

Worksheet S6.1.4

Let us appreciate the beauty of the Hypogeum of Hal Saflieni.

Kevin and Sandra explore the HYPOGEUM OF HAL SAFLIENI (Writing by Leonard Grech)

Read and answer.

Kevin: Temples like that of Ġgantija are built on land but there are others historic places like the Hypogeum of Hal Saflieni that are underground.

Sandra: That is right Kevin. Hypogeum comes from the Greek word *Ipogeo* which means 'Underground'.



Remember these points regarding the Hypogeum of Hal Saflieni:

- It is found in Paola and is considered to be a World Heritage Site.
- It was dug during the Temples Period without the use of metal tools.
- Part of the Hypogeum was a place for burial because various bones were found.
- The most beautiful and most sacred room in the Hypogeum is the *Sancta Sanctorum*; it seems as if it was built but, in reality, it is all dug out of the stone.
- Another beautiful room is the Oracle room. Most likely, this was used for getting advices. It contains a curious hole in the wall. If a man speaks through the hole then his voice is heard echoed throughout the place but the voice of a woman does not echo.
- On the roof of the Oracle room there is a drawing in red known as the TREE OF LIFE.



- In the deepest part of the Hypogeum they used to hide their treasures.
- In the Hypogeum they found the statue of the Sleeping Lady.

1. What do you think the Tree of Life represented?

2. Who do you think used the most beautiful rooms in the Hypogeum? And for what purpose?

3. Do you think their treasures were things made of gold or silver? Why?

4. What could their treasures be?

5. What was the meaning of the Sleeping Lady?

