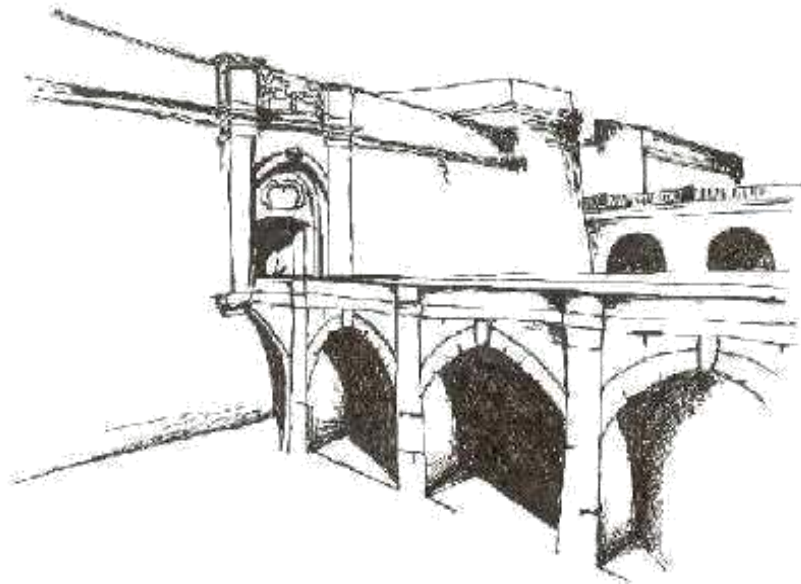


ID-DIRETTORAT GHAL KWALITÀ U STANDARDS FL-EDUKAZZJONI  
Id-Dipartiment tal-Kurrikulu u l-eLearning  
It-Taqsima tal-Assessjar Edukattiv  
2013

# Birgu Fieldwork

Year 5 Fieldwork



# The Strategic Position of Birgu

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Birgu forms part of the cities of Cottonera and is in the Grand Harbour. On the map below, draw the sea in blue and the land in brown.



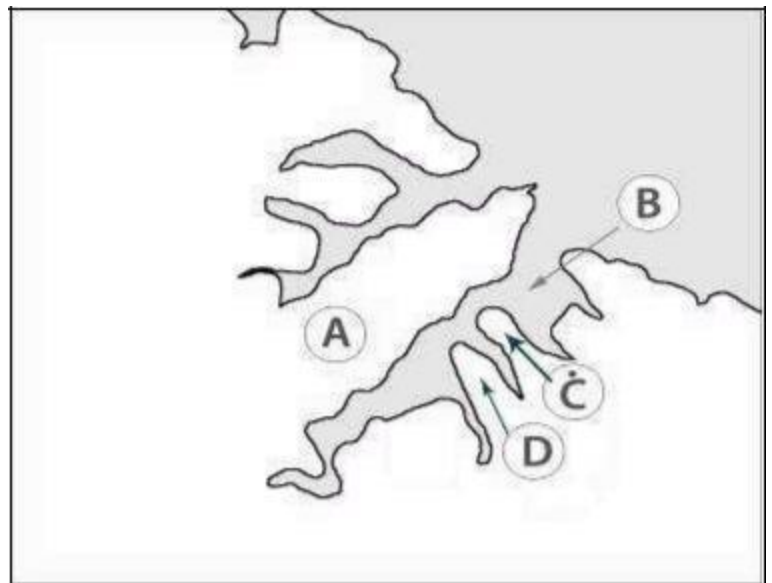
Fill in the following according to the map you are seeing:

a) Birgu is marked by the letter \_\_\_\_\_.

b) Valletta has the letter \_\_\_\_\_.

c) The Grand harbour is marked by the letter \_\_\_\_\_.

d) Isla is marked by the letter \_\_\_\_\_.



To familiarise yourself with the route of this fieldwork, you can watch a documentary about Birgu on YouTube. The documentary is divided in two parts:

(A) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFUCyyLxOJO>

(B) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lbha2sfUdE>

# The Fieldwork Route

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Start from near **Couvre de Porte**, go down Tunnel Street, find the **University of Wheat** (in the Popular Council Street), the **Inquisitor's Palace**, **Victory Square**, enter towards the **Collachio** and see the **Old Hospital** (nowadays the convent of the nuns of Saint Skolastika). See also the **Auberges**, the surrounding bastions, once more go down to **Victory Square**, go down from near the **Museum of La Valette** (the Oratory of Saint Joseph) towards the **Church of Saint Laurence**, note the **Freedom Monument**, go towards the **Maritime Museum**, the **Manderaggio** and the **Castle Saint Angelo**.



*(N.B. Although extra details are not important, it is suggested that an emphasis should be made on the places marked in bold).*

The fieldwork starts from near **Couvre de Porte**. The Couvre de Porte was the main door to Birgu at the time of the Knights. As you enter Birgu look at the bastions; note the strength of the fortifications which surround Birgu.

1. In the photo on the side we see:
  - a) the office of the parish priest
  - b) the football club of Vittoriosa Stars
  - c) the old main door of Birgu
  
2. The Couvre de Porte was:
  - a) an old church
  - b) the office of the Grand Master La Sengle
  - c) the main door of Birgu



3. Find something important which you notice close to *Couvre de Porte*.

4. The Knights of Saint John took control of the Maltese Islands in 1530.

At that time the main city of Malta was (*Valletta, Mellieħa, Imdina*).

5. When they came to Malta in 1530, the Knights chose Birgu as their main city. They chose to build a hospital, the auberges and their churches in it because: (it was close to the sea, they were Europeans, they were Christians).

6. Note the bastions which surround Birgu.

(The Knights, the British, the French) surrounded Birgu with bastions in order to (make it smaller, defending it better, for enjoyment reasons).

Continue going down through **Tunnel Street**. On your right, you should find **Popular Council Street**. Go into the street and look for - the building of the University of Wheat - see the photo below.



7. Look at the plaque on the wall of the **University of Wheat**.

Who built this University?

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8. Why do you think that wheat was, and still is, so important for our country?

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Once again go out of Tunnel Street and continue walking down; on your right you should find the **Palace of the Inquisitor**.

9. From the signs you find on the facade of the Palace of the Inquisitor, look for this information:

a) Which agency looks after this building?

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Between which years did this building serve as the Palace of the Inquisition?

\_\_\_\_\_



10. The Inquisition was set up by the Pope to defend (Italy, Greece, The Maltese Islands, The Catholic Faith).

From near the Palace of the Inquisitor, go towards **Victory Square** and keep on going on your right until you enter the old part of Birgu known as the **Collachio**. Look for Hilda Tabone Street. This is the main street of the Collachio. At the beginning of this street turn to your left to find the Convent of the cloistered nuns of Saint Skolastika.



11. This was the heart of Birgu and is called the **COLLACHIO**.

Here the knights built a hospital, auberges and other important buildings.

The Maltese could not live in this part of Birgu. It was a piece of land reserved for the Knights only.

Look for the building which you see in the photo on the right. This was the first hospital which the Knights built in Malta. The hospital of the Knights was called the **Sacra Infermeria**. After the Great Siege they built another new, larger and more beautiful hospital in Valletta.



What is the building of the hospital, which the Knights built in Birgu, nowadays being used for?

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12. In this part of Birgu we also find the Auberges of the Knights. The **Auberges** were (castles, palaces, fortified houses) in which the Knights of the same language lived.

13. **England's Auberge:**

Look for this building which you can see in the photo on the right. During the Knights rule this building used to serve as a place where the Knights who spoke the British language lived.



How is this same building being used today?

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14. Find **TWO** other Auberges of the time of the Knights in Birgu, and from the signs that are on their façade write the names of the two Auberges:

**Auberge A:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Auberge B:** \_\_\_\_\_

15. In the box below, draw something you found striking in the Collachio. You can draw a design, a door or window, a balcony, a door knocker, etc.

16. Note how in this part of Birgu the roads are very narrow.

a) Do you think we should demolish some houses and, if necessary, also auberges so that we can widen these roads and facilitate the movement of traffic?

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b) Why do you think so?

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Go back towards Victory Square and go down towards the **Oratory of Saint Joseph**.

17. The statue you see in the picture is the Victory statue. The word 'Victory' comes from the word 'Victorious' which means victory.

Why were the square and this statue thus called?

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18. Here in Malta, every year, we celebrate the feast of Victory :

- a) on the 13th of December
- b) on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March
- c) on the 25th of December
- d) on the 8th of September

19. In the picture we see the Oratory, or as it is better known, **THE MUSEUM OF LA VALETTE.**

Here, amongst other things, we find remains of the time of the (Arabs, Punic, the Knights, the French).



We now go down towards the parvis of the **Church of Saint Lawrence.** Walk around the parvis where you should find a lot of remembrances of the past. Amongst these we find plaques on the walls. These plaques all remind us of some of Malta's historical moments.

20. On the wall of the Birgu church you should find a monument to the victims of war.

Write three names of people who died during the Second World War.

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_



We continue the fieldwork by walking down towards the Church of Saint Lawrence.



This church was previously the Conventual church at the time of the Knights, when Birgu was the main city of Malta before the building of Valletta. The original church had suffered from an extreme fire and therefore a new one was built. In the church we find, amongst others, a painting by Mattia Preti.

Look for the **Freedom Monument**, in front of the church of Saint Lawrence

21. In the picture on the right, you can see a part of:

- a) The Great Siege monument
- b) Kastell Saint Angelo
- c) Freedom monument.



22. This monument reminds us of when:

- a) the knights came to Birgu
- b) Pope John Paul visited Birgu
- c) the British soldiers left Malta for good.

Continue walking along the shore. On your right you should see the **Maritime Museum** and then further in you will find Fort St' Angelo.

23. The building, where nowadays we find the Maritime Museum (see the picture on the right), was used as a bakery by the British Navy.

Here during the time of British rule, many Maltese workers used to bake bread and other food for the British sailors, soldiers and their families.



24. In the Maritime Museum we primarily find remains which are related to (bread, the sea, the Knights, the schools).

25. The Maritime Museum is looked after by (MEPA, Heritage Malta, the Ministry of Education, the Transport Authority).

Walk towards **Fort St. Angelo** until you find a 'menqa' or large hole full of sea water (see the picture below).

26. This hole full of water between Fort St. Angelo and Birgu is called (the Bowl, the Small Bay, the Black Hole, the Manderaggio).



27. Here, the Knight of Saint John used to bring in their galleys in the case of (an attack by the enemy, an earthquake, a plague).

28. We note that the city of Birgu is built on (an island, a peninsula, a mountain).

### 29. **Fort St. Angelo.**

This is a very old castle which probably was built during the times of Arab Rule in Malta. When the Knights came to Malta, they made Birgu their capital city. Grand Master La Valette used to live in Fort St. Angelo, and he directed the Great Siege from here.



Nowadays Fort St. Angelo is a very important historic site which attracts to it thousands of tourists who visit Malta every year for their holidays.

30. Fort St. Angelo watches over the harbour (of Imġarr, of Marsamxett, the grand, of Marsaxlokk).

This Castle (does not need anything, needs a lot of restoration, is used by the Maltese Army).

31. Part of Fort St. Angelo, was used by the Knights of Saint John as a (bakery, pharmacy, general quarters, hospital).

**Place these words related to Birgu, in the crossword below.**

Sant Anġlu                      Collachio                      Birgu                      Borgo  
 Misraħ ir-Rebħa              Mużew Marittimu              Swar      Couvre De Porte  
 Berġa

		M							C					
C														
					S									
B														B
									B					
					S									
		M							R	-	R			

So we have come to the end of our fieldwork.  
 We hope that you enjoyed doing it and that you learnt a lot of interesting things about Birgu.



**Notes:**

During the scholastic year every student from Year Three to Year Six in primary schools should carry out a fieldwork/s with reference to the Social Studies syllabus. Assessment should follow the criteria below:

A. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA		marks
a	Level of participation and ability to follow instructions	5
b	Quality of observations, identification and recording	5
c	Interpretation of the information gathered	5
d	Presentation of the final document	5
TOTAL		20

**B: ELABORATION OF ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

	Criteria	0-1	2-3	4-5	Marks
a	Level of participation and ability to follow instructions	Lack of interest; Fully dependent on others.	Shows interest through questions and answers; occasionally shows initiative by searching for answers.	Shows interest through questions and answers; continuously shows initiative by searching for answers.	
b	Quality of observations, identification, and recording	Needs constant directions re what should be noted / observed; has to be given a lot of help to write down the answers.	Can note and observe things around him/her with a little help; writes down answers with a little help.	Independently notes and observes things around him/her; writes down answers without any help.	
c	Interpretation of the information gathered	Can arrive at an interpretation after an explanation.	Can arrive at a correct interpretation on his/her own	Can arrive at a correct interpretation on his/her own and explain it.	
d	Presentation of the final document	Unfinished work which is not clear.	Finished work which is not all clear.	Finished and clear work.	
<b>Total</b>					

In the case of students who are unable, for a valid reason, to attend for the fieldwork session with the rest of the class, the teacher may, after consulting the parents, encourage these students to carry out the fieldwork at a later date, under the supervision of an adult.

Thank you.

*Anthony Farrugia - Education Officer (Primary)*

**Special thanks to:** Mr Anthony Pace – ex-Education Officer (Primary), Ms Marthese Mugliett, Mr Edward Gilson, Ms Carmen Aquilina, Educational Assessment Unit (EAU).