

# The Temples of Ġgantija

## Workbook for Year Six



# INDEX:

Welcome...		Page 2
The First Part:	The Centre of Interpretation (Architecture and Ritual)	Page 3
The Second Part:	The Centre of Interpretation (Everyday Life)	Page 6
The Third Part:	The Temples of Ġgantija	Page 11
The Fourth Part:	Important Information	Page 16



**Welcome Students!** My name is Patrimonito!

My name is derived from the Spanish language and it means guardian of the heritage. As you can see my name is very similar to a word we find both in English and Maltese language - Patrimony. The word patrimony means those treasures or important places which we inherited from our forefathers. I am the mascot of the educational program called UNESCO. UNESCO is an organisation which looks after very important places. These places are declared to be World Heritage sites.



Today we will be visiting the Temples of Ġgantija which are found in the village of Xagħra, in Gozo. These are examples of World Heritage. You should feel very proud! This also means that you have to look after these temples because they are not yours only but are everybody's heritage! Are you ready for this adventure in the Temples of Ġgantija?

Are you ready students for the adventure in the Temples of Ġgantija?

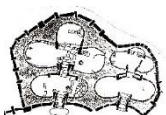


Name and Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## The First Part: The Centre of Interpretation: Architecture and Ritual



Before we visit the temples, it is good for us to know why these sites are important. The remains of the temples are a clear indication of the abilities which the people of Prehistoric times possessed. They did not use machinery or sophisticated tools to build them. It is good to know that the Maltese temples were not influenced by any other buildings external to our shores. In fact these temples are unique! Apart from this they are amongst the oldest sites which exist in the world. They were built almost a thousand years before the Pyramids of Egypt! Now enter into the first part and commence your voyage into Prehistory.

Before you start answering the questions, go to the section which is being indicated. Look for large signs.

### Find the section with Number 1 - Introduction

1. Name two Neolithic sites and say where these are situated in Gozo.

---



---

### Find the section with Number 2 - Architecture

2. Find spheres of stone such as these seen in the photo. What do you think these were used for?

---



---



3. What material do we think they used as mortar for the walls?

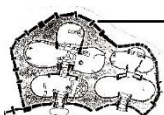
---



---

#### CLUE:

Find a showcase with pieces of mortar which were used in these Temples.



### Find the section with Number 3: What is a ritual?



4. Find the stone you can see in the picture and write where it was found.

---

5. Look closely at the stone. What is engraved on it?

---

6. What do you think the engraving on the stone represented?

---

The objects in this section give us an inkling to some of the activities which might have taken place in these temples amongst which a number of rituals. When we say the word **ritual** we would be referring to a number of actions which always occur in the same order. These rituals may be either religious or else be rituals which have no religious connotation.

7. Mention a ritual which we do in our everyday life, for example when we wash our teeth.

---

**CLUE:** Go in front of the screen in the same section for some examples.

8. Name some rituals we do on special occasions, for example when we marry.

---



---

#### Stop and Think!

When the Prehistoric people used to die, they used to bury them in tombs underground. Close to Ġgantija we find

**The Circle of Xagħra.** This site used to serve as a cemetery and consists of natural underground caves. In this section you are going to see a number of objects which were found in the Circle of Xagħra.



## Find the section with Number 4: Burial Rites

9. Finish the design of some of the objects we found in the Circle of Xagħra. Look for them in the showcases you can see in this section.



*A snail with a human's head*



*Stone statues with two human figures*

10. Look for the statue you can see on the right. How many objects are in this showcase?



11. Did you know that these were found together? What do you think these objects could represent?

## Find the section with Number 5 – The end of the time of the Temples.

12. Find a showcase which shows parts of a statue.

a) What material is this figure made of?

b) Why do you think that we found this statue broken into many pieces?



**CLUE:** Find the information near the remains of the statue.



## THE SECOND PART: The Centre of Interpretation: *Everyday Life*



In this part we are going to understand better how Prehistoric people used to live. To do this we have to study well the **proof**, in the form of remains which these left behind such as bones, tools, ornaments and many other objects. I invite you to visit this part to meet close-up with these people.

Prior to answering the questions, go next to the indicated section. Look for the large signs.

### Find the section with Number 6

13. You should see a table which shows us how tall Prehistoric people were.

a) Mark on the table on the side the height of an adult who is with you on this *fieldwork*. Height:

---

b) Do you think that in Prehistoric times there were people who were as tall as the person you measured? Why?

---



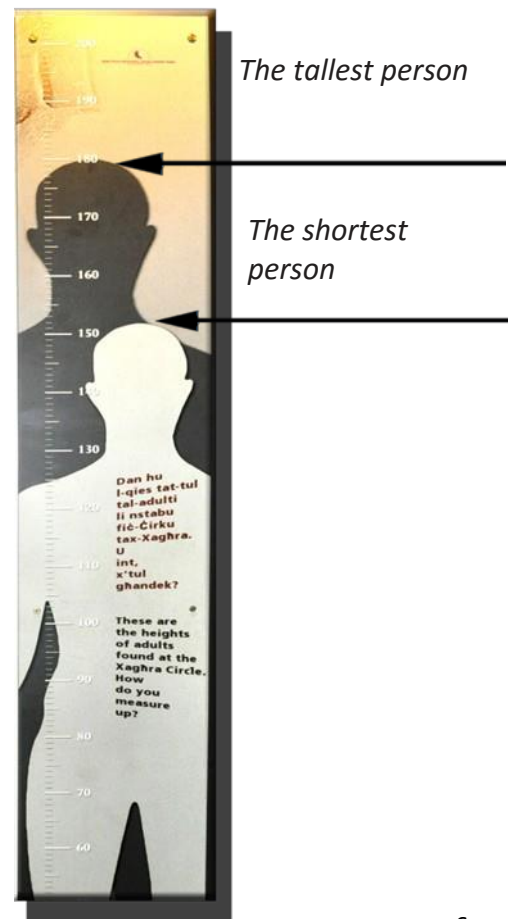
---

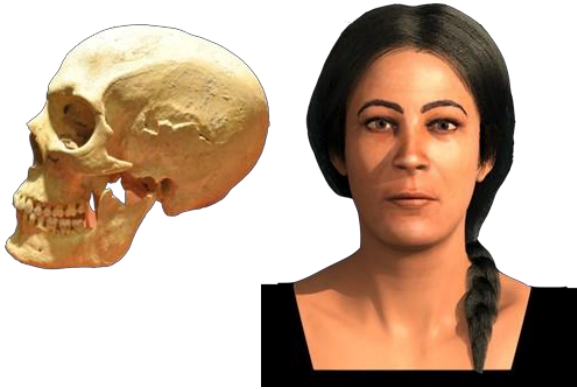


---



---





This is the face of a young woman who lived in Gozo during Prehistoric times. Experts used this cranium (Skeleton skull) which was found in the Circle of Xagħra in order to re-build this face.

14. Do you think that this woman looked very different to woman of today?

---

*A Prehistoric cranium and face*

15. Give reasons for your answers.

---

---

---

**Find the section with Number 7: What did they eat?**

16. This is a fridge we find in our homes today. Mark by a circle six things which Prehistoric people used to eat which are like ours.

**CLUE:** Look for a fridge.

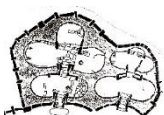
17. From what things do you think that archaeologists got to know what Prehistoric people used to eat? Name two things.

**CLUE:** Look for the remains in the showcase in this section.

---

---

---



**Find the section with Number 8: What tools did they use?****Stop and Think!**

The tools they used were not always made from endemic materials, meaning materials found in Malta. Some of these tools were made from materials brought from Sicily and the North of Italy.



18. Find the showcase with types of material out of which they used to make many of their tools. Continue filling in this table.

**CLUE:** Watch the video about the most used tools.

Resource	Where did they come from?	Use
A stone tool	Local (Maltese Islands)	hammer, file
Obsidian		
Pointed bones		

19. Do you think that wooden tools were used?

---

20. Why do you think that we did not find wooden tools from Neolithic Times?

---



---



---



**Find the section with Number 9: Fashion at the time of the Temples.**

19. This woman is cleaning a piece of animal hide. What do you think animal hide was used for?

20. Why do you think that archaeologist rarely find animal hides during their excavations?



21. From what can we get to know what Prehistoric people used to wear? Mark one.



*From written documents*

*from the Internet*

*from the statues we found*



## Find the section with Number 10: Neolithic Aches and Pains.

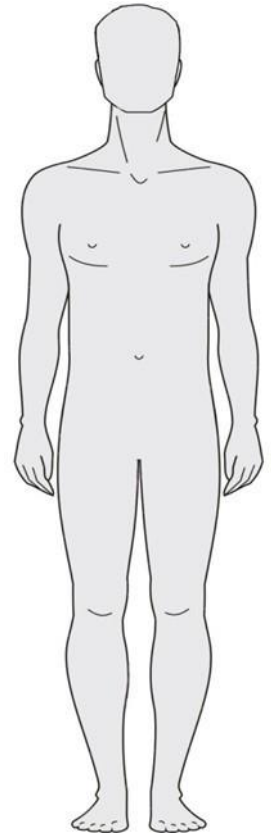
From remains of bones which were found in the Circle of Xagħra, we note how Prehistoric people used to suffer from the same conditions which modern people suffer from nowadays.

22. On the drawing on the side, mark two parts of the body where Prehistoric people used to feel pain.

Write the name of the condition.

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_



## Find the section with Number 11: Folklore and Legends.

23. The poet Ġorġ Pisani wrote a poem about these temples. What is this poem called?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

24. Why do you think that these Neolithic temples are called Ġgantija?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## The Third Part: The Temples of Ġgantija



Students, now walk towards the Temples of Ġgantija. You should soon see the temples walls. What enormous walls! We call these temples **megalithic** because they were built from very huge stones. These people must have been directed by very good architects and engineers! Keep in mind that these temples started being built more than 5,600 years ago! Note how the largest megaliths were placed at the lower level. This used to provide a good foundation for the rest of the temple!

Continue walking until you come to the entrance of the temples.

**Prior to entering the Temples answer these questions**

25. When were the Temples of Ġgantija built? mark one.



☐ 5,600 years ago      ☐ 100 years ago      ☐ 1000 years ago

26. Look for the plan of Ġgantija in the area in front of the temples. How many temples do we find in Ġgantija?

**CLUE:** See how many entrances there are on the plan.

☐ one temple      ☐ two temples      ☐ five temples

27. What form do the majority of rooms you are seeing in the Ġgantija temples have?

☐ square      ☐ circular      ☐ elongated

28. The building of the temples used to take a very long time to be completed. Here you have five things which used to take place before all the work was finished. Place them in order by starting from number 1 and finishing with number 5.

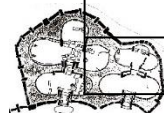

Decorating the temple on the inside.

Cutting the stones from the quarries.

Putting the stones in place.

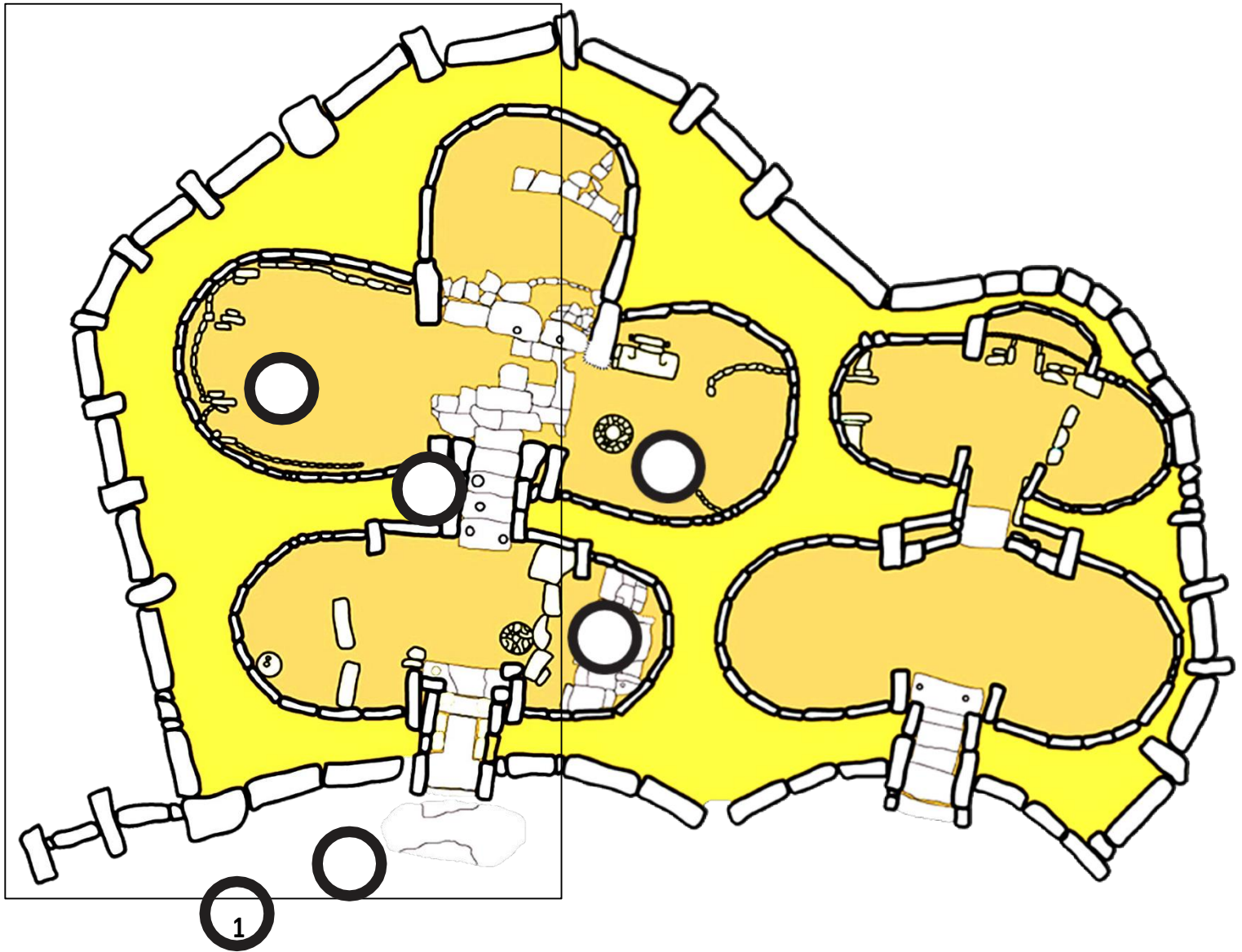
Carrying the stones from the quarries to the site where the temple was to be built.

Roofing the temple.



## Go into the Temple in the South

29. Find where these places are and mark them on the map. The first one is given as an example. Answer also the questions beneath the pictures.



**Spheres of stone which were found close to the temples.**



**Holes in the ground which are close to the entrance.**



A corner on the facade of one of the temples. This is around 7 metres high.



Why is there *scaffolding* in this part of the temple?

---

---

Three different sized alcoves with pillars in between them.



Engraved Spirals.

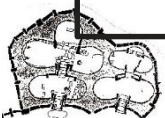


Why do you think that these spirals can hardly be seen now?

---

---

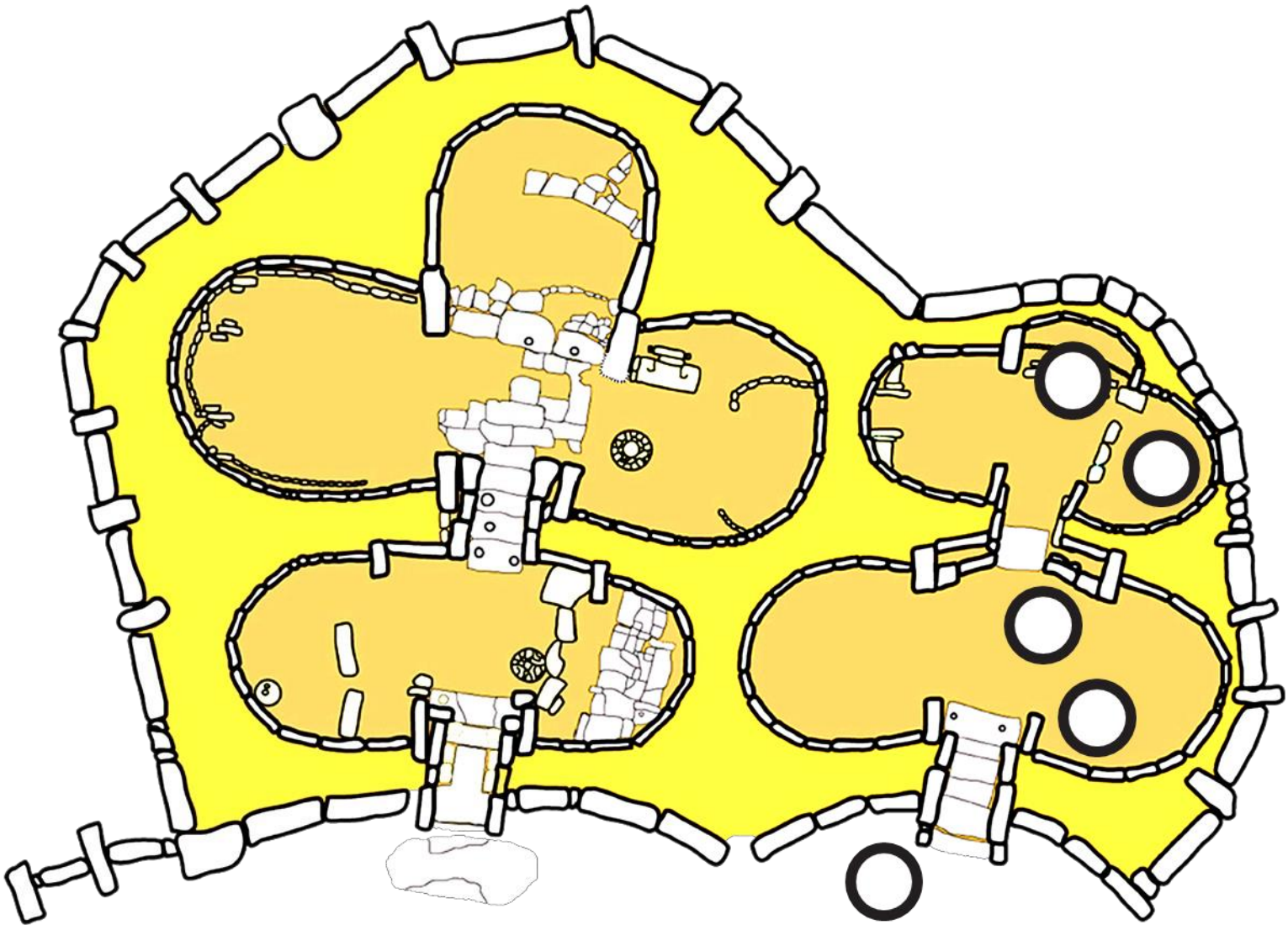
A stone hearth. This shows us that they used fire.



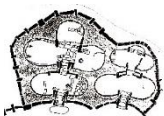
## Go into the Temple in the North

30. Find where these places are and mark them on the map.

Answer also the questions below the pictures.



In the entrance you should find holes cut out in front of one another. These might have been used to close the entrances to the temples.



**Historic Graffiti: Names and modern dates engraved into the megaliths.**



Why is engraving or writing on the temples prohibited today?

---

---

---

**The remains of an altar which decorates a main alcove.**



Why do you think these alcoves were used?

---

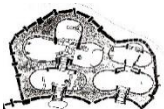
---

---

**One of the rooms of the temple. The Temples were built from lower coralline limestone as were also the doors and sculptures.**



**One of the rooms of the temple. The temples were built from strong stone. Limestone was used for doors and sculptures.**





“Now that you are at the end of your practical research, you can once again go back to the Centre of Interpretation. I hope you enjoyed yourselves carrying out this fieldwork and I hope we meet again at some other *Heritage Malta* site.

Goodbye Students, Patrimonito!”

## The Fourth Part: Important Information

### It is interesting to see this video:

Video of Heritage Malta about : Ġgantija:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFn83tTZuLkB](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFn83tTZuLkB).

### About this practical research (*fieldwork*) activity:

- Haġar Qim can take up to 40 people at one time, whilst Ġgantija can only accommodate no more than 30 people. The sessions take place between 9.00 am and 11.00 am or between 10:30 am and 12:30 pm. Two groups will be the maximum accepted on the same day.
- During the visit all directions given by *Heritage Malta* are to be respected and observed. The regulations are to be found on the website: [www.heritagemalta.org](http://www.heritagemalta.org).
- As this practical research is part of the official assessment process, the sessions are to be carried out by the class teachers / LSEs and at no point should students ask for the help from the employees of *Heritage Malta* who would be carrying out their duties on the site.

For the annual assessment, teachers of years 4, 5 and 6 may choose to work on one of these: (i) the second fieldwork, or (ii) a project.

The notes of the second fieldwork can be downloaded to be printed from the primary Social Studies website; [www.primarysocialstudies.skola.edu.mt](http://www.primarysocialstudies.skola.edu.mt) . The fieldwork is assessed by the teachers from a maximum of 20 marks. The given mark will form part of the annual continuous assessment process.

### **The fieldwork has to be assessed on these criteria:**

	<b>The marks:</b>	<b>from:</b>	
A	The participation and ability to follow instructions	5	
B	The observation, identification and recording	5	
C	The interpretation of the collected information	5	
D	The final presentation of the completed document	5	
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>20</b>	

