

# Touring MDINA

## Year 5 Social Studies Fieldwork



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Mdina

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Mdina (Imdina) is the old principal city of Malta. This is one of the three old cities of the Maltese Islands. These are Mdina, Birgu and the Ċittadella.



Note on the map its strategic position, far away from the sea.

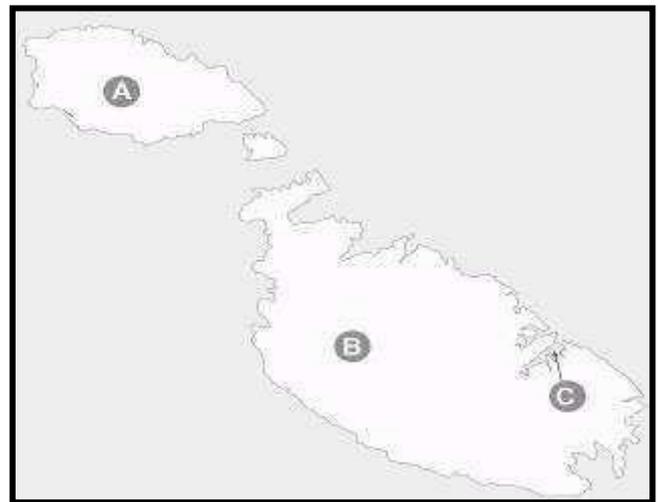
Write the names of the three towns according

to the letter there is on the map.

A \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_



To help you familiarize yourself with the route of this fieldwork, see the documentary about Imdina on YouTube.

The documentary is divided into two parts:

A. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=0Unkki8zUxY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=0Unkki8zUxY)

B. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=IRER0m7L\\_Nc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=IRER0m7L_Nc)

# The fieldwork route

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Start from the principal door of Imdina.



**IMDINA** was and still is very important in our country's history. Why?

In the Middle Ages Imdina was the centre, or better still, the capital city of the Maltese Islands - this remained so until the arrival of the Knights of Saint John in Malta in 1530.

Today Imdina is still important especially because it attracts a huge number of tourists annually.

## The history of **IMDINA** in short:

People have lived in the vicinities since prehistoric times.

During the Roman Occupation in Malta, this was the capital city, and was at the time called **MELITA**. Melita at the time of the Romans was much bigger than the Imdina we see today.

Who shrunk the city of Melita and surrounded it with bastions? We do not know exactly whether it was the Arabs or the Byzantines; however, we know for sure that it was the Arabs who named it **MDINA**.

After the events of Monroy, King Alfonso of Aragon gave the title of **CITTÀ NOTABILE** to Imdina.

When the Knights of Saint John came to Malta, they went to live in Birgu; hence Imdina was no longer the capital city of Malta. In 1693 there was a strong earthquake and a lot of buildings in Imdina were damaged. After this earthquake Grand Master De Vilhena and his architect Francois Mondion built the beautiful buildings, we see in Imdina today. Mondion also opened the principal door, which we see in the picture. Nowadays Imdina is known as the silent city.

**Answer by filling in the blanks or underlining:**  
(You can find some answers from the notes on page 2)



1. Prior to entering Imdina there is a sign.

Find this information:

In which year was the door of Imdina created? \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Before entering the main door of Imdina, look to the left and also to the right.

What do you see when you look down? (moat, chapel, cinema, school).

3. Who opened this **main door** which appears on Page 1?

- i) The people of Rabat
- ii) The Grand Master La Valette
- iii) The architect Mondion
- iv) The Archbishop of Malta

Go into the small square you find at the entrance to Imdina.

4. Write the names of the three saints we find on the inside of the principal door of Imdina.



Write them in the order they are, from left to right.

Choose from the following (Saint Albert, Saint Mary, Saint Agatha, Saint Cecilia, Saint Anard, Saint George Preca, Saint Publius, Saint Paul)

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

5. On the left, as you enter through the **Door of Imdina** you should find a marble memorial on the wall.

This memorial commemorates the uprising of the Maltese against the French rule. It was exactly here that the uprising started which led to the ousting of the French from Malta to be replaced by the British.



Write two of the names of the Maltese victims of these riots:

- i) \_\_\_\_\_ ii) \_\_\_\_\_

6. This memorial shows us that the Maltese Islands were once conquered by the French.

In fact, the Maltese Islands were conquered by many foreign countries.

Apart from the French mention, two foreign countries which at some point used to rule the Maltese Islands:

- i) \_\_\_\_\_ ii) \_\_\_\_\_

7. In the picture on the right you can see the **Watch Tower**; here you would find the watchmen of Imdina, always ready to maintain order in the city.

i) Nowadays this building is known as (the Cathedral; the moat; the standard tower)

ii) Nowadays this tower is being used as

\_\_\_\_\_.



iii) Do you think that this Tower is kept in a good state, or is it abandoned and kept in a bad state?

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iv) Who do you think could help so that the Tower and many other buildings in Imdina will be restored and kept in a good state?

Choose from the following: (the police, the local council, the army, the bank employees).

8. In the square opposite the Tower, you can also see a beautiful palace. Look well at this palace, go into the beautiful courtyard there is in front of it.

This Palace is built in a very important style, called the **BAROQUE STYLE**. The baroque style is a style which has many designs and details.



Look for this information in the courtyard of the Palace.

- i) This Palace was built (by the Grand Master De Vilhena, by the Archbishop of Malta, by the President of Malta, by the Mayor of Imdina)
- ii) Manoel de Vilhena was (the Grand Master, the President, the Prime Minister) of Malta who fixed and beautified the city of Imdina.
- iii) In the same Palace nowadays, we find a very important museum, this is (the Grand Museum, the Museum of Natural History, the Museum of Archeology).
- iv) This museum is very important for Malta because (many waiters work in it, many tourists visit it, science examinations are held in it).

9. The coat of arms you are seeing in the picture on the right is that of Grand Master De Vilhena.



**Two** places where you can see these arms are:

- a. On the face of the Standard
- b. Tower On the back of the door of Imdina
- c. In the Imdina Dungeons
- d. In the Police station
- e. Below the bust of De Vilhena on the front of the de Vilhena Palace

From the square where we are -**Saint Publius Square**, keep on going down on the right, from Inguanez Street. You should find a very nice square.



10. Here we find the place where the **Local Council of Imdina** meets nowadays.

i) What is this square called today?

\_\_\_\_\_

ii) Which officers from the following meet in the Local Council building?

(the Mayor, Ministers, archpriests, Councillors, the Grand Master, Knights).

*We continue with our fieldwork.*

From the square opposite the local council keep on going towards the **Cathedral Square**; in the square look carefully around you and observe; look for the following pictures and answer the questions about them.



11. Look at the building you can see in the picture on the right.

- i) Today in Imdina, inside this building we find (the Cathedral Museum, the Palace of the Grand Masters, the school of the Priests of Saint Paul, the Armoury)
- ii) This building was the Seminary. In the Seminary those intending to become (teachers, soldiers, nuns, or priests) attend. Nowadays the Seminary is in Rabat Malta.



Turn on your right and you arrive at **Saint Paul's Square**.

12. In the picture on the right you can see the **CATHEDRAL of Malta**.

The Cathedral is the main church of the Diocese of Malta.

The Cathedral of Malta is dedicated to (Saint Paul, Saint Mary, Saint Peter and Saint Agatha).

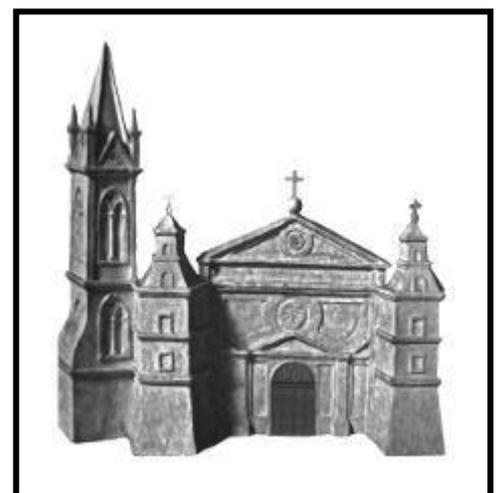


In 1693 there was an earthquake in Malta. The Cathedral suffered huge damages. Look at the photo you can see on your right. It shows a model of the Cathedral as it was prior to the earthquake.

Compare the Cathedral as it is today and as it was in previous times.

Mention **Two** changes you can observe.

- i) \_\_\_\_\_
- ii) \_\_\_\_\_



Note that the square in front of the Cathedral is called **SAINT PAUL'S SQUARE**. Walk all the way down the square - with your back towards the Cathedral - then turn to your right; the road you are on is called **Villegaignon Street**; on the left-hand side of **Villegaignon Street** there is the church known as the church of **Our Lady of Carmel**.

### 13. The church of Our Lady of Carmel:

Here in 1798, when Malta was under French occupation, the Maltese saw that the French were going to steal the damasks. The Maltese were so angry that they started to fight with the French in order to oust them from Malta. They fought for two years till finally they managed to get rid of the French.

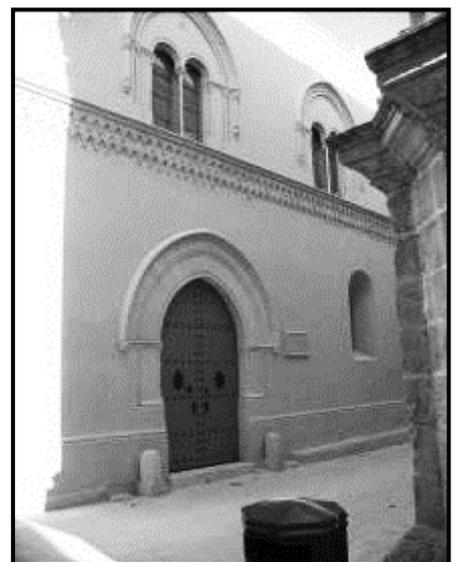


The statue which is in the corner depicts (Our Lady of Carmel, Saint Agatha, Saint Theresa).

Continue walking along **Villegaignon Street** - as soon as you walk past **Carmel Church**, you will see a beautiful palace with windows built in the Norman-Siculo style; this Palace is called **PALAZZO FALSON**.

### 14. PALAZZO FALSON:

Palazzo Falson was a private house which today is in the hands of the **FONDAZZJONI PATRIMONJU MALTI**. For a long time it was the private residence of Captain Gollcher - who was born in 1889 and died in 1962. It was Captain Gollcher who called this house the **NORMAN HOUSE**. Many tourists nowadays visit this house to admire the Kitchen, the study, the Armoury, the Sitting room, the dining room, the Library and many other interesting rooms.



**DRAWING:** Find something of interest that you can see around you and draw it in the box below. You can draw a window, a door handle or door knocker, a balcony or something else. After write a **caption** next to the object you drew.



The photo shows us a narrow street in Imdina. Probably you have seen many such streets as you were walking around Imdina during this fieldwork. We can call these narrow steets a **CHARACTERISTIC** of Imdina.

15. Which of the following can be called characteristics of Imdina?

Mark from the following:

- |                          |                                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A place where we meet many tourists. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Once there was the Seminary.         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | We find the largest cinema of Malta. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Houses built on an old style.        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | There are many garages for buses.    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Narrow roads.                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Many gardens.                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | We find the Cathedral.               |



Continue walking towards **Saint Agatha's Square**, or as it is known **Bastion Square**. Here you should find a beautiful square. You can also walk a bit around the bastions of Imdina.

16. Look over the bastions of Imdina. Through the help of your teachers write the names of three cities you can see from the top of the bastions:

i) \_\_\_\_\_ ii) \_\_\_\_\_ iii) \_\_\_\_\_

From the bastions, go back and turn on the right, to the side of **Casa Del Tesoriere**, and continue walking. There you find **Imħazen Street**. Walk down **Imħazen Street**, walk all the way down till you arrive at **Pjazza tal-Mina tal-Griegi**. Exit Imdina by passing through the **Greek Door**.

17. When you exit through the **Greek door** you arrive at (the moat, Cathedral square, or in Siggiewi).

18. Below these two photos, write: **THE MAIN DOOR** and **THE GREEK DOOR**.



19. Which is the oldest, the **Main Door** or the **Greek Door**?

\_\_\_\_\_

So we are now at the end of our fieldwork.  
I hope that you enjoyed doing this and that you learnt a lot  
of things about Imdina



**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)*

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