

S 5.3 FROM CAVES TO SKYSCRAPERS



S5.3.1

We research the progress made by time in houses and understand that not all houses around the world are the same.

A. Read the following.



Without doubt, the oldest form of shelter that man had were natural caves in rocks. The cave provides shelter from the sun, rain and wind. Often, people used to keep animals with them in the cave.

From the animals, they used to obtain meat, milk and even fur to keep them warm in the winter.

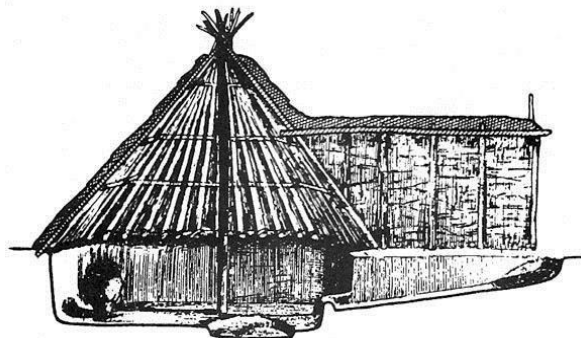
In the first picture one can see Għar Dalam. We can visit Għar Dalam if we go to the village of Birżebbuġa. When the archaeologists excavated in Għar Dalam, apart from fossils of various animals, they also found various remains which show that the first Neolithic people to come to Malta from Sicily, used to live in natural caves like Għar Dalam.

One must not think that the caves that are found scattered in the Maltese countryside were only used in the Prehistoric times. The caves shown in the picture on the right are located in Fawwara close to the village of Siggiewi.



Until some time ago, many farmers used to live in these caves in Fawwara, raising the sheep and working in the fields nearby.

However, if you want to see really large caves, you should go Għar il-Kbir which is very close to Dingli Cliffs and Buskett. In these caves up to the year 1800, a small number of families used to live in them together with the animals they bred. The English forced them to leave from these caves to go and live in the nearby villages i.e. Ħad-Dingli and Siggiewi.



However, we can say that men always tried to look for a better place to shelter and live in. In fact, even in Prehistoric times, in Skorba, close to Imġarr in Malta the Neolithic people built their homes from tree stems and mud.

The last two photos show us how these caves looked before and how the prehistoric site of Skorba looks today.



If today we live in very comfortable homes, we should still remember that our ancestors did not always have comfortable houses which provided shelter from the sun, the rain and the wind.

B. Answer these questions.

1. Mention one natural cave in which the Maltese people used to live in.

2. What did they keep with them in caves?

3. Do you think this was good for their health? Why?

4. Mention one advantage that one can have whilst living in a natural cave.

5. Mention one disadvantage that one can have whilst living in a natural cave.

6. Mention a commodity that we have nowadays in our houses, which the people living in the caves did not have.

7. Where did we find remains of caves of Neolithic times in Malta?

8. From what were these first houses made of?

9. Mention one thing which demonstrates that where homes are concerned men made great progress.

C. Answer these questions with the help of the photos.

1. Look at the first photo. Do you think that this photos was taken in Malta or abroad? Why?



- a) Malta / abroad
- b) Why do you think so?



2. This photo was taken in Malta. What are the houses shown in the picture built from?

3. What is the material used to make the doors and windows?

4. What is used in the corner to decorate the road?

5. Do you think this photo was taken in a village or in a city? How can we distinguish?

a) village / city

b) how can we distinguish?

D. Answer by always using the three following words:

villa	cave	farm
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1. Write the three places according to the comfort one finds in them:

a) most comfortable: _____

b) less comfortable: _____

c) least comfortable: _____



2. Write the three places according to the time they were used in:

a) Oldest: _____

b) Less old: _____

c) Least modern place: _____



3. Write the three places according to how much they cost:

a) Most expensive: _____

b) Less expensive: _____

c) Least expensive: _____



E. Use the computer to carry out research and learn more:

a) Do a virtual tour of Għar il-Kbir

<http://www.maltain360.com/#110001632>



b) Read more about Għar il-Kbir:

<http://schoolnet.gov.mt/history/wirt/medjuevu/GharKbir/GharKbirBuhagi-ar.htm>

c) Write a short paragraph about what you saw and read in your research.
