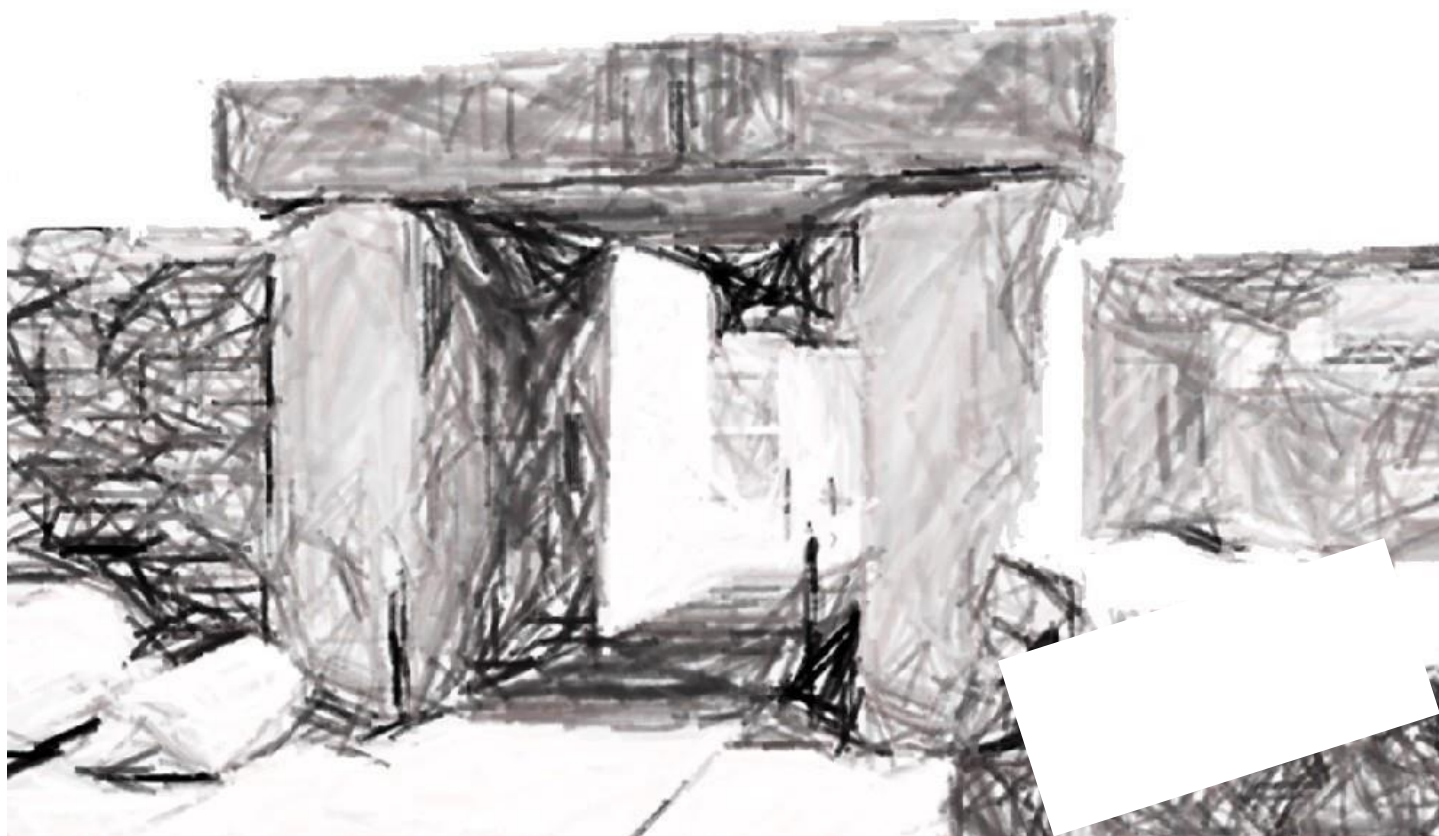


The Tarxien Temples

Workbook for Year 6



Index

Welcome		page 2
The First Part:	Around the Temples of Tarxien	page 3
The Second Part:	The Temples of Tarxien	page 6
The Third Part:	Find and mark!	page 13
The Fourth Part:	Useful 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 in the 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 Tarxien which are found in the village of Hal Tarxien, in Malta. 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 Tarxien?



Name and Surname: _____

Class: _____

School: _____

Date: _____



The First Part: Around the Temples of Tarxien



The remains of the temples are a clear indication of the abilities Prehistoric people had. 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!

Find the sign '**Visitors Route**'. From this point you commence on your voyage into Prehistory.

1. Walk along the route on the outside of the temples till you find the Number 3. Look around you and write what the two modern buildings which you are seeing are and say what they are used for today.

2. **Mark one.** When did they start building the Tarxien Temples?

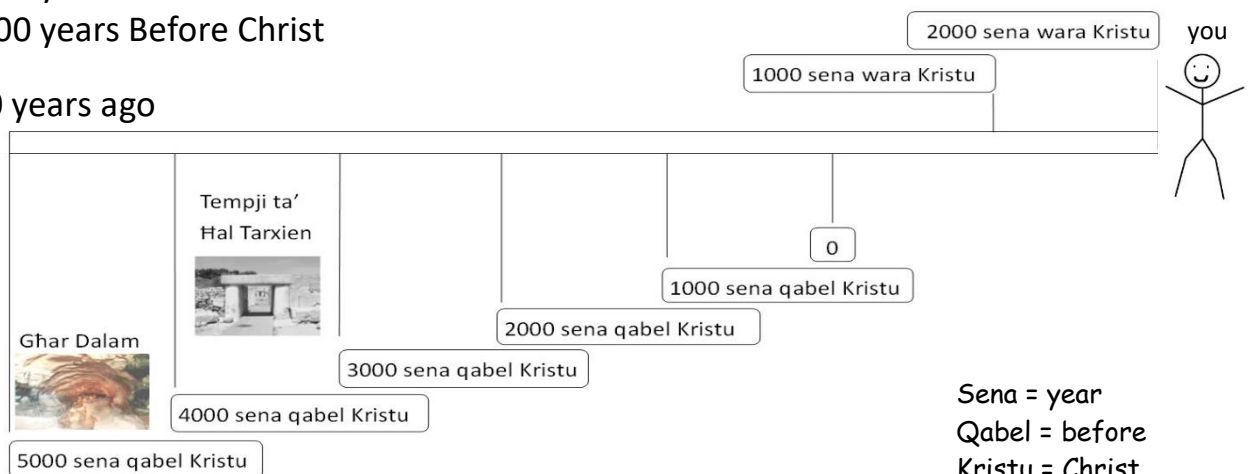
Clue: Look for a sign which shows a plan of the temples or the timeline you find below.

☐
☐
☐

3,600 years Before Christ

1,000 years Before Christ

300 years ago



3. **Complete.** Walk to Number 4. Up to a hundred years ago no one knew of these temples.

These were found because the farmer who worked the land used to hit large stones with his tractor. This means that for many years these temples were buried under _____.

4. **Mark one.** The excavations of these temples were left in the hands of an archaeologist and a very well-known doctor. **Clue: look for a sing which shows old newspapers.** This was:

☐

Dun Karm Psaila

☐

Sir Temi Zammit

☐

Mary Meilak

5. **Mark one.** Look at the walls of the temples. What enormous walls and stones! We call these temples **megalithic** because they were built with stones which were:

☐

very large

☐

very small

☐

average size

6. As you can see the temples have been built for a long time. Do you think that it was easy or difficult for the Prehistoric people to build these temples?

Why do you think so?



When the excavations commenced, they found that there were four temples all of which had been built at different times. Look at the plan which is showing us the four Tarxien temples. Every circle is showing us a different temple.



7. Walk along the path until you come to the wall you see in this photo. As you can see the temples have two walls, an external and an internal wall. Between these two walls used to be filled with a mixture of stone and soil.



Now look at the temple and look for these stones. Why do you think that this space was not left empty?

8. Continue walking and look at the external wall of the temples. Stop at the place you see in this photo.

The megaliths were placed in a certain order; one standing and the other lying. Why do you think that they were placed in this way?



9. Continue walking along the path to Number 7 and look at the rooms of the temples. These rooms are called '**apsidi**'. What shapes do the rooms you are seeing in front of you have?

Mark one.

☐

square

☐

circular

☐

elongated

10. Look at the plan in front of you. This is one of the largest temples to be found in the Maltese Islands. How many apsida does the temple have?

Mark one.

☐

1

☐

3

☐

6

☐

10



11. Walk until you come to Number 10.
Here you find the oldest remains of
the Tarxien Temples.

Underline one of these.

The size of these stones is
(smaller / larger / the same) as
those in other temples.



Why do you think that this temple suffered more damage than other temples?
Clue: Look at the sign Number 10.

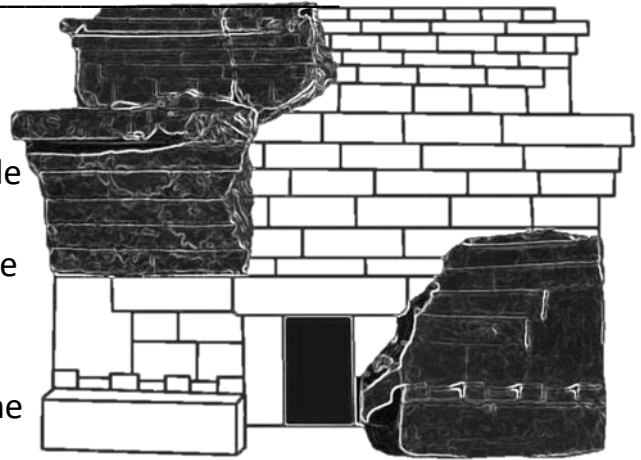
Now walk till you arrive at the main facade of the Temple.

The Second Section: The Tarxien Temples

1. Before you start walking along the path look at the main entrance to the temple.
How many stones were used to build this entrance?

2. Now look at the picture on the side.
This is showing us a model of how the facade of the temple used to look, compare the model with the façade of the temple you are seeing in front of you.

Write about something which is still the same on the facade as that of the model.



Write about something which is different to the model.

3. Pass underneath the main entrance and stop when you see the remains of the large statue on the right (the one you are seeing in the photo on the side). These statues are often referred to as '**Goddesses**', however, it is not very clear what many of them are depicting.



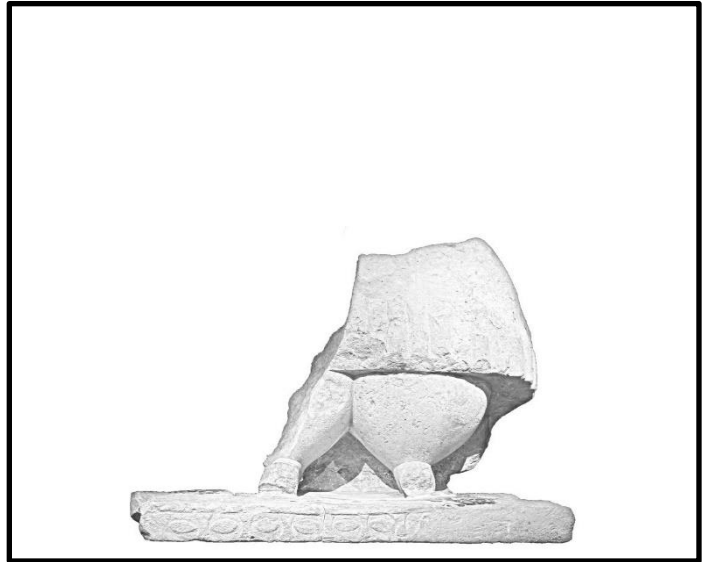
Mark one. Who is this statue showing? A man / woman / we do not know.

Give a reason for this answer.



4. The statue you are seeing in front of you is copy of the original. The original statue is in the National Museum of Archaeology, in Valletta. In the side you should see a photo of this statue.

Try to draw the missing parts as to how the statue might have appeared in Prehistoric times.



5. **Look for the altar you see in the picture.**

How do we refer to the designs engraved on this altar?

☐

spots

☐

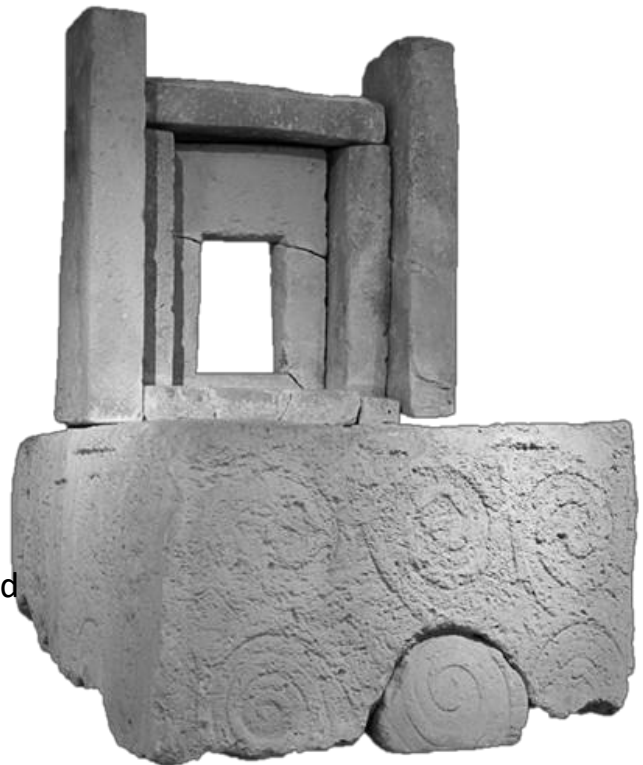
spirals

☐

striped

In the place where these designs where engraved a hole was dug out as a secret hiding place where a number of objects were found.

Name two of the objects which were found in this secret hiding place.



Clue: Look for a sign close to this altar.

a) _____

b) _____



The objects which were found in this hiding place give us an inkling as to the activities which might have been carried out in these temples, amongst which are a number of **rituals**. When we say the word ritual we are referring to a number of actions which always occur in the same order. These rituals may be religious, however, other rituals may have no religious connotation at all.



6. Name some rituals we do in our everyday life:
for example, washing of our teeth.

On special occasions, for example: getting married.

7. This stone which you can see in the photo is found at the National Museum of Archaeology. You should find a copy of this stone in the apse on the left.



Draw a circle around two animals which you see on this stone.

pig cat dog bird goat elephant

Why do you think animals were used in those times? Write four reasons.

a) _____



b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

8. Keep on walking straight until you find a large bowl worked from one stone. Look at the wall behind the bowl. Note that the wall on top is a little bit indented. This was a technique used in many of the temples. Photograph A shows us a similar wall which can be found in the Ħaġar Qim Temples, whilst photograph B shows us a model of how the temple might have been on the inside.



Photograph A

Photograph B



Mark one. This model shows us that probably the apsidal (rooms) of the temples (did not have a roof / had a roof).

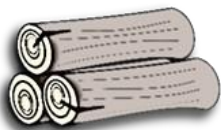


9. Find a stone with two spirals engraved on it such as that in the photo.

This used to block the entrance to the passage leading to the apsidal at the back of the temples. This part of the temple might have been closed by either doors or curtains. They might have done this so that they would not show what was happening in certain parts of the temple. As you can see these doors and curtains are not here anymore.



Draw a circle around three materials which might have been used to do these doors



wood



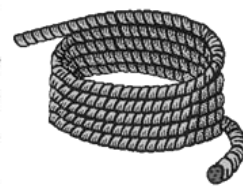
material



metal



leaves

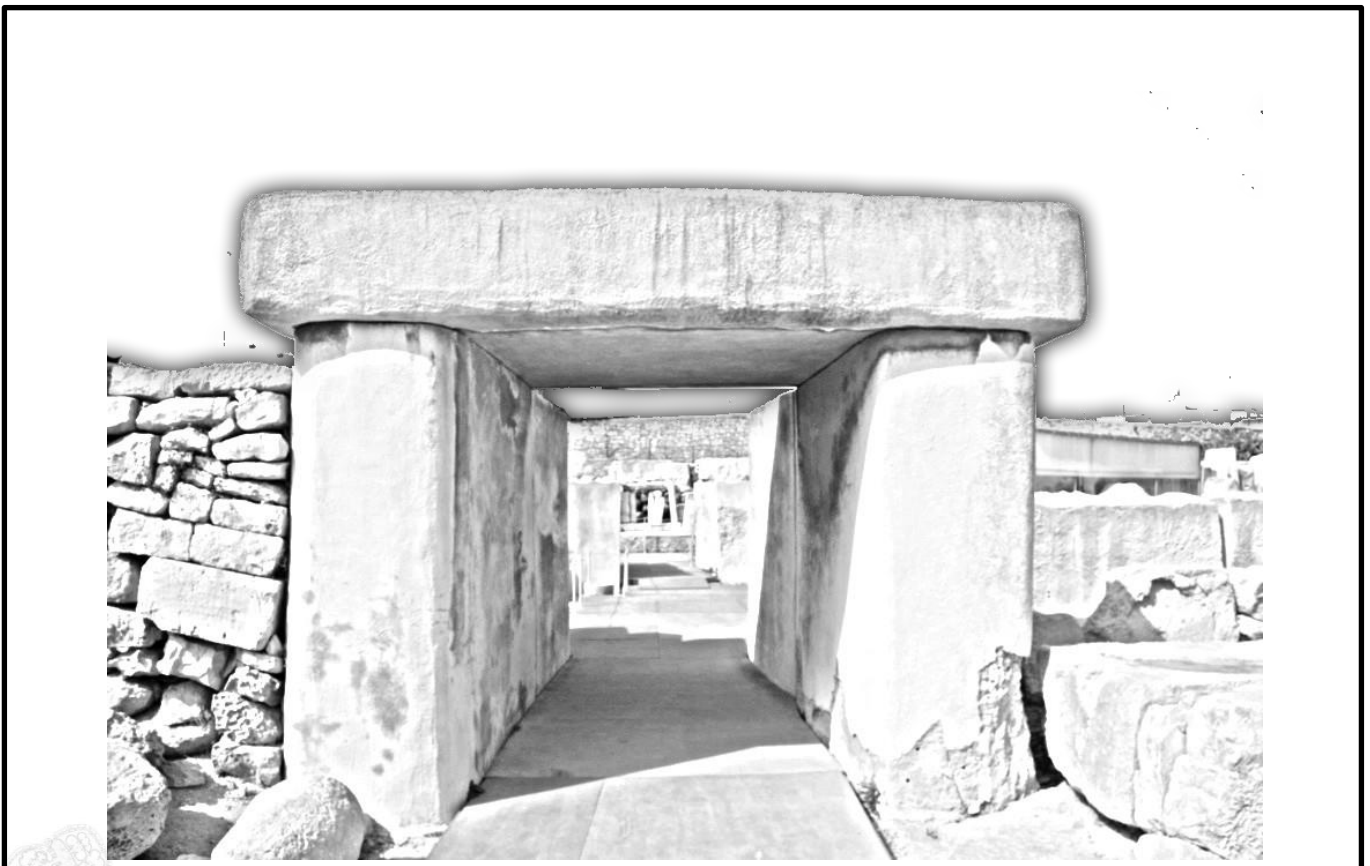


rope



feather

If you had only these materials, how would you have built the door for the temple? Finish the drawing below.



10. The building of the temples used to take a long time to be completed. Here you have five things which used to take place before the complete work was finished. Place them in order after each other by starting from number 1 and ending with number 5.

- ☐ They decorated the temple on the inside.
- ☐ They cut the stones from the quarries.
- ☐ They lifted the stones in place.
- ☐ They carried the stones from the quarries to the site where the temple was to be built.
- ☐ They roofed the temple.

This photograph is showing us a construction site of today



11. Name two things we find today at a construction site which we would have surely not found at the time of the building of the temples.

The first one is given as an example.




They use metal tools

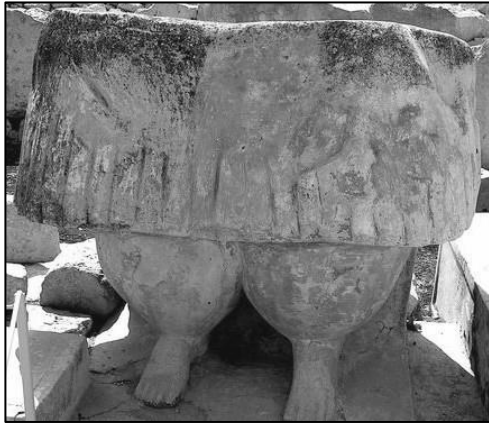
Keep on walking till you arrive in front of the temple.



The Third Section: Find and mark!

In the following pages you should find a number of photographs of objects we can find at the Tarxien Temples. Find where these objects are and after mark them on the map. The first one was given as an example. Also answer the questions on the side of the pictures.

LETTER	OBJECT	QUESTION
A		<p>What do you think this bowl is made of? Mark the right answer.</p> <p>From limestone</p> <p>From pottery</p> <p>From plastic</p>
B		<p>What do you think these stones were used for?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
C		<p>In what way do you think that this stone was engraved?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

D

This statue is the largest one that was ever found in the Maltese temples.

What type of clothes is she wearing?

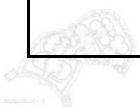
E

This stone is a copy. Why do you think it was necessary to place a copy in the temple?

Where do you think the original stone can be found?

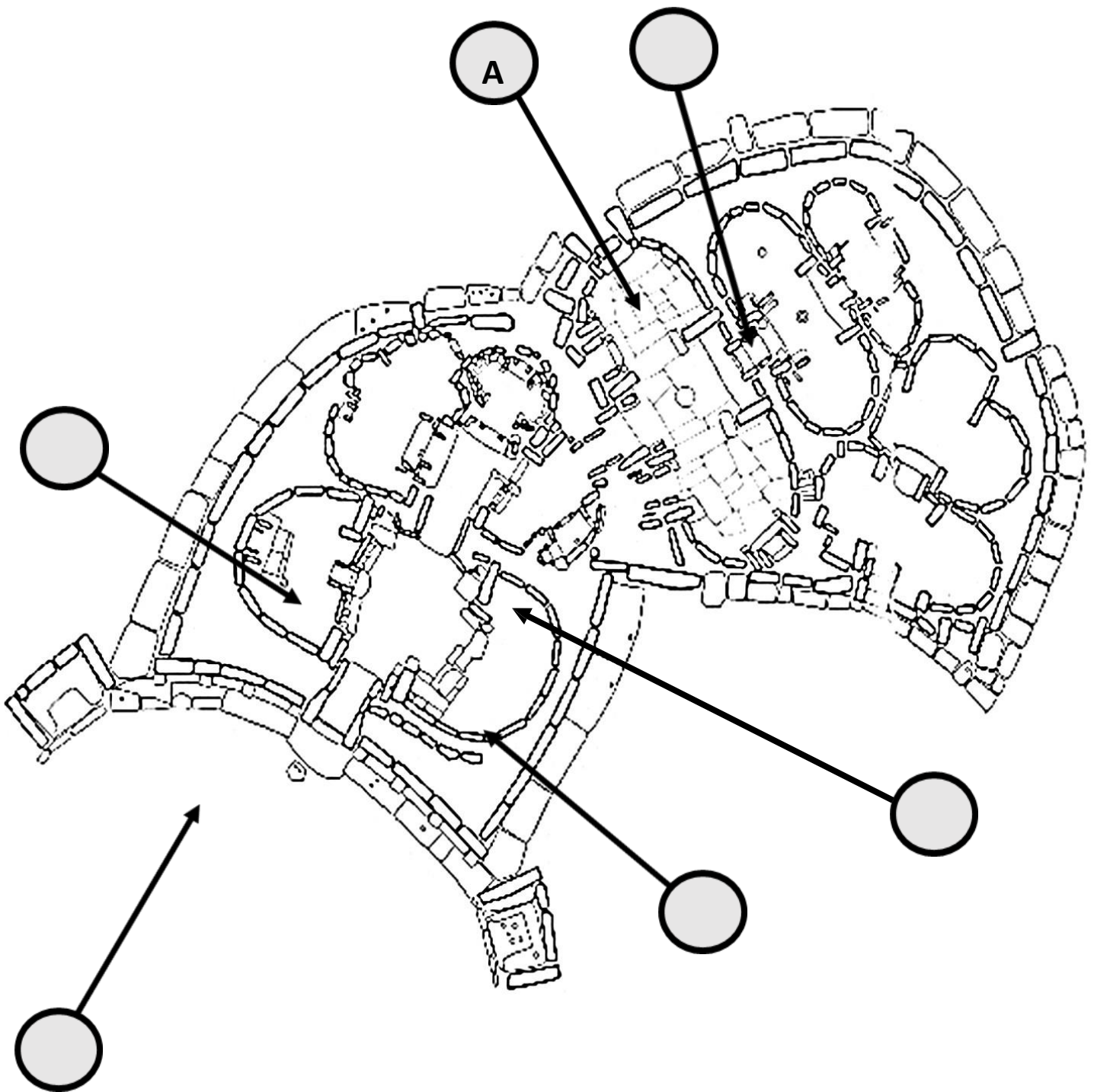
F

Describe the type of decoration you are seeing on this altar.



Mark!

Mark on the map by using the letters (from B to F) those objects which appear in the two previous pages.





The Fourth Section: Useful Information

You are at the end of this fieldwork. I am certain that this helped you discover better the Tarxien Temples. I am waiting so that you come and continue exploring the Megalithic Temples of Malta. You can visit the Temples of Ħaġar Qim, Imnajdra and Ġgantija. I hope we meet again at some other Heritage Malta site.

**Goodbye Students,
your friend,
Patrimonito**

Extract from the Circular DCM 01 2/2016 of the 11th January 2016

Regarding the practical research (*fieldwork*):

1. In the Tarxien Temples only 30 people at a time can enter.
2. Sessions ideally start at 9.00am.
3. During the visit all regulations given by *Heritage Malta* should be respected. These regulations can be found on the website: www.heritagemalta.org.
4. As this practical research forms part of the official assessment of end of year, this section has to be carried out by the class teachers and **at no time** must the students ask for help from the employees of *Heritage Malta* who will be present at the site.

Extract from the publication: *Social Studies Primary – a handbook*

For the year ending assessment, teachers of Years 4, 5 and 6 can choose to work on one of these: the second *fieldwork* (or) project.

The notes for the second *fieldwork* may be downloaded to be printed from the website of Social Studies of the Department. The *fieldwork* will be assessed by the teachers from a maximum of 20 marks. The given mark will form part of the annual report which is sent to parents by post.

The *fieldwork* should be assessed according to these criteria:

	The marks:	From:	
A	The participation and ability to follow instructions	5	
B	The observation, identification and recording	5	
C	The interpretation of collected information	5	
D	The final presentation of the whole document	5	
TOTAL		20	





Thank you for your participation ...
GOODBYE!!
Heritage Malta

SOCIAL STUDIES

Practical research for year 6 Primary
Educational Assessment Unit (EAU) - DQSE
www.primarysocialstudies.skola.edu.mt