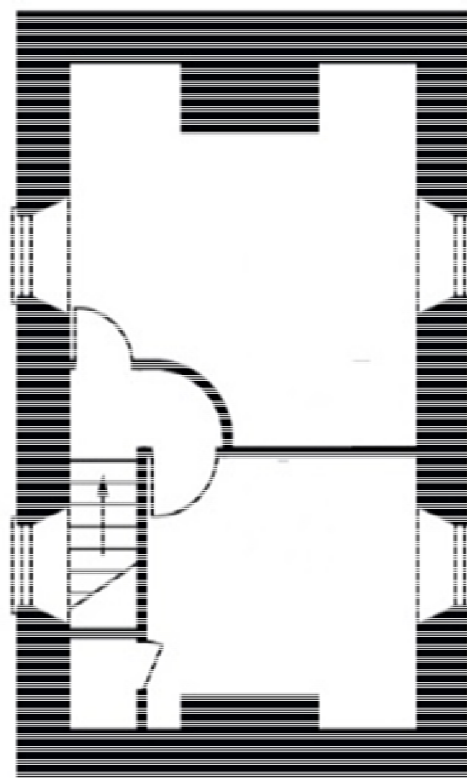


Living in Bridge Cottage

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Bridge Cottage 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.



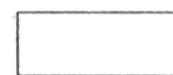
Bathroom



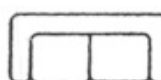
Cooker



Bed



Rectangular (or a round) table



Sofa



Kitchen sink



Can you find an example of each of these things inside Bridge Cottage. Describe, or draw the object when you find it.

Your favourite piece of furniture

Your favourite window

The pattern on a rug

Why not go on a leaf hunt and make crayon rubbings of the ones you find in the box below.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for students to place their leaf rubbings.



Bridge Cottage Word Search

Now have a go at the word search. The words are all things related to Bridge Cottage. The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

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

TREES

WINDOWS

LAUNDRY

FLOORBOARDS

STONES

DEVON

PEPPERCOMBE

VIEWS

VALLEY

COB

RANGE

ROOF

WASHBOARD

THATCH

RAGSLATING

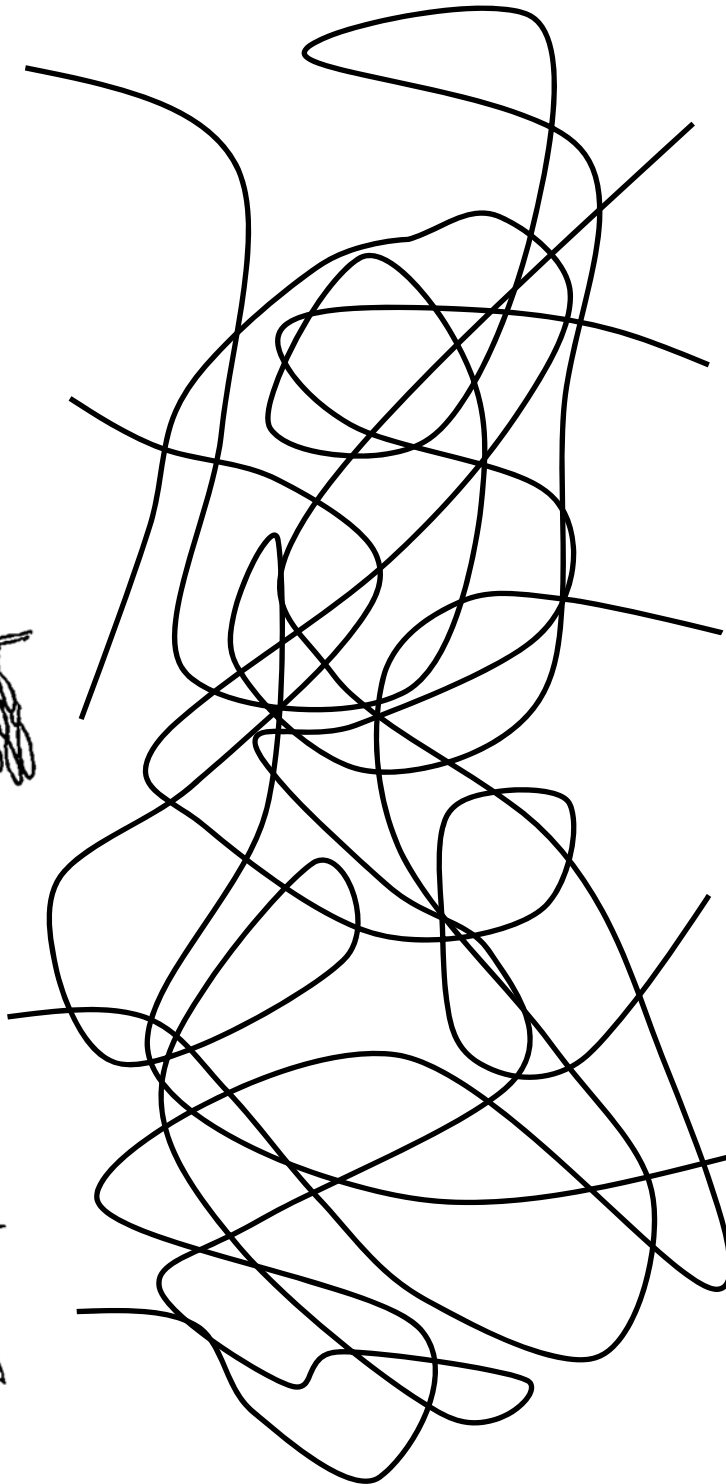
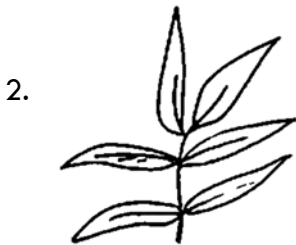
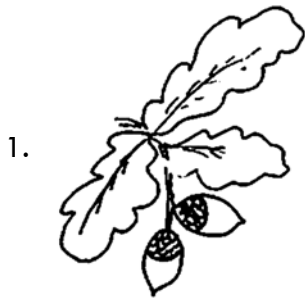
How many of these words did you find? Put your score in the box.

--



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.



Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. How many brothers and sisters did Peter Hockin have?

2

4

8

11

2. What is a vernacular building?

An office block
A home made of local materials

A stable

A tower

3. Which of these animals would you not expect to see in the woods at Peppercombe?

Wolf

Fox

Squirrel

Deer

4. Who was on the throne when Bridge Cottage was built?

(Psst... Check Unruly Rulers!)

George I

William IV

Henry VII

Elizabeth II

5. What is the name of the family who owned the Peppercombe estate?

Oak-Boxing

Bond-Webbers

Pine-Coffin

Waterman-Jones

6. What is a Leggit?

A thatching tool

A 19th century castle

A runner

A type of stone

7. Which fruit did Peter's family grow in the orchard?

Oranges

Watermelons

Apples

Dragon fruit

8. Which county is Bridge Cottage in?

Devon

Shropshire

Norfolk

Berkshire

9. What year was Bridge Cottage built?

1557

1600

1729

1830

To find the answers turn over...

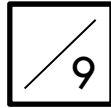


Answer sheet:

Question & Answer:

1. 8
2. A home made of local materials
3. Wolf
4. William IV
5. Pine-Coffin
6. A thatching tool
7. Apples
8. Devon
9. 1830

How many did you get right?



Fact:

The small stream at **Peppercombe** is just over a kilometre long, but its valley is relatively deep. The stream ends in a waterfall which has a number of **cascades** (say *cass-kayds*), each between 0.5 and 1.5 metres high. These cascades have formed due to the unequal hardness of the different beds of the underlying rock.

If you go down to Peppercombe beach you'll be able to see where the water falls over the cliff edge.

Peppercombe fact file

Take a look at the facts below and then test your grown-up's – I bet they won't know as much as you do..!

The red cliffs of Peppercombe beach are made of 280-million-year-old mud and sandstone which is found nowhere else locally!

The rock here was formed in the **carboniferous** (say *car-bon-if-er-us*) era – you won't see a lot of this kind of rock anymore because it is softer and gets worn away by the sea much quicker than the harder wearing Triassic rocks of the surrounding cliffs.

There once used to be an Iron age hillfort just above where Castle Bungalow sits.

The stream which runs through Peppercombe Valley is called 'the Pippa'.

Castle Bungalow was painted in cream and brown as these are the colours of the Great Western Railway.

Bake some scones

If you haven't ever had a scone you are missing out! Devon and Cornwall are famous for their scones. 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

1 large egg

225g of self-raising flour

2 tbsp buttermilk

Pinch of salt

Clotted cream

40g caster sugar

Jam

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!



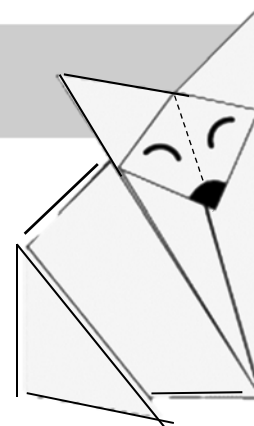


Make a woodland origami fox

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.

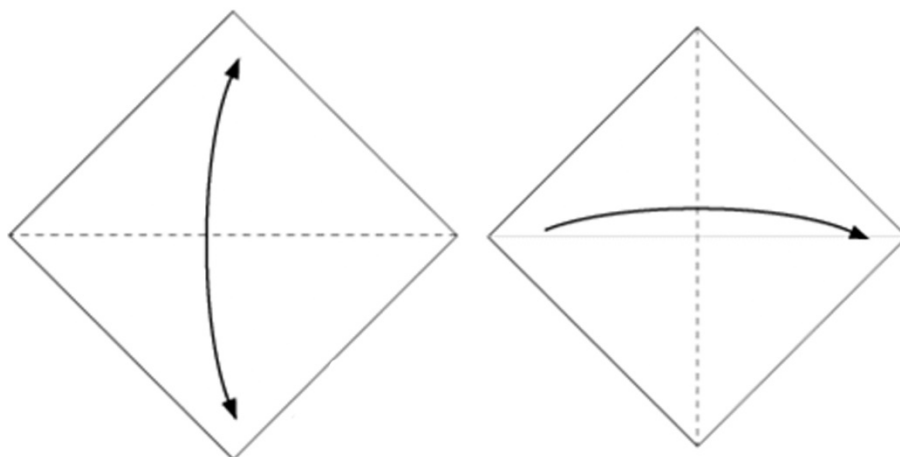
You will need:

- Paper
- Scissors
- Colouring pencils



Step One:

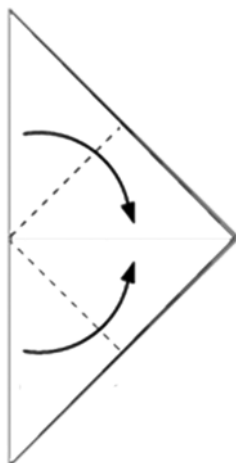
Cut the A4 piece of paper into a square. Follow the dotted lines on the sheet on the next page.



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

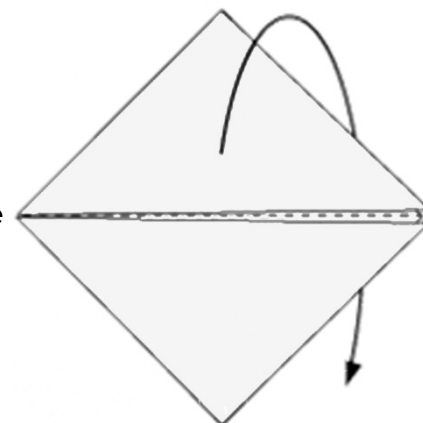
Step two:

Fold both sides in to make a diamond shape.



Step three:

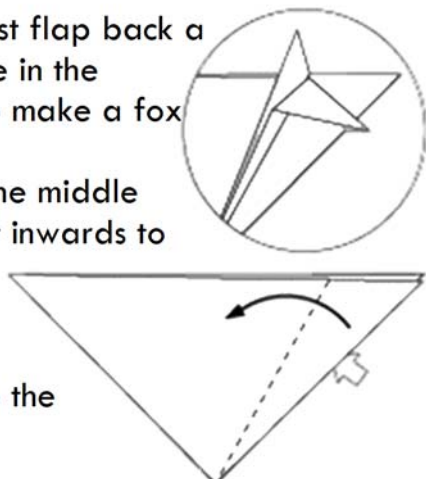
Once you have the diamond shape, fold the paper in on itself in half again so that all the flaps are on the outside edge.



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!

