

# Martello Tower, Seapoint.

## Learning Trail.

Suitable for 5th /6th Classes



Seasonal Trail: Spring, Summer. (Weather dependant)

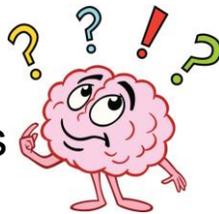


Appropriate footwear needed! No flip-flops!

Key:



Stop!  
Place of Interest



Think!



Choose!



Discuss!

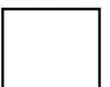
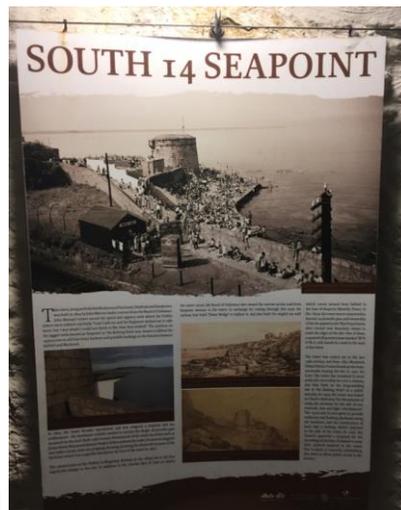
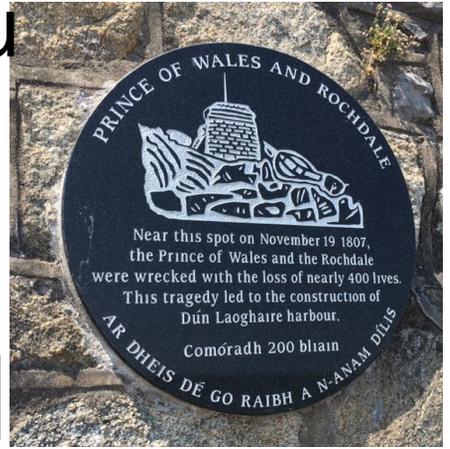


Task!



Did you know?

# Tick these when you find them!



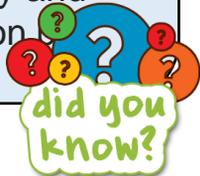


# Martello Tower's Exterior

You need: A pencil, a clipboard and some paper!



The Martello tower at Seapoint was built in 1804 by John Murray. The position was chosen to defend the approaches to old Dun Leary harbour and possible landings on the beach between Salthill and Blackrock. It is number 14 of a series of towers built between Bray and Balbriggan to protect against an invasion Napoleon.

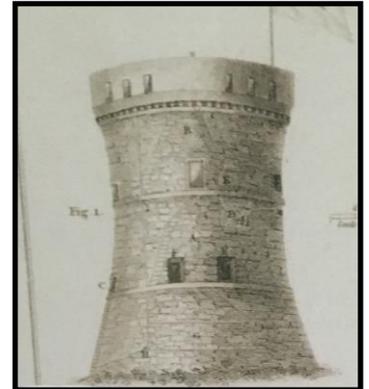


What 3D shape is the Martello Tower?



What material is the tower constructed from?

- granite?
- marble?



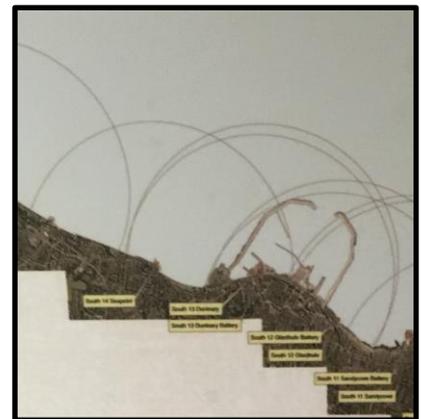
Are the blocks laid in

- a horizontal
- a vertical pattern?



Are the windows

- wide?
- narrow?



Where do you think Martello Towers number 13 and 15 might be located?



Estimate how many soldiers fitted inside!



Draw a sketch of the tower!



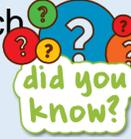


# Door Entrance and Steps

You need: A pencil, a clipboard and string or measuring tape



The Martello door was placed up high, facing the land and entry for the soldiers was by ladder. Above the entrance door there was a slotted platform or grill called a machicolation which allowed for downward fire on attackers.



Inside the door there is a "Murder Hole" or porch where the soldiers could fire again at attackers, if they managed to get in!



What material is the door made from?



What shape is the door?



Is the door facing

- the sea?
- the land?



Is the door

- at ground level?
- higher up?



Why is the door above ground level?



Why does the design include the murder hole?



Estimate and measure how high the door is from ground level?

Enter the interior of Martello Tower!

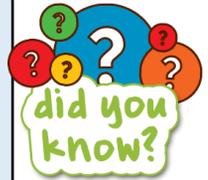




# Interior of the Martello Tower

You need: A pencil, a clipboard and paper!

The tower has three levels. The basement was used to store the gunpowder for the cannon and was also used as sleeping quarters and kitchen for the sixteen soldiers.. The middle floor was used as the Captain's sleeping quarters and the general living area for the soldiers. The rooftop is where the cannon and flagpoles are placed! Access to each floor is by a stone-cut spiral stairs cut into the interior of the thick walls.



How many steps lead to the basement?



What colour are the painted walls?



Are the steps to the basement

- narrow?
- wide?



Is the floor shaped like a

- circle?
- square?



What do you think the artefacts on the wall were used for?



Why are the walls so thick?



Read the display boards and record three interesting facts!

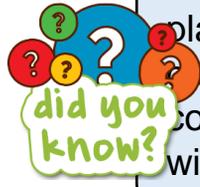
Carefully climb the stairs to the rooftop!  
Hold onto the rope!





# Rooftop and Gun Platform

The rooftop and gun platform were the most important parts of the Martello Tower! The rooftop cannon can move or pivot around a raised central platform on a wooden carriage. The mounted cannon was able to fire at any point of the compass. The soldiers were able to communicate with neighbouring towers using the flagpole! The shot fired from the cannon can travel for 1 .6km!



What colour is the cannon?



What material is the carriage under the cannon made from?



What distance did the cannon ball travel?

- 1.6km?
- 5.7km?



How many degrees can the cannon rotate?

- 180 degrees?
- 360 degrees?



Why did they construct the cannon on the roof?



Do you think this is the original cannon?



Spot other Martello towers!

- (15) Booterstown
- (13) Dunlaoghaire





# Rochdale Plaque

You need: A pencil, a clipboard and paper!

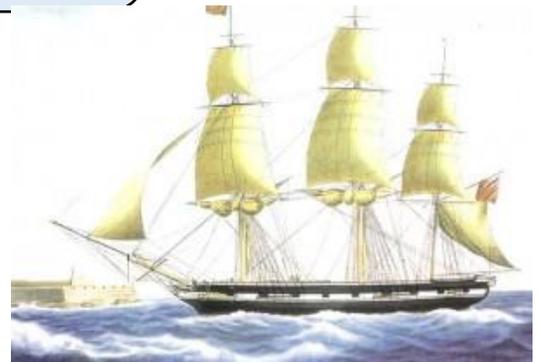
The *Rochdale* was a sailing ship. In 1807 a storm caused the Rochdale to crash into the rocks at Seapoint. Another ship was wrecked nearby the same night. Almost 400 people died. Following this tragedy a harbour was built to give ships shelter during a storm.. The construction of the harbour was led by Captain Richard Toutcher



What caused the Rochdale to crash?

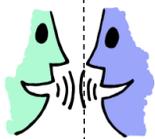


Where did this tragedy occur?



Was the ship powered by

- sail?
- steam?



Why was the Rochdale at the mercy of the weather?

Tours at the Maritime Museum Dun Laoghaire provides lots of details about this tragedy!



Why do you think the Harbour was called "The Asylum Harbour"?



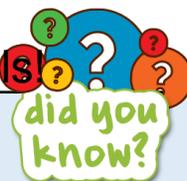
Find the plaque at Seapoint near the Martello Tower and sketch a picture of it!





# The Beach!

You need: A small bag to collect shells!



This is a blue flag beach!  
 It is a popular bathing and swimming area with a high tide.  
 It was originally called "Bathing Point"  
 The beach has a life guard during the summer months.  
 This beach also has a green flag and is home to the Martello Tower



What was the beach originally called?



Is there a lifeguard at the beach all year round?



Is the tide at the beach

- high?
- low?



What makes the beach accessible to all?

- slipways?
- lifeguards?



What is meant by a blue flag beach?



When would be the safest time to visit the beach and why?



Take something small, a shell or stone, to remember your day out.

Listen to the shells! What do you hear?



Congratulations!  
You have completed the trail.

Maith sibh.



Reflect on how you all contributed  
to the team. Everyone has something  
to offer.

