

Worksheet S6.2.2

Let us look at the fortifications that existed in the Maltese Islands during the Great Siege.

THE FORTIFICATIONS THAT EXISTED DURING THE SIEGE

Read and answer.

(material collected by George Calleja)

The defence of Malta was mainly based on the fortifications around the Grand Harbour. These were:

- Senglea which was surrounded by bastions and protected by Fort Saint Michael.
- Birgu that was also surrounded by bastions and protected by Fort Saint Angelo.
- Fort Saint Elmo that was newly built at the edge of the Xiberras hill.



The Grand Master Jean de Valette wanted to base Malta’s defense on only these fortifications because he knew that the cities of Mdina and the Citadel in Gozo, despite being surrounded by bastions, were too weak and too far from the main defence of the Grand Harbour.

However, Forts Saint Angelo and Saint Michael had the disadvantage that they were surrounded by hills from all sides. Even Saint Elmo was too low compared to its high surrounding land.

1. Which were the main fortifications during the Great Siege? Answer by marking ✓ in the boxes.

Saint Elmo

Saint Angelo

Mdina

Saint Michael

The Citadel

2. Mention a disadvantage these fortifications had.

(a) Saint Elmo: _____

(b) Saint Angelo: _____

(c) Mdina: _____

(d) Saint Michael: _____

(e) The Citadel: _____

3. Write the name of the fortifications shown in the pictures.








