

History



Find out about Wortham Manor's past...

Hello and welcome! My name is Lizzie. I was born in 1497 at Wortham Manor. That's over 500 years ago! I'm ten now. I have two older brothers and three younger sisters. My father, John Dinham, is lord of the manor and Mum's name is Margaret, although Dad calls her Marge.

We Dinhams are a noisy lot, forever getting into trouble. Mostly we're noisy because we want to be heard above the din of the workmen. We've got the builders in and so we've been camping in odd rooms to make room for them. Dad's big project is to put a whole new floor above our hall. When Mum heard about the plan, she worried about where to build the staircase so it fitted into the hall. They talked about it a lot and finally decided to build a staircase **turret** (that's a little tower) on the outside wall at the back.

Dad gets really cross when the builders do the wrong thing. Yesterday, he shouted at the carpenters, "you've mixed up the ceiling **bosses** again!"



"Remember, I'm knocking off at 3 o'clock."

Fact:

Bosses – No, it's not about who's in charge here...A boss is a carving in stone or wood on the ceiling. You see them where beams or ribs in a ceiling meet or cross. The ceiling bosses in the little sitting room at Wortham Manor are special because they are carved in many different patterns.



In which room can you see the ceiling bosses? _____

How many different designs do you see? _____

My sisters and I like to lie on the floor to get a proper view of them.





When Dad's not telling off the builders, he's over in Week-St-Mary. He rides over on our chestnut horse called Billy. He's helping a lady called Thomasine (say *Tom-ah-seen*) who is starting up a grammar school there for poor children. Sometimes I wish I could go to the new school but it's a bit far. Anyway, tutors come to us and teach us reading, writing and arithmetic. We also have singing and sewing lessons (not my favourite)! What is your favourite subject? _____ . Soon, I'll learn how to keep accounts and run a household because Mum says that will be important when I get married.

I thought I'd mention Week-St-Mary because one day you may stay in this Landmark – it's called The College (don't worry, it's not a school anymore!)



When I grew up at Wortham Manor, King Henry VII was on the throne. Here he is, holding his **sceptre** to show he's the king. The spotty fur around his neck is called **ermine**.

Fact:

Ermine – a type of wild animal, is a stoat or weasel that has white fur in winter and brown in summer. It lives in northern countries and being white helps it to stay out of sight in the snow. Well, this one didn't escape being caught for King Henry...

Only Kings and queens are allowed to wear robes of white ermine. The fur robe looks like it has black spots – these are the dark tips of the ermine's tail, which are sewn on specially.

Over the years, Wortham Manor became less grand. It was a farmhouse by about 1750. People forgot about it because it's quite remote and from the outside it didn't look that special.

In the 1940s, Wortham Manor was "re-discovered" and people saw that it really was a very old and special building.

Landmark bought Wortham Manor from Mildred Burgess in 1969. There was a lot to do because deathwatch beetles were busy munching the oak timbers. Eeuw! We made three flats and Miss Burgess lived in one until she died in 1974.



Many years later, Landmark decided to make Wortham Manor a whole house again. It's one of the biggest buildings that Landmark has in England. Now, you can stay here and see how a well-off Tudor family enjoyed life in their manor house.

Unruly Rulers

Who were the Tudor kings and queens?

This lot were a blood thirsty bunch, always chopping off heads. **Tudor** is the family name of the kings and queens. The first Tudor was Henry VII in 1485 and they lasted till Elizabeth I. Then the Tudors' cousins, the Stuarts, ruled from James I to Anne.



King Henry VII
1485
He defeated bad King Richard and became the first Tudor king. Hooray!



King Henry VIII
1509
6 wives, only 1 son. Angry at the Pope horrible Henry made himself Head of the Church destroying all the Catholics churches.



King Edward VI
1547
Henry VIII's only son, he had some big shoes (and clothes) to fill! King at nine and dead at 16. Poor Eddie.

Lady Jane Grey
1553
Only 16 when she became Queen for just 9 days before Mary Tudor took the throne. Off with her head!



Queen Mary I
1553
Back to Catholics again. Bloody Mary was her name, burning Protestants was her game.

Queen Elizabeth I
1558
Good Queen Bess knew leaving religion alone was best. (Unless the Catholics attacked!) Had lots of boyfriends but married none.





Meet King Henry VII – who ruled when Lizzie grew up at Wortham Manor

Hi Henry!

So when did you become king?

I became King on 22nd August 1485.

What are you most famous for?

I ended the dynastic 'War of the Roses' at the Battle of Boswell and became the very first monarch of the House of Tudor.

What is your favourite thing to do?

Count my money – I always want more of it!

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

I'm very, very mean about money. I've invented lots of ways to get my courtiers to cough up!



Design



What does Wortham Manor 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 Wortham Manor?

.....

Castle

Tall

Pretty

Thatched

Stone

Brick

Symmetrical

Home

Square

Elegant

Friendly

Tower

Wortham Manor is both medieval and Tudor. It was first built around 1450 - that's more than 550 years ago! It was a **medieval** (say med-ee-eval) hall house. That means everyone lived and ate together in one big room, called the hall. Stand in the dining room and imagine how it looked before the builders added a floor above. There would have been an open fire in the middle of the floor and smoke going up and out through a hole in the ceiling. Imagine how black the ceiling got from all that smoke! It's been cleaned up today (you can see it in the grand bedroom above).

Servants put together meals in a room behind the three fancy carved oak screens. There were probably two rooms behind – a buttery for storing beer(!) and wet stuff and a pantry for bread and dry food. The kitchen was probably a separate building nearby (then if there were a fire, the main hall could be saved).

The master of the house sat with his family at the opposite or High End for meals. They watched the servants bring the food in a procession from the Low End. Imagine every meal being like a formal banquet! Later they went upstairs to sleep in the room above called the **solar**.

After about 50 years, the new owner, John Dinham decided to update his manor house. People had worked out that they could fit an extra floor into the space of the hall. As well as the solar, he added chimneys and the turret stairs. Windows were added with slightly pointed heads in the Tudor style. They're called ogees.

Facts:

Medieval – is a style of building that began in the 1100s. Many big cathedrals are this style with pointed arched windows and buttresses on outside walls.

Tudor – is the period from 1485 to 1603.

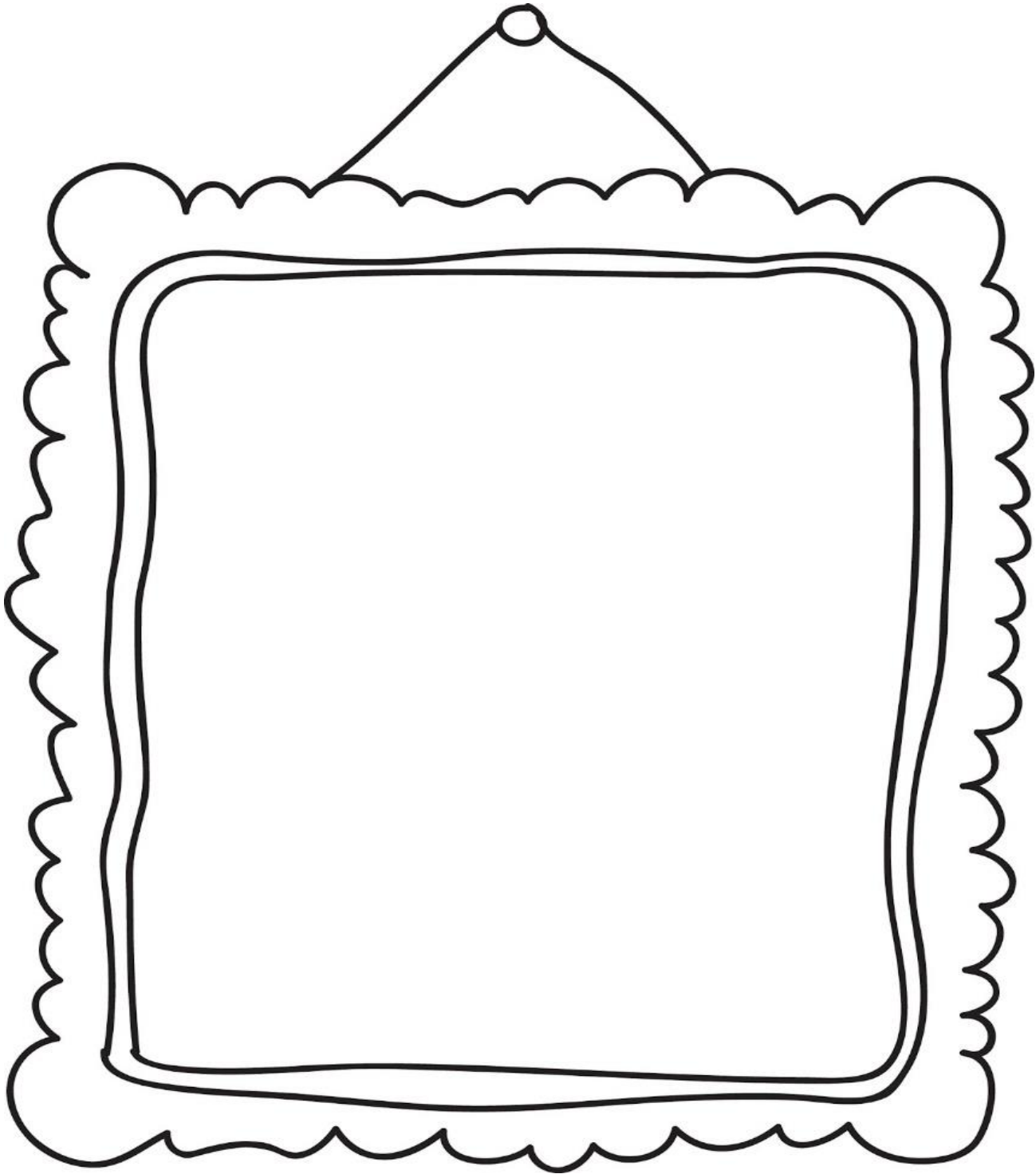
Solar – is a private room for the master of the house and his family, away from the servants. The word could come from the Latin word "solus" meaning "alone" – "I want to be alone!" Or, it could come from the Latin for "of the sun", "solaris". That's because it was probably the brightest room.

Today, we can have **solar** panels on the roof of a house to make energy from the sun.



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 Wortham Manor.**

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





What is Wortham Manor 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.



In medieval and Tudor times, stone was taken out of the ground by hand. Wortham Manor is made from very hard local stone called **granite**. It was taken from the ground nearby. 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. The stone windows with the pointy tops below are Tudor and have been carved into shapes called ogees. They use a mallet and special tools called chisels to shape the stone.



Mallet

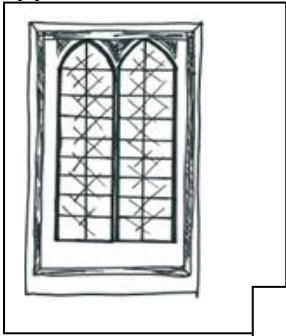


Chisels

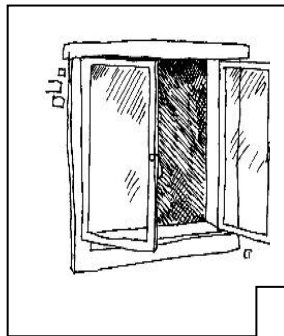




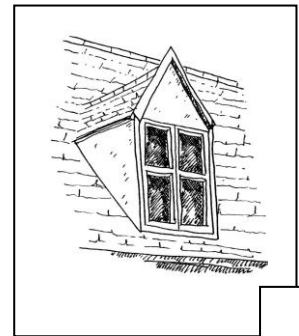
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows does Wortham Manor have?



Fixed Picture



Casement

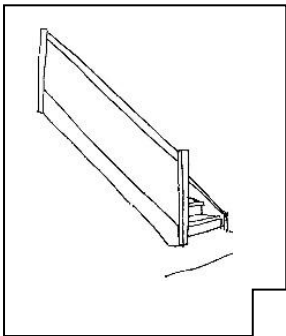


Dormer or attic

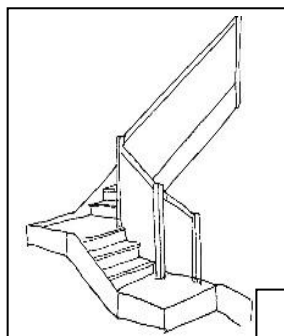
Fact:

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 old staircase at Wortham Manor?



Straight

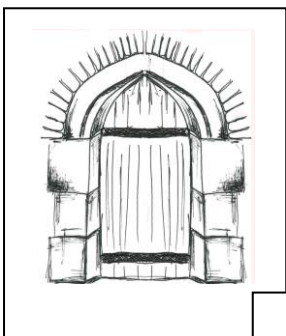


Quarter turn

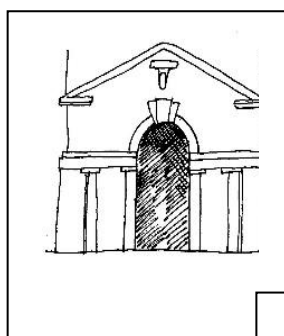


Spiral

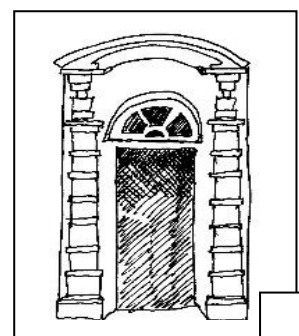
Entrances can be grand or simple. Which front door is most like the one at Wortham Manor?



Tudor arch



Porch



Canopy

Quest



Discover more about Wortham Manor

Wortham Manor has been here for over 550 years. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

Can you find this carving? It's above the front door and is from about 1450. That's near the end of medieval times. Carving stone was hard work and this entrance shows how important the family were.



When you enter Wortham, you step into the screens passage. The screens are made of carved oak. These ones aren't original but Lizzie used to chase her little sisters around similar ones. The screens separated the hall from the servants' rooms behind.

Lizzie's dad replaced these rooms with a new parlour (the one with the ceiling bosses). There, the family could stay cosy in winter.



Can you find this figure with chubby cheeks, carved in wood? Which room is he in? _____

The fireplace surround in the bigger sitting room was put in 100 years after Lizzie's time at Wortham. Look around at the panelled walls. They were added around 1600 too.



Go upstairs to the main bedroom. Look up at the ceiling – this was once the ceiling of the medieval hall. You're looking at an **arch-braced roof**.

Can you see where the timbers cross each other at the corners? These are called **wind-braces**. They support the roof **truss** (the frame).

How many pairs of wind-braces do you see? Count carefully! _____

Arched-brace

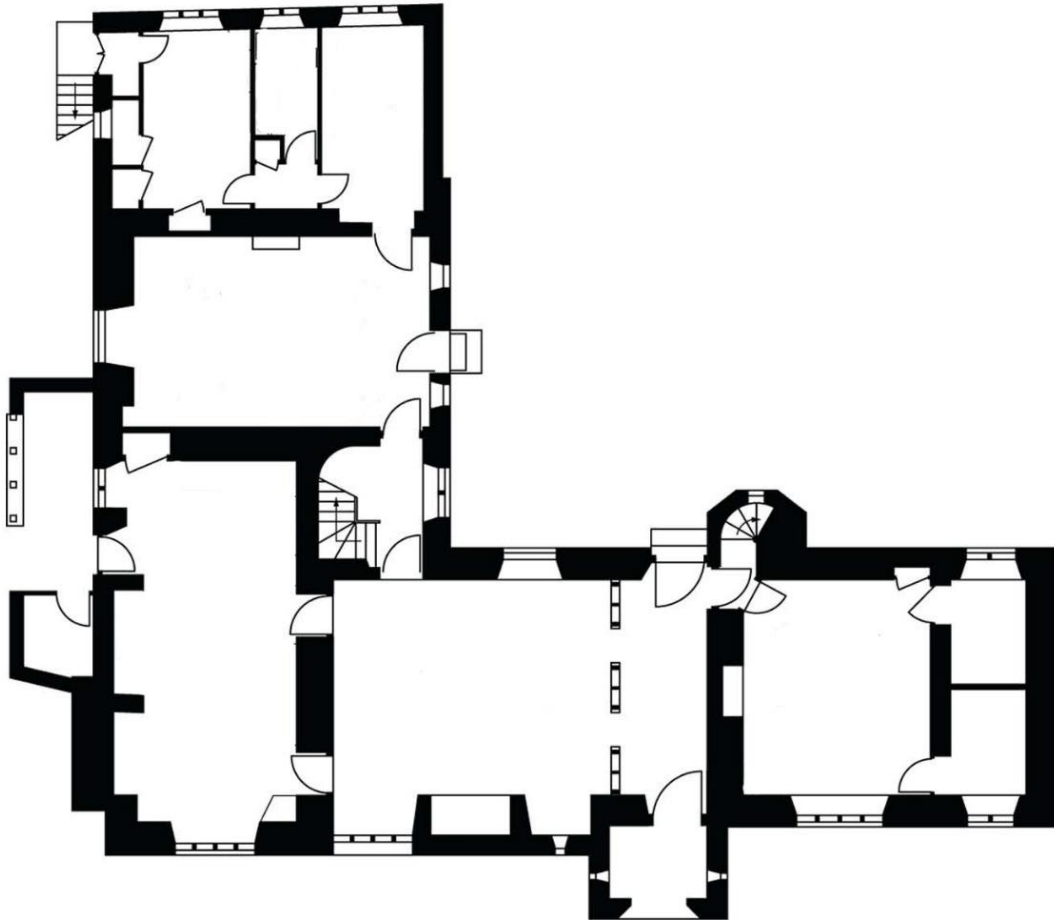
Wind-braces



Living in Wortham Manor

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Wortham Manor has two floors. The plan below shows you the shape of one of them. Take a walk around and write on the plan what each room is used for.

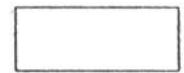
Ground floor



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



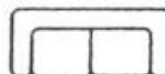
Rectangular (or a round) table



Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



Can you find an example of each of these things inside Wortham Manor. 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

You've already seen the fancy ceiling bosses in the sitting room. Why not have a go drawing one in the box below or designing your own? You can use patterns from nature, like a favourite flower or animal or anything else you like!

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a ceiling boss or rug pattern.



Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. What is Wortham Manor made of?

Bricks

Wood

Granite

Straw

2. How old is Wortham Manor?

100 years

300 years

50 years

Over 550 years

3. What is a stile?

A fashion design

Ladder

A walking stick

Steps in a fence for
walkers but not
animals

4. Which type of beetle chewed the timbers at Wortham Manor over the years?

Dancing

Deathwatch

Carpet

Dung (poo!)

5. Who was on the throne when Lizzie lived at Wortham Manor?

George I

Henry VII

Edward II

Henry VIII

6. Which of the following would you not find at Wortham Manor?

Flagstones

Beams

Moat

Turret

7. In the winter small white flowers come out. What are they called?

Snowdrops

Bluebells

Tulips

Daffodils

8. What is a solar?

Sunbed

Conservatory

Power station

Private room in
medieval times

9. Which of these names has a King of England not had?

George

Simon

James

Charles

10. In which county is Wortham Manor?

Dorset

Cornwall

Somerset

Devon

To find the answers skip two pages...



Colour in the pheasant below

You can look up the pheasant in the Bird Book in the Landmark bookcase to copy the colours if you wish.

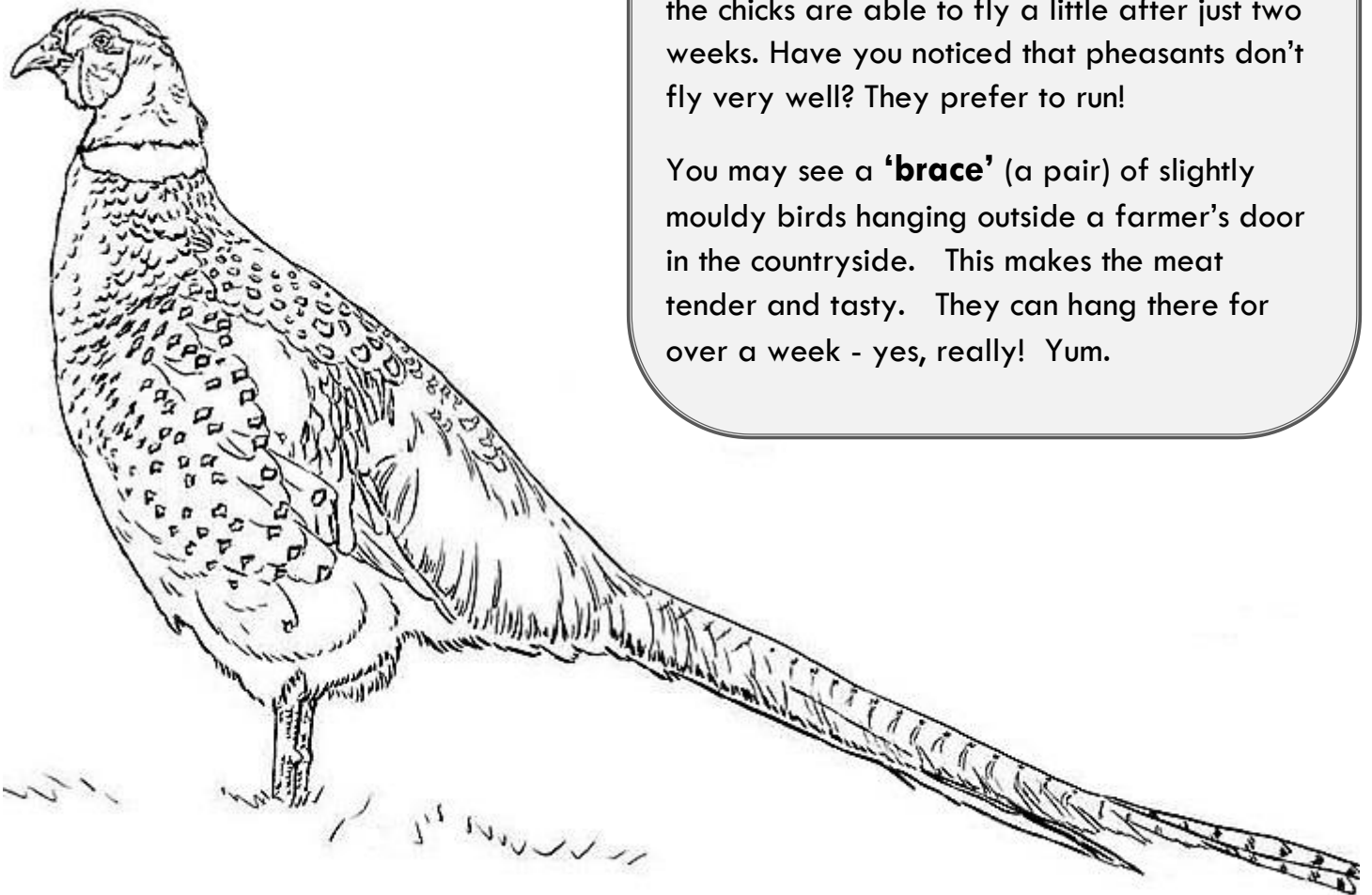
Pheasant Facts:

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.

The male is the colourful character with a greenish black head and red cheeks. The female (hen) is a bit boring looking! She's a beige-brown colour with darker spots.

There are usually 10-12 eggs in a clutch and the chicks are able to fly a little after just two weeks. Have you noticed that pheasants don't fly very well? They prefer to run!

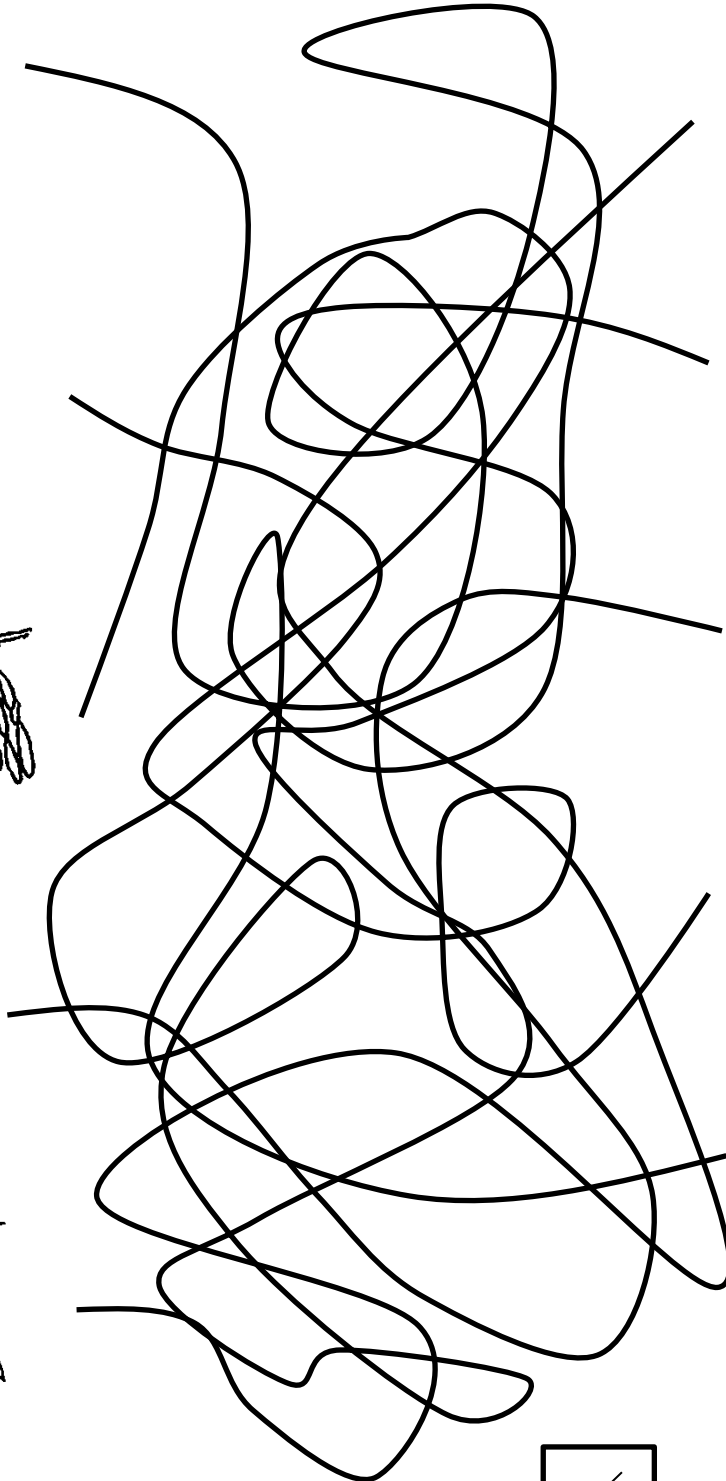
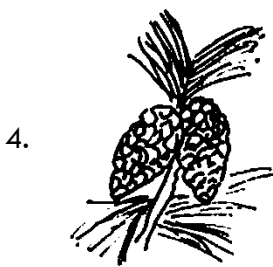
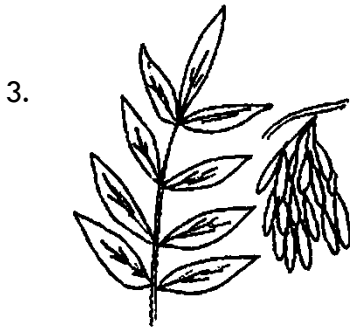
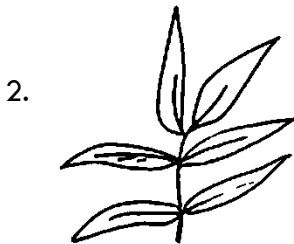
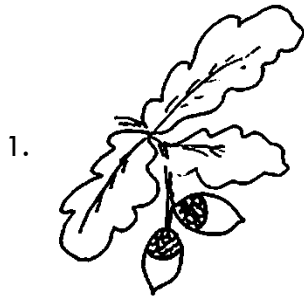
You may see a **'brace'** (a pair) of slightly mouldy birds hanging outside a farmer's door in the countryside. This makes the meat tender and tasty. They can hang there for over a week - yes, really! Yum.





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.

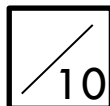


Answer sheet:

Quiz answers:

1. Granite
2. Over 550 years
3. Steps in a fence
4. Deathwatch
5. Henry VII
6. Moat
7. Snowdrops
8. Private room
9. Simon
10. Devon

How many did you get right?





Wortham Manor Word Search

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

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

DEATHWATCH

SCREENS

BEAM

CANDLESTICK

SOLAR

RAFTER

FIREPLACE

TILES

FLAGSTONE

PASSAGE

OGEE

OAK

ROOF

STILE

TUDOR

WINDOW

BOSS

BRACE

TURRET

PARLOUR

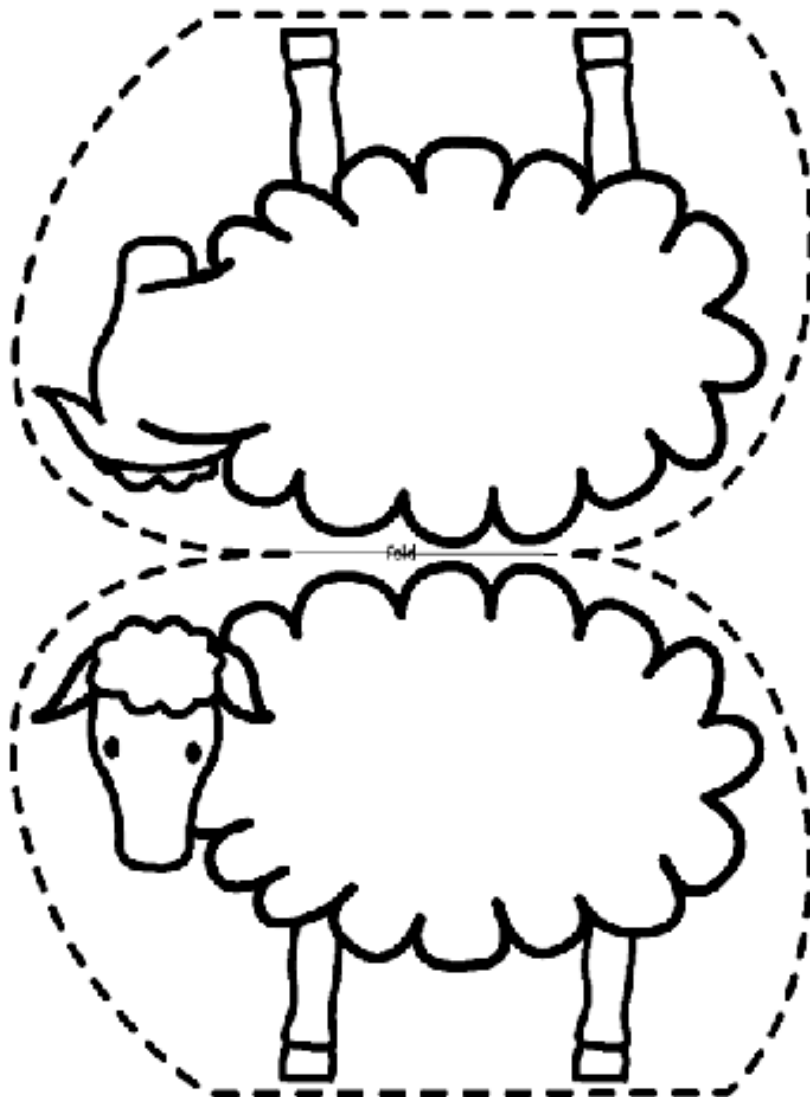
How many of these words did you find? Put your score in the box.

| |
|----|
| / |
| 20 |



Make a sheep, or your own flock of sheep

1. Colour in the sheep.
2. Glue the sheep onto a piece of thin cardboard, such as the inside of a cereal box.
3. When the glue has dried, cut along the dotted lines.
4. Fold in half along the solid line, so that your sheep stands up.
5. If you want to you could draw a picture of a field or farm on the rest of the cereal box and use it as a background for your sheep. Or use it to make more sheep by copying this one!





Bake a honey cake

In the medieval period cakes were very simple. People either bought the ingredients in a market or grew their own. Honey was used to make food (especially cakes) taste sweeter as sugar came from the Middle East (and later Europe) and was very expensive.

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

250g clear honey, plus extra 2 tbsp
to glaze
225g unsalted butter

100g dark muscovado sugar
3 large eggs, beaten
300g self-raising flour

Remember to pre-heat the oven: fan 140 °C or electric 160 °C: Gas 3

- Butter a 20cm round cake tin and line it with baking paper
- Cut the butter into pieces and drop them into a medium pan with the honey and the sugar, let it melt slowly, stirring while it does.
- When the mixture looks like liquid, turn up the heat under the pan and boil for about 1 minute
- Leave to cool for 15-20 minutes (important - this stops the eggs cooking when they are mixed in!)
- Beat the eggs into the melted honey mixture using a wooden spoon
- Sift the flour into a large bowl and pour in the egg and honey mixture. Beat until you have a smooth, quite runny batter
- Pour the mixture into the cake tin and bake for 50-60 minutes. You can tell it's ready as it will be golden brown and spring back when pressed. Push a skewer into the centre of the cake and it should come out clean.
- Turn the cake out on a wire rack
- Warm 2tbsp honey in a small pan and brush over the top of the cake to give it a sticky glaze, then leave it to cool. Eat and enjoy!