

Worksheet S6.1.2

Let us see where the first people who came to Malta lived and the work they did. Let us understand the importance of Għar Dalam and Skorba with reference to archaeology. Let us compare those periods with nowadays.

A: Kevin and Sandra investigate WHERE THE FIRST PEOPLE IN MALTA LIVED.

Read and answer.

(writing by Leonard Grech)

Sandra: Do you know where the first people who came to Malta lived, Kevin?

Kevin: I think that, at first, they lived in caves.

1. Do you think Kevin is right? Why?

2. **Remember:** One of the largest caves we have in Malta is Għar Dalam found in Birżebbuġa, located not too far from the sea. Għar Dalam was one of the first caves where the first people in Malta had settled. These were found in Għar Dalam:

- Flint pieces
- Slings
- Pottery
- Personal ornaments

3. The people in the picture are called archaeologists because they study archaeology.

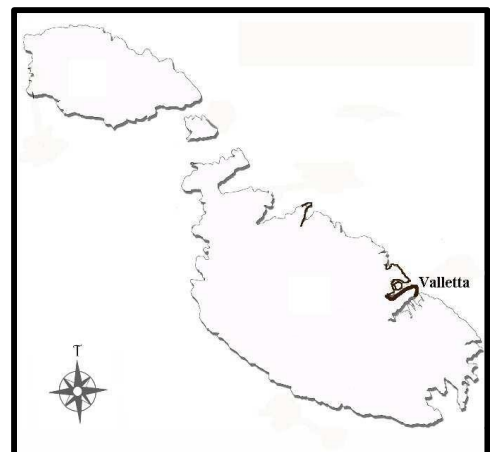


They dig slowly and carefully, and keep notes and take pictures of everything they find. Why do you think they do this?

4. People did not remain living in caves forever. They started to build some places. What do you think they started to build?

5. What material could they have used to build what they wanted?

6. **Remember:** In Żebbiegħ near Mgarr Malta they found prehistoric remains called *SKORBA*. This was one of the places where people went to live when they stopped using caves. Skorba was used for a long period of time. There we found GREY pottery and RED pottery. The grey pottery is older than the red one. The pottery is made from _____. Mark on the map the position of Żebbiegħ.



7. Besides Skorba, archaeologists think there were other places where people lived. Why do you think many of these places were destroyed?



8. The picture shows the remains of Skorba as seen today. The pottery found by the archaeologists was taken to the Museum of Archaeology, in Valletta. Why do think this was done?

9. The temples of those periods were not destroyed. Why do they still exist?

B: Kevin and Sandra explore GHAR DALAM.

Read and answer.

In Għar Dalam, archaeologists discovered not only remains left by the first humans who lived in Malta. They also found remains of animals.

*Some of the
fossils found in
Għar Dalam*



Sandra: Have you ever heard the word 'fossils' Kevin?

Kevin: Yes, Sandra. Don't you remember how once when we were together we saw a piece of tree trunk preserved in rock?

Sandra: Yes, I remember. The rock itself had the form of a tree trunk.

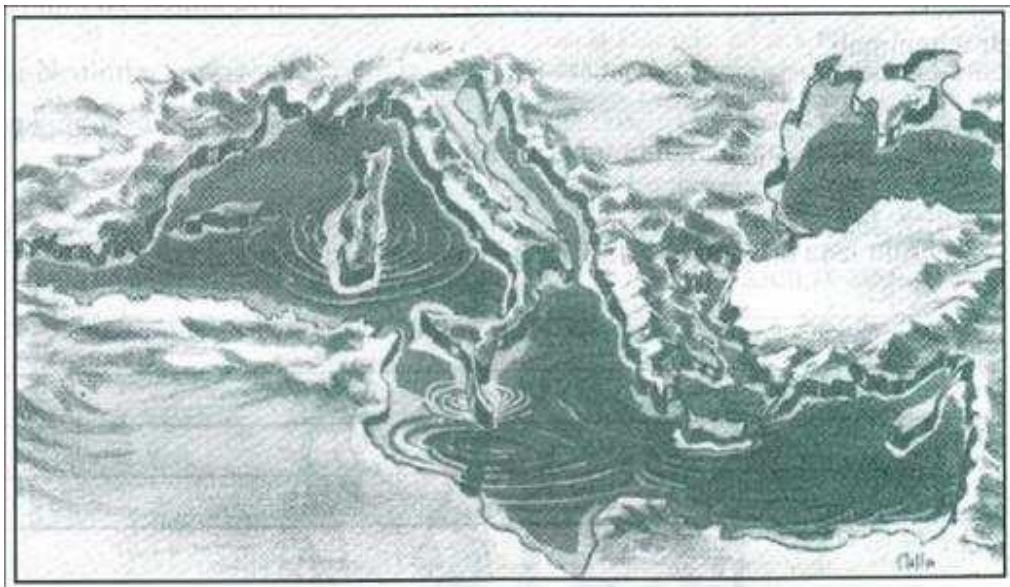
In Għar Dalam, many fossilized remains of animals were found, such as that of:

- elephants
- hippopotamus
- deer
- bears

Kevin: So what does this mean, Sandra?

1. Could such animals live on a small island like Malta?

- “
2. Look at the map and explain what would happen where the sea level to decrease?



3. So how do you think these animals came to Malta?

4. To what conclusion can we arrive?

Malta was not always an _____.

5. **Remember:** There was a time when Malta was joined with Sicily. This was **before** the first people came to Malta. In fact, we said that the first people came to Malta in a raft or boat. So they had to cross the sea. This means that when the first people arrived, Malta was already an island. This happened because the level of the water rose, and hence, Malta got separated by seawater from Europe.

Where there any people in Malta when Malta was still combined with Sicily? ____

C: Kevin and Sandra investigate THE WORK OF PEOPLE DURING PREHISTORY.

Read and answer.

Kevin: A certain time in prehistory is called NEOLITHIC. Sandra, this is a new word – NEOLITHIC. Do you know what it means?

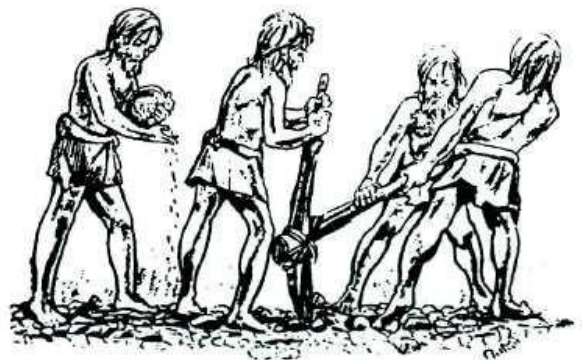
Sandra: The Neolithic is the last part of the Stone Age, this means the time when humans did not use any types of metal. However, humans at that time were still clever and knew how to do various things. The picture shows you what they were able to do and so, what their work was during the Neolithic Age and the hundreds of years that followed.

1. According to the picture, the people seem to have been:

_____.

2. Bread is necessary for humans. This is made from flour and flour comes from

_____.



3. Why was farming required for the people of the Neolithic Age?

4. People in prehistory were not only farmers. They were also animal farmers and shepherds. This means that they _____

5. From the animals engraved in the temples we can see the type of animals they used to breed.
Write the animals you recognise from the below pictures.



6. What did the people of the prehistoric times take from these animals?

7. Some animal parts were used to keep themselves warm? What do you think they did?

Kevin: So far, we saw that these people were farmers and animal herders.

Sandra: Kevin, I think they were something else as well. Who knows how many birds, wild rabbits and other animals existed! Don't you think they tried to catch them?

8. Then the first Maltese were also

9. This stone which was found in Bugibba shows three fish engraved on it. If they ate fish it means they were also



10. At that time, where there more or less fish in the sea than nowadays? Why?

D: Kevin and Sandra compare THE MALTA OF BEFORE WITH MALTA OF TODAY.

Read and answer.

Sandra: We would have been so happy had we lived in Malta during that time!

Kevin: Indeed Sandra, who knows how beautiful Malta was during that time – how many flowers, trees and animals!

1. Imagine you were living in Malta during that time. Make a list of those things that you would like the most.

2. If you had lived in Malta during that time, you would have been deprived of many comforts you have today. Mention some of these.

3. Which do you prefer Malta of that time or Malta of today? Why?

4. What type of house would you have had if you had lived in Malta in prehistoric times?

E: Underline the correct answer or fill-in the blanks.

1. Għar Dalam is found near (Mgarr, Birżebbuġa, Raħal Ġdid).
2. Għar Dalam is taken care of by (Limestone Heritage, Din l-Art Helwa, Heritage Malta).
3. At this site there is the _____ of Għar Dalam and the _____ itself.
4. Skorba is found near (Birżebbuġa, Qrendi, Mgarr).
5. In Skorba, archaeologists discovered a lot of (bones, pottery, temples).
6. Skorba is important because there they found the first type of prehistoric (building, person, book).
7. The word Neolithic means: (light tube, the period of copper tools, the new period of stone).
8. The (climate, countryside, convenience) was one of the reasons that encouraged people to live in Malta during prehistory.