

S 5.2 FROM THE PREHISTORIC TEMPLES TO THE CATHEDRALS



S5.2.3

We take note of the changes and continuity in the places of worship.

A. Read the following.

During prehistoric times we found numerous statues and female figures which probably the people of those times used to worship as their Gods. The first picture shows a replica (copy) of what we know as the Fat Lady. The statue of the Fat Lady was found in the megalithic temples of Ħal Tarxien.



The second picture shows that original statue of the Fat Lady, i.e. the one which was actually found in Ħal Tarxien. Nowadays this statue can be seen in the Museum of Archaeology in Valletta.



Figures and statues were found, amongst others, in Ħaġar Qim, Ġgantija, Ħal Tarxien as well as in the Hypogeum of Ħal Saflieni. The third picture shows the 'Sleeping Woman', a statue which was found in the Hypogeum of Ħal Saflieni. The largest number of statues were found in the temples of Ħaġar Qim, where seven statues were found in all. These can all be seen at the Museum of Archaeology in Valletta.



Why do you think that the original statues are kept in the Museum of Archaeology whilst in the temples we put replicas or copies? Since the replica of the statue is placed outside, a lot of damage occurs to it by the natural elements such as the wind, the sun and the rain. However we have to remember that if the replica of a statue is damaged, it can easily be replaced by another copy of it. The important thing is that the original statue is protected from these natural elements so it can remain in a good state to be still enjoyed in the future.

A. Answer by filling in the blanks or underlining the correct answer:

1. Statues were found in: (underline the correct answer)

A. Hal Tarxien only.

B. Hagar Qim only.

C. Many places.

2. In which place did we find the largest amount of statues?

3. Where was the biggest statue found?

4. Where can we see the original statue?

5. Why did we not leave the original statue where we found it?

6. Why do we think that the worship of these Gods was widespread in the Maltese Islands in Prehistoric times?

B. Answer these second set of questions:

1. In Prehistoric Times, the people who used to live here used to worship various gods, amongst who was the Fat Lady. Mention one way in which that belief was changed.

In the Hypogeum of Ħal Saflieni they used to bury their dead during Prehistoric time.

What is the place where we now bury our dead called?

2. Various megalithic temples were built with the Maltese stone. This stone is known as limestone.

Was the stone used to build megalithic temples big or small?

Was the stone used to build the churches that can be seen today larger or smaller?

This picture on the right shows the Church of St Theresa in Birkirkara. What is this building used for?



What other material was used apart from the limestone?

C. Write CHANGE or THE SAME near each sentence.

	Change /the same
1. In Prehistoric times, they used to worship the Fat Lady in the temples of Ħal Tarxien, but nowadays we worship only one God.	
2. The Romans used to worship many Gods, today we worship only one God.	
3. Man always had some sort of belief.	
4. Limestone was used to build the megalithic temples of Ġgantija. Even to build the parish church in our village, limestone was used.	
5. The chapels which are found in the countryside were very small churches; nowadays very large churches are built which can accommodate many more people in them.	
6. When the Christians used to bury their dead in the catacombs, they would have been burying them underground. Nowadays the tombs used in the cemeteries are also dug underground.	
7. The megalithic temples, used to have a roof like a dome, like the churches we have nowadays.	
8. Nowadays large churches are built by using cranes.	