

S 5.1 The Old Cities



S5.1.2

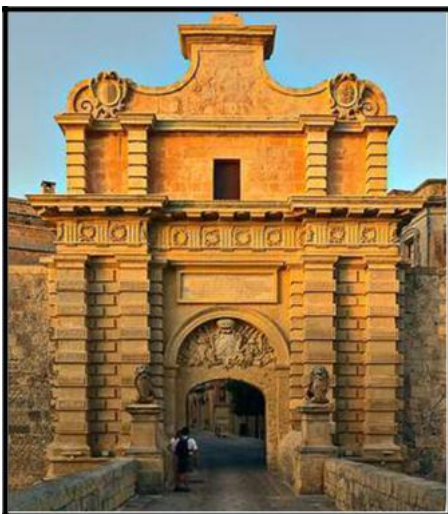
Identify aspects that have changed and others that have remained the same in the old cities of the Maltese Islands.

A. The old cities of the Maltese Islands

To understand what has changed and what remained the same in these cities; to understand that even though there have been changes throughout the years, the main characteristics such as the fortifications and the narrow roads which connect them have remained the same.

Imdina -The Citadel (Ċittadella)

1. Are built in the middle of the islands and on the highest place.
2. Nowadays only a few people live there.
3. Suffered the same attacks.
4. Each cathedral has its own bishop and museum.



Imdina -Birgu - Ċittadella

1. They are very old cities.
2. They all suffered a lot of damages through attacks.
3. Their roads are very narrow.
4. Large palaces are situated in them.
5. Lorenzo Gafà designed the plans for their cathedral or church.
6. They are cities which are fortified by very high bastions.

Differences between the old cities

Imdina

1. The Cathedral is dedicated to St. Paul
2. Has a high dome.
3. Mdina is a city.

Cittadella

1. The Cathedral is dedicated to St Mary
2. Does not have a dome.
3. It is part of Rabat(Gozo)

Birgu

1. It is a peninsula in the Grand Harbour, not in the middle of the town.
2. The Knights built their auberges in Birgu and not in Mdina.
3. Birgu does not have a cathedral.

B. Write a caption

With the help of a map showing the strategic positions of Birgu, Mdina, and the Citadel and other materials compare these old cities to one another. Look for similarities and differences.

You can also focus on some of these: the place where they are built, fortifications, bastions, ditches, size, cathedrals, streets, squares, museums, demolished buildings and tourist attractions.



C. Write TRUE or FALSE near these sentences regarding Victoriosa.

	TRUE/FALSE
1. Fort St Angelo was not always built in Birgu.	
2. Birgu is built on a peninsula.	
3. Birgu, nowadays, is the capital city of Malta.	
4. The Knights surrounded Birgu with fortifications.	
5. Birgu is also known as Città Vittoriosa.	
6. In Birgu there are a lot of wide roads.	
7. The auberges that the Knights built in Birgu are still present today.	
8. In Birgu there is a church dedicated to St Lawrence.	

D. Answer these questions about the Citadel.

The Citadel was built so that the Gozitans could be protected from the pirates.

Find **three** things that are still visible nowadays to prove this.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



E. Answer these questions regarding the OLD CITIES of the Maltese Islands

When we speak of the old cities of the Maltese Islands we are referring to Mdina, Birgu and the Citadel.



1. Mention something that all the three old cities of the Maltese Islands had during the time of the Knights and which is still visible today.

2. Mention something that we could always find in Mdina and the Citadel but cannot be found in Birgu.

F. Comparing the Past and the Present

Mention something that can be seen nowadays but was not there when the Knights were in Malta:

1. In the Citadel: _____
2. In Mdina: _____
3. In Birgu: _____

G. Write THE SAME or CHANGED near each of these sentences:

1. Tourists go around Mdina in a *karozzin*. _____
2. The ditch around Mdina. _____
3. The Cathedral of the Citadel without a dome. _____
4. The narrow roads of the Collachio in Birgu. _____
5. Many restaurants in Mdina. _____

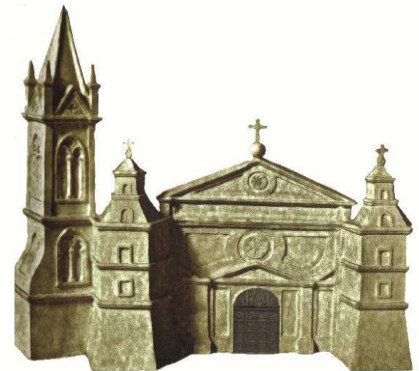
H. MDINA

In medieval times, Mdina was not the same as we can see it today. Some things have **changed** while others remained **the same**. Mark with an X if the following things remained the same or changed over time.

	THE SAME	CHANGED
1. <i>The capital city of Malta</i>		X
2. Narrow roads		
3. Surrounded by fortifications		
4. The popular council was the government of Malta		
5. The Cathedral in Mdina		
6. Visited by many tourists		

I. Read and think about the following, then answer the question.

The first picture shows us a model of the old cathedral of Mdina. This model can be seen in the museum of the cathedral. This old cathedral suffered damages during an earthquake in 1693. After the earthquake, the architect Lorenzo Gafà designed the new cathedral which is still present today.



J. Take note:

1. **The cathedral of Malta is in Mdina - THIS IS SOMETHING THAT REMAINED THE SAME, BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE.**



2. Instead of the old cathedral, a new one was built after the old one was damaged by an earthquake. THIS IS A CHANGE WHICH OCCURED DUE TO AN EARTHQUAKE.

Answer. Mention another thing that can bring about a change in any one of the old cities.

K. Let us Write.

A friend of yours who lives abroad is coming to Malta for the first time during the summer holidays.



Write an **email** to your friend to tell him that you are going to take him to see the OLD CITIES of the Maltese Islands. Explain to him why you are taking him there and what you are going to show him.
