

Beavering



Through

HISTORY



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Beavering Through Maltese History

Timeline

5000BC—218BC



First Settlers

Phoenician Rule

Roman Rule



60 BC—1530AD



Roman Rule

Arab Rule

Shipwreck of St. Paul



1530AD—1798AD

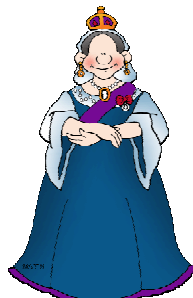
The Knights of St. John

1798AD—1800AD

French Rule

1800AD—1964AD

British Rule



1964AD—To date

Malta Governs Itself



The First Maltese



The first Maltese people were some people that came down from Sicily around 4500 years BC.



They decided to cross the narrow waters to investigate our islands. They obviously were skilled sailors and had some form



of sea-going craft large enough to carry them, their belongings animals and seeds for planting.

They settled in caves one of which was called 'Ghar-Dalam', the cave of darkness. Remains of these people and their artefacts were found.

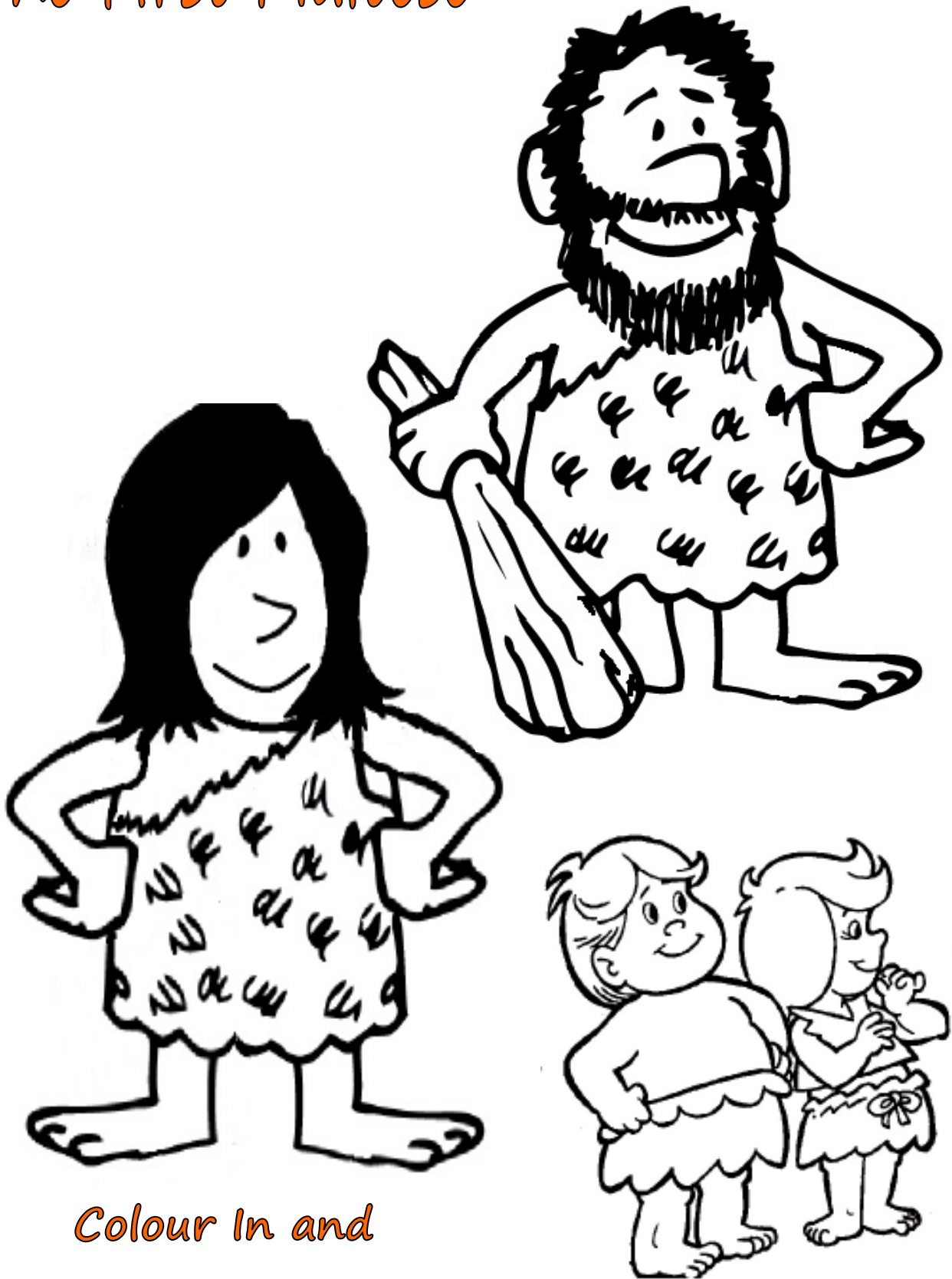
They cultivated the land, growing wheat and barley.

The First Maltese



Colour In and
Cut out the Cave

The First Maltese



*Colour In and
Cut out the pictures.
Glue them on the cave.*

Maltese Temples

The prehistoric temples of Malta are unique in all the world.

They are the oldest standing stone structures which remain to us from ancient times.

The temples date from 4000 - 2500 BC and are older than Stonehenge, even older than the Pyramids.



Ggantija



Tarxien



Hagar Qim



Temple Carvings

These are 2 of the carvings found on the temples. Draw one of them below.



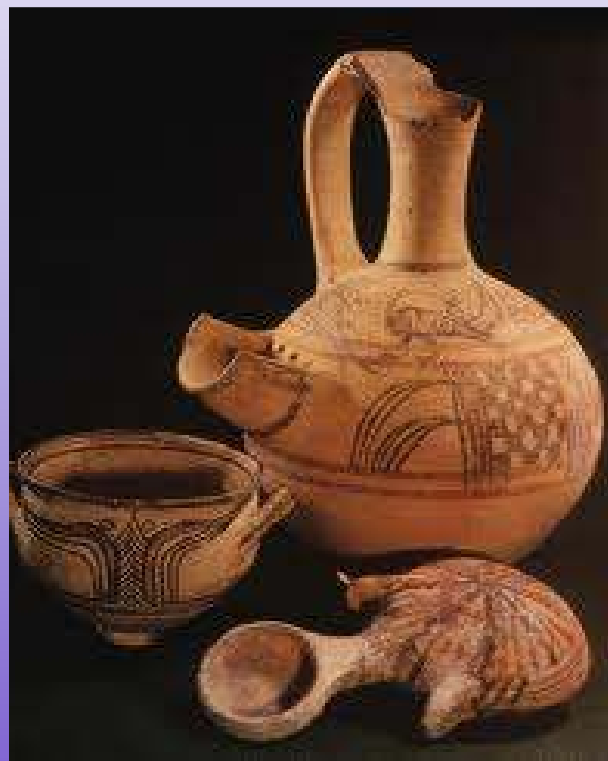
The Phoenicians



The Phoenicians were a seafaring nation that came to the Maltese Islands around 800 BC.

They named the larger island Malet (meaning: shelter) and the smaller island was named Gol (meaning: broad trading vessel).

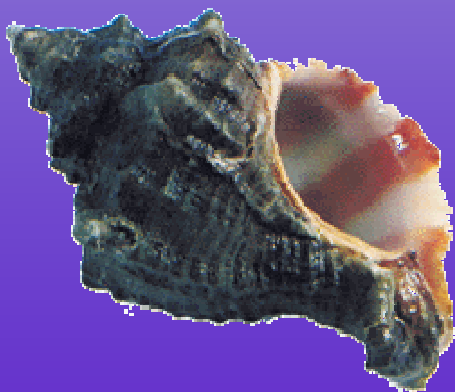
The Phoenicians were very good at weaving and pottery.



They were also famous for the

purple

dye they used to extract from a local species of sea snail (technical name: *Murex Tunculus*).

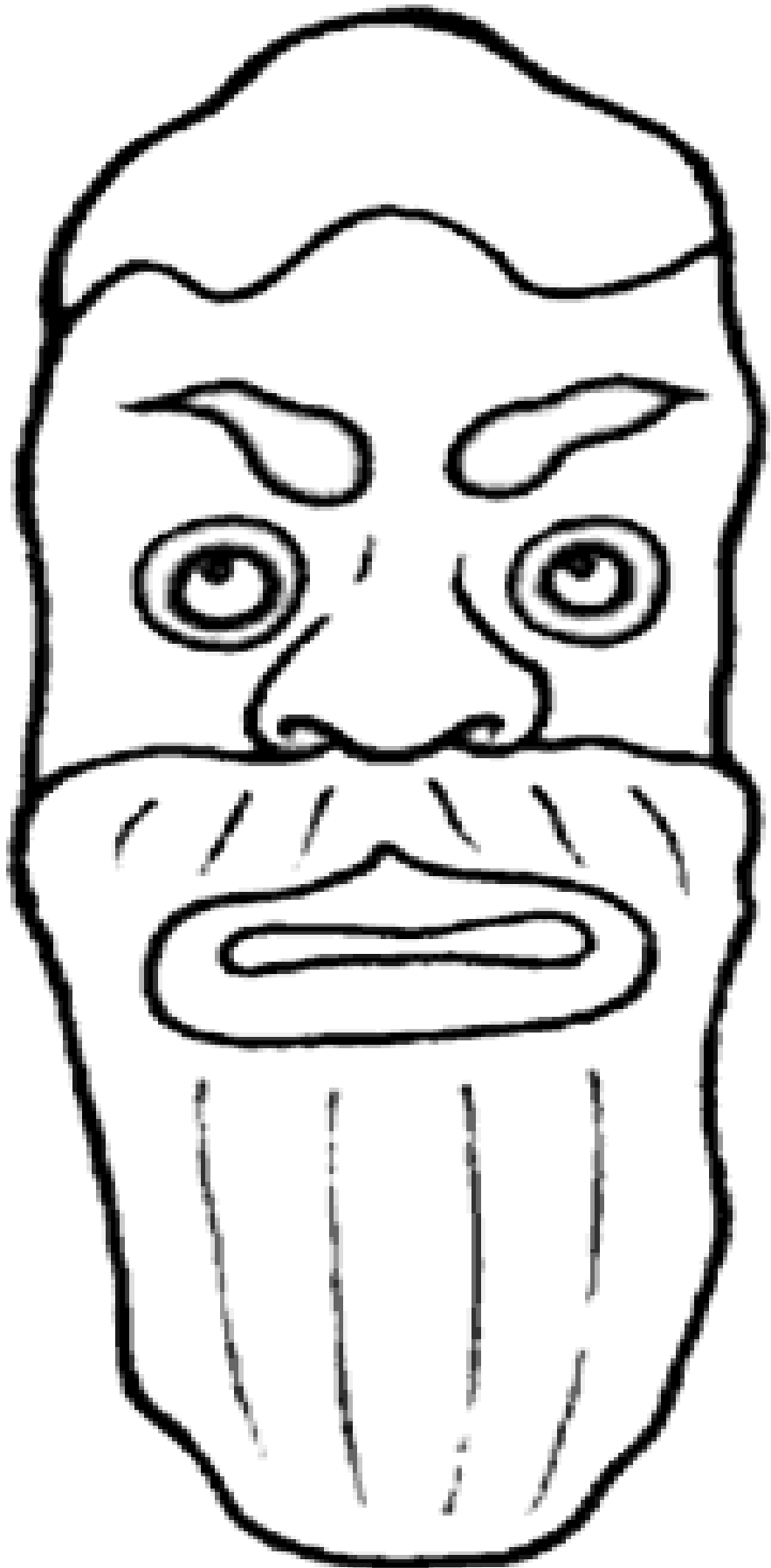


Making a Phoenician Mask

Enlarge this mask
template.

Colour in.

Cut out.





Romans

Malta fell into the hands of the Romans in 218 BC.

The Romans called the island *Melita*. The present

name Malta is derived from it.

The capital was also called *Melita* and was situated at the hilltop of the present city of *Mdina*. But *Melita* was larger than *Mdina* and included parts of *Rabat*. In *Rabat* there are still some traces of the Roman presence in Malta, like the mosaic floors of a Roman house from the 1st century AD.



One of the most famous Romans was emperor *Julius Ceaser*. The Romans even named a month after him, the month of *July* for *Julius Caesar*.



Making a Roman Mosaic



Romans were famous for their beautiful mosaics.

How to do it:

With a pencil draw an outline of a picture.

Cut out different coloured squares.

Glue these squares onto your picture until you cover it completely.

Examples of pictures shown below.



Roman Cuisine

Roman Cheese Cake

This particular cake was sometimes offered to household spirits during Rome's early history to keep away bad omens. The recipe below comes from the Roman consul Cato's agricultural writings, which included simple recipes for farmers. This Cheese Cake which sometimes served hot, is a cake he included.

Ingredients & Equipment:

1 cup plain, all purpose flour
8 ounces ricotta cheese



1 egg, beaten
bay leaves
1/2 cup clear honey
Butter
Mixing Bowl
Wooden Spoon
Sieve
Baking Tray

Method:

- Sift the flour into a bowl.
- Beat the cheese until it's soft and stir it into the flour along with the egg.
- Form a soft dough and divide into 4.
- Mold each one into a bun and place them on a greased baking tray with a fresh bay leaf underneath.
- Heat the oven to 215° C.
- Cover the cakes with your brick* and bake for 35-40 minutes until golden-brown.
- Warm the honey and place the warm cakes in it so that they absorb it.
- Allow to stand 30 minutes before serving.

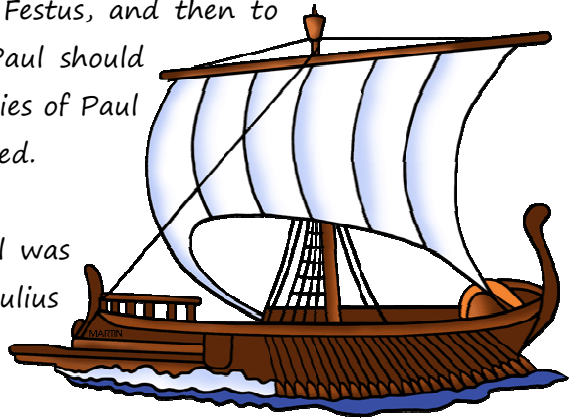
*The Romans often covered their food while it was cooking with a domed earthenware cover called a 'testo'. You can use an overturned, shallow clay pot, a metal bowl, or casserole dish as a brick.

St. Paul's Shipwreck



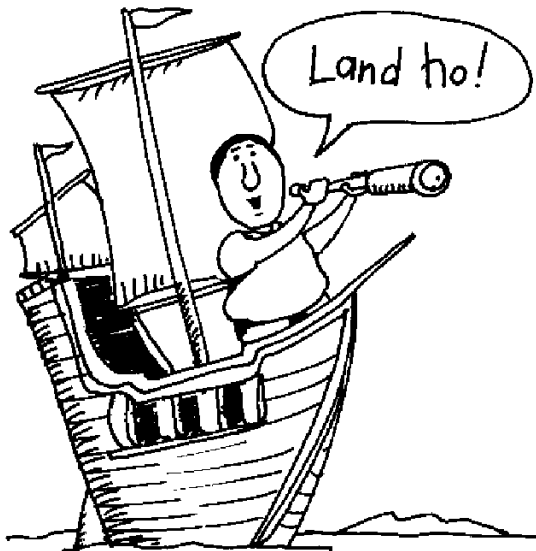
Paul was sent to Caesarea so the rulers could decide what to do with him. Paul talked to ruler Felix then to Festus, and then to King Agrippa. None of them thought Paul should be kept in prison or killed, but the enemies of Paul continued to ask for Paul to be punished.

After years of being held in jail, Paul was sent to Rome. A kind soldier named Julius took Paul and some other prisoners on a ship.



The trip was very rough, and the ship ran into many problems. The

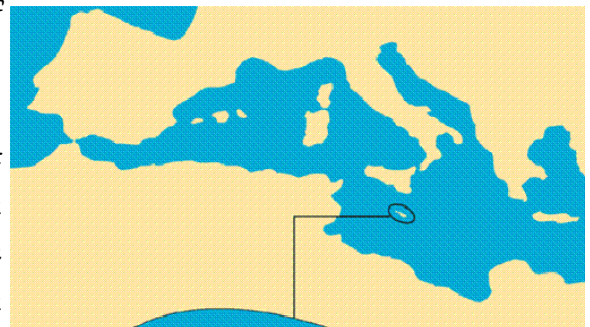
weather was stormy and the ship was tossed around in the ocean for many days. Everyone was afraid the ship would sink and they would die. God sent an angel to let Paul know none of them would die. Only the ship would be lost.



When the ship began to break apart, the soldiers wanted to kill the prisoners so they could not escape. Julius would not let them kill the prisoners. There were 276 people on the ship, and not one of them was killed in the shipwreck.

God told Paul no one would die, and God kept His promise. The ship wrecked close to the island of Malta.

Everyone got to shore. It was cold and raining, but the natives were kind to them and built them a fire. When Paul gathered sticks to throw on the fire, he was bit by a poisonous snake. It was a miracle that Paul did not get sick or die. The natives waited, and when Paul didn't die, they wondered if Paul was a god. Paul also healed the sick natives, beginning with the chief's father. Paul stayed on the island for three months and then sailed to Rome on another ship.



Knights of St. John



After seven years of moving from place to place in Europe the Knights came to Malta in 1530 in exchange of an annual fee of a single Maltese falcon. The Falcon would be sent to Sicily on All Souls Day [2nd November].

The Knights continued fighting the Muslims. Although they had only a few ships they fought well and the Ottomans did not like it. In 1565 Suleiman sent an invasion force of about 40,000 men led by Dragut to besiege the 700 knights and 8,000 soldiers and expel them from Malta and gain a new base from which to possibly launch another assault on Europe.

Although heavily undermanned, Grand Master Jean la Valette successfully defended Malta from the Turks until early September. The critical and decisive moment of the siege came on September 7, 1565. On that day, 8,000 additional troops led by Garcia de Toledo landed in Mellieha Bay. The arrival of these reinforcements forced the Turks to end the siege the following day.

Grandmaster Jean la Valette built Valletta after the Great Siege of 1565. He felt the Knights needed a new city with strong defenses in case the Turks returned. The architects of Valletta were Francisco Laparelli, and Girolamo Cassar. Laparelli chose the Sceberras Peninsula as the site of the Knights' new city. The Sceberras Peninsula, with its elevation above the harbor and its narrow connection to the mainland, provided natural defenses. Construction began on March 28, 1566. Although La Valette started the construction, he died in 1568 and did not live to see the completion of the city named in his honor. Valletta was the first planned city in western Europe built on a grid system. The Knights continually refortified Valletta until its surrender to the French in 1798.

The Knights stayed for 268 years in Malta, transforming what they called "merely a rock of soft sandstone" into a flourishing island with mighty defenses .



Knights of St. John



The 8 Pointed Cross

Enlarge the template.

Cut it out and decorate
with silver glitter glue.



Knight's Titles

Have fun inventing your very own Knight's title.

For example:

Sir Beavertooth

Sir Maltabeaver

Sir Cloudy

Sir Eat-a-lot

Sir Greenfinger

Sir Slap-a-tail

Knights of St. John

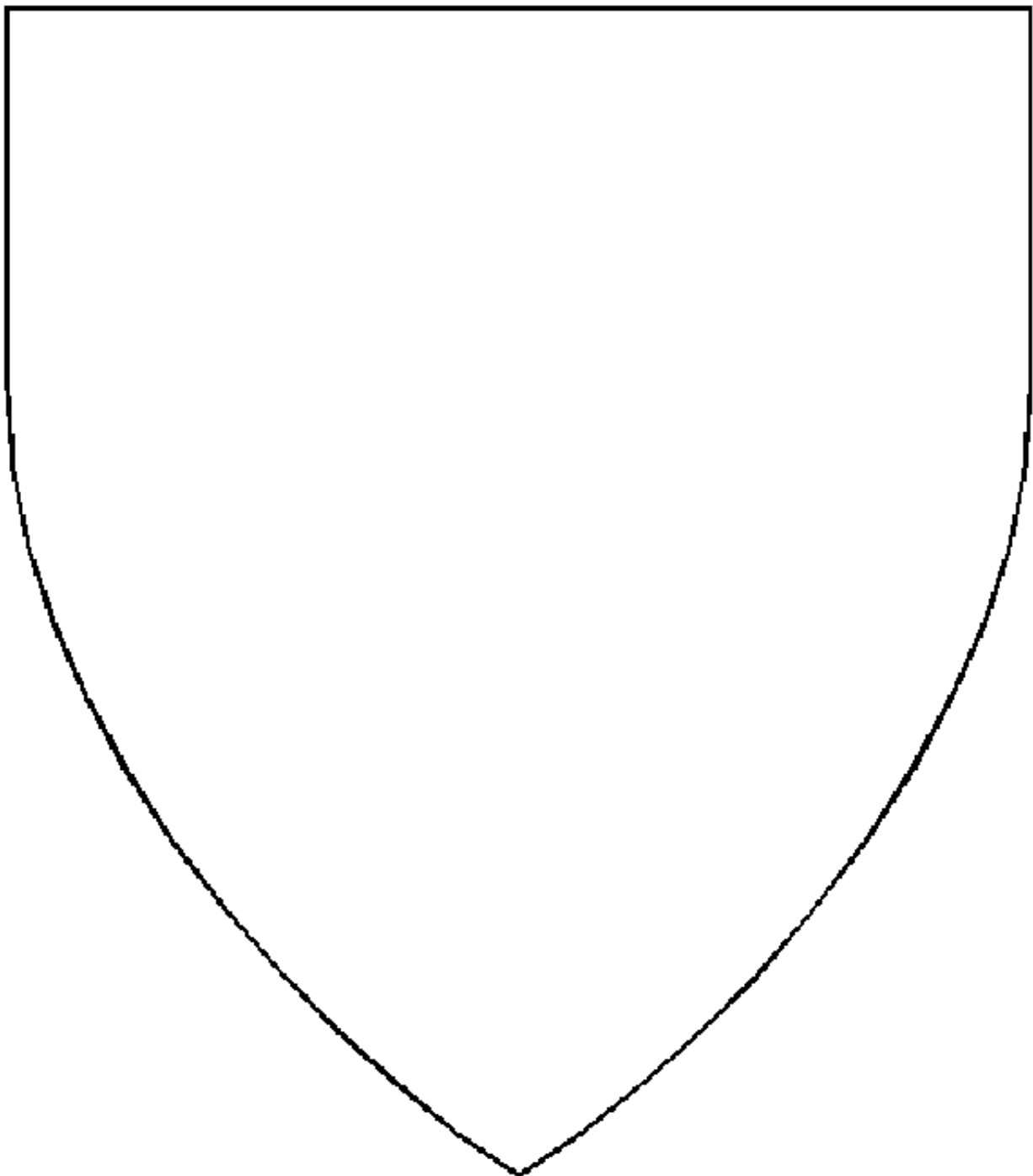
Build your own coat of arms



**Cut out the Shield Below*

**Colour and cut out the templates
on the following page*

**Glue templates to the shield*



The French

The reign of the Knights of the order of St. John ended in 1798.

When Napoleon Bonaparte's expeditionary fleet stopped off in Malta en route to his Egyptian expedition. Napoleon asked for safe harbour to resupply his ships, the Knights refused to supply him with water.

On the 10 June 1798, French troops landed at St. Georges Bay and on the 17th June, Grandmaster Ferdinand von Hompesch handed over the Maltese Islands to Napoleon Bonaparte.

Napoleon stayed in Malta only 6 days but during this very short time he managed to do quite a lot of big changes in the way Malta was governed. He abolished slavery and granted freedom to all Turkish slaves. He started the law courts and put judges in place. Public education was started providing primary and secondary education to all, including the building of 15 primary schools and a university.

Napoleon then sailed for Egypt leaving a substantial garrison in Malta. Since the Order of St. John had also been growing unpopular with the local Maltese, the latter initially viewed the French with optimism. This illusion did not last long. Within months the French were closing convents and seizing church treasures, most notably the sword of Grand Master Jean Parisot de la Valette which is to date still exhibited in the Louvre, in Paris. The Maltese people rebelled, and the French garrison of General Vaubois retreated into Valletta. After several failed attempts by the locals to retake Valletta, the British were asked for their assistance. Rear Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson decided on a total blockade in 1799. The French garrison surrendered in 1800.





Make Napoleon's Hat

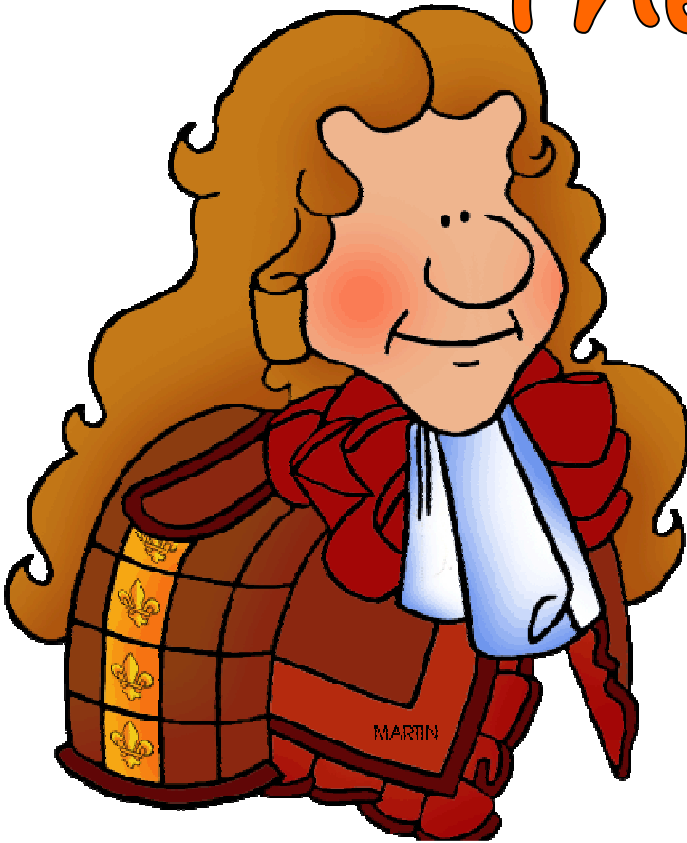
What you'll need:

- Newspaper Sheets or Large Sheets of Paper

How to do it:



The British



In 1800, Malta voluntarily became part of the British Empire.

Although initially the island was not given much importance, its excellent harbours became a prized asset for the British, especially after the opening of the Suez canal in 1869.

The island became a military and naval fortress, the headquarters of the British Mediterranean fleet.

On 15 April 1942, King George VI awarded the George Cross (the highest civilian award for gallantry) "to the island fortress of Malta — its people and defenders."

He presented the scroll on 8 December, but dated it 7 December for symbolic reasons. In part it read: "Under repeated fire from the skies, Malta stood alone and unafraid in the centre of the sea, one tiny bright flame in the darkness -- a beacon of hope for the clearer days which have come." The complete citation now stands on a plaque on the wall of the Grand Master's Palace on Republic Street in the town square of Valletta.

On 1 April 1979 the last British forces left the island.

KING OR QUEEN FOR A NIGHT!

Make your own Crown
by joining two copies
of this template together
and decorating it !!

