

**Worksheet S6.4.5**

Let us appreciate the beauty of the Capital City of Malta and understand the need of caring for it well.

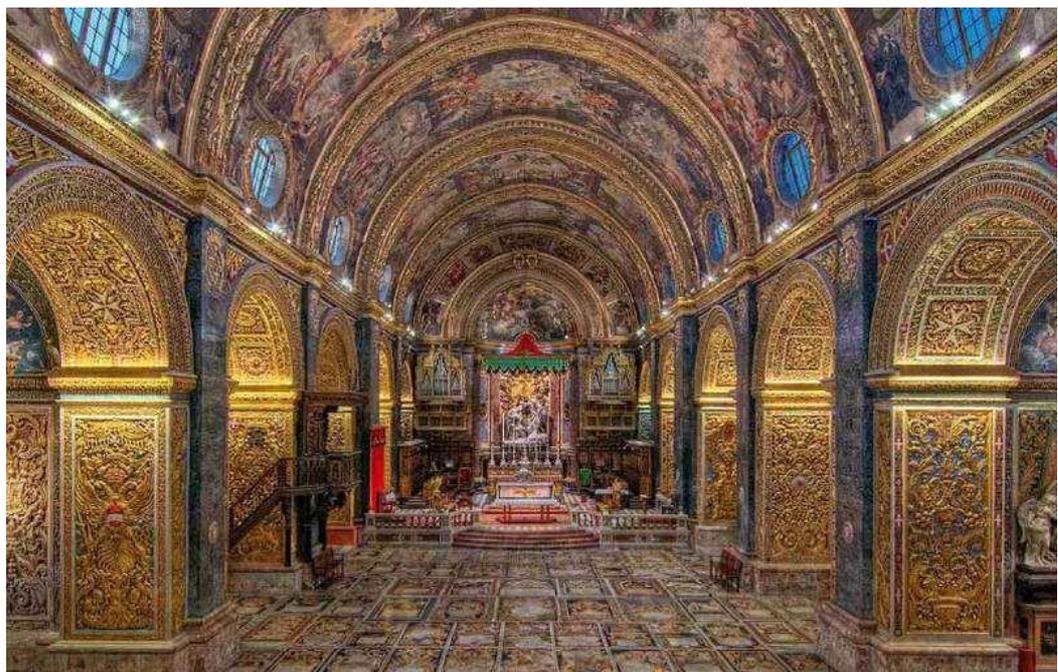
**THE BEAUTY OF VALLETTA**

*(notes by Mario Debono and George Calleja)*

Since the Knights were rich people coming from the best families of Europe, besides the defence they also took care of the beauty of their new city. Whilst they continued to build new fortifications to further strengthen the city as a fortress, over the year's architectural works as well as works of art were carried out in order to embellish the city and make this a capital suited to noble leaders like themselves.



When they were content with the defence, the Knights started to pay more attention to the decoration of buildings and other commodities. They started competing against each other about who had the best ability to decorate their palace most. A theatre, private homes, churches, fountains and monuments were built. The inside of the Co-Cathedral of St. John was redecorated in baroque style. Hence, the buildings in Valletta became more engraved and decorated with sculptures that replaced the simplistic style of Ġormu Cassar.



*The Conventual Church from the inside.*

**Remember:**

1. Valletta is considered to be a World Heritage Site. The baroque architecture and the works of art it contains are a heritage of all humankind.
2. We need to take care and conserve (to maintain it in the best possible condition) our Capital City. It is not enough to carry out the necessary restoration; we need to be careful so that we do not do any damage ourselves – examples:
  - We do not walk with stiletto heels on the floor of the Co-Cathedral.
  - We control the amount of traffic because exhaust fumes are harmful to the stones.

**A: Underline the correct answer.**

1. Valletta's bastions are very strong because they are (built one stone on top of another, made of coralline limestone, cut into the rock).
2. Many of the corners we find in Valletta are decorated with (a statue, a flower, a church).
3. Various (rules, books, leaflets) were issued for anyone who wanted to build in the city, even for private homes.
4. From the outside, the Conventual Church of St. John is (decorated with gold, smooth, filled with sculptures).
5. On the inside of the Conventual Church of St. John there are (other churches, works of art, dragons).
6. For the entertainment of the Knights as well as the population, (a casino, a Fort, the Manoel Theatre) was built.
7. Valletta was declared as a World Heritage Site by (the Parliament of Europe, UNESCO, Pope Pius V).
8. When a building found in Valletta is damaged, we should (demolish it, leave it as it is, restore it).

**B: Curiosities – Try to find . . .**

1. Who was the Grand Master that decorated the Grandmaster's Palace with a set of famous tapestries?
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2. Who was the Grand Master who wanted the façade of the Auberge de Castille to be rebuilt again in baroque style of the highest quality?

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3. The fountains and the gardens in Valletta were done after the Grand Master Alof de Wignacourt brought water to the City. What was done to channel the water from the area around Rabat to Valletta?

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4. The largest painting of Caravaggio is found in the oratory of the Co-Cathedral. Which is it?

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5. Who painted the ceiling of the Co-Cathedral of St. John?

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6. Who built the Manoel Theatre?

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7. What did Sir Walter Scott say when he visited the Co-Cathedral?

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8. Draw or attach a picture of the coat of arms of Valletta.