



Rubble Facts!

Rubble walls are different from ordinary walls because they are not built with bricks or flat blocks (*kantun*). The stones are rough and of different shapes and sizes.

Rubble walls are also called dry-stone walls. This is because the builders do not use mortar (*tikhil*) or cement to hold the stones together.

Rubble walls are strong and stay in place because the builders fit the stones very carefully, like a jigsaw puzzle. You need lots of practice to learn to build a rubble wall.

Rubble walls are built around fields to mark where one field ends and another begins. If you have animals like sheep and goats in your field, rubble walls help keep them from walking off and getting lost.

Rubble walls are great for holding the soil in, especially when the fields are on slopy ground.

Rubble walls let rainwater through the holes between the stones so the field will not drown when it's very rainy.

Rubble walls are great for wildlife!

All those nice holes between the stones make wonderful hidey-holes for many creatures. A rubble wall is a great habitat for nature.



Geckoes, snakes, lizards and **skinks** sun themselves on the warm stones, and in winter they hide away in the cracks and sleep safe and dry.



Snails wedge themselves in shady cracks to hide from the sun and sleep the summer away.



Many **wildflowers** grow on rubble walls or at the bottom. Flowers attract more insects, like **butterflies, moths, bugs, bees** and **wasps**.



Wasps use the stones as a base on which to build their nests.



Ants, beetles, bugs, slugs, millipedes, hedgehogs, shrews and **weasels** live in and around rubble walls.



Lots of **lichens** (*likeni*) and **mosses** (*ħaziż*) too grow on walls, sometimes even **ferns** (*felċi*) which are very rare.



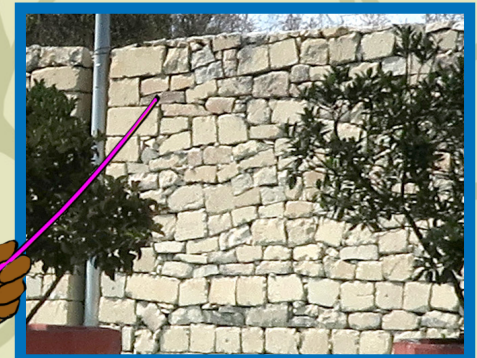
Spiders build their webs and shelters in the gaps between the stones.



Birds perch on top of the walls and use them as look-out posts.

Is it fake?

Some builders make brick walls and then cover them with rough stones to look like rubble walls. But the face is flat and that gives them away. Real rubble walls don't have a flat face and they are usually less than 3 metres high.



Let's look at rubble walls...

1 Where is your rubble wall?

☐

In a built-up place

☐

Near a built-up place

☐

Out in the countryside

2 What is the name of the nearest town or village?

3 What is on the other side of the wall?

☐

a field

☐

a road

☐

a footpath

☐

a garden

☐

rocky land

4 How tall is the wall?

 cm

5 Are there plants growing in the wall?

☐

Yes

☐

No

6 Can you name any of them?

7 Are there plants growing at the bottom of the wall?

☐

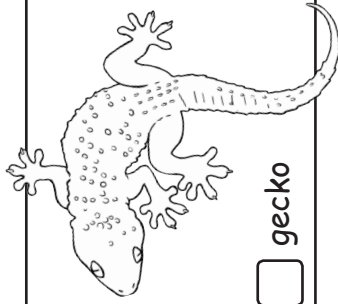
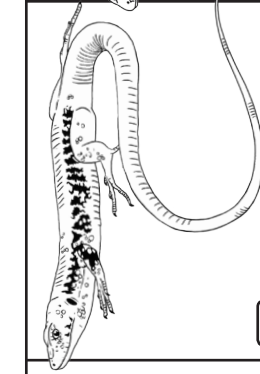
Yes

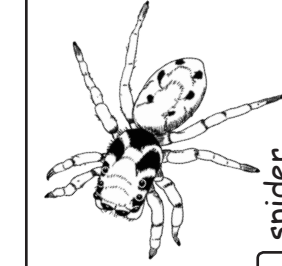
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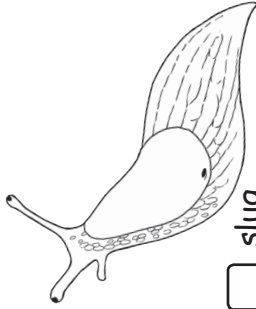
No

8 Can you name any of them?

9 A rubble wall is the home of many living things. Can you spot any of these on the wall?


☐ gecko

☐ lizard

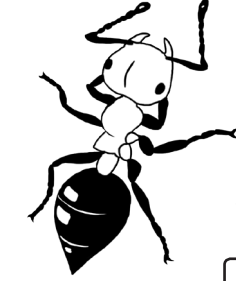
☐ skink

☐ spider

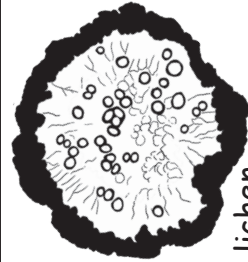
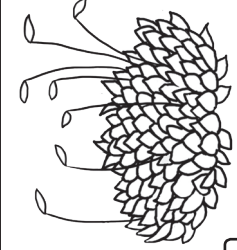
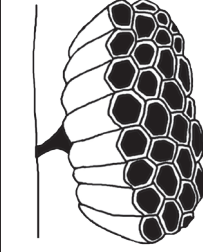
☐ snail

☐ slug

☐ caterpillar

☐ butterfly

☐ beetle

☐ bee

☐ ant

☐ wasp

☐ lichen

☐ moss

☐ wasp's nest

☐ spider web

name

date

Harsa lejn ħajt tas-sejjeġh...

1 Fejn qiegħed il-ħajt tas-sejjeġh?

☐ Qalb il-bini

☐

Mhux bogħod mill-bini

☐

Barra fil-kampanja

2 X'jismu l-egreb raħal jew belt?

3 X'hemm in-naħa l-oħra tal-ħajt?

☐ għalqa

☐

triq

☐

mogħdija

☐

gnien

☐

blat

4 Kemm hu għoli l-ħajt?

 cm

5 Hemm pjanti qed jikbru fil-ħajt?

☐

lva

☐

Le

6 Tista' ssemmi xi tnejn?

7 Hemm pjanti fl-art quddiem il-ħajt?

☐

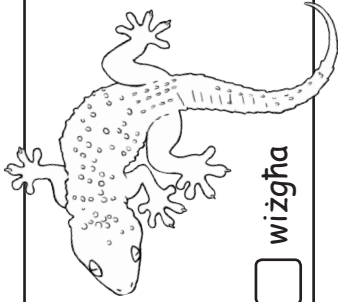
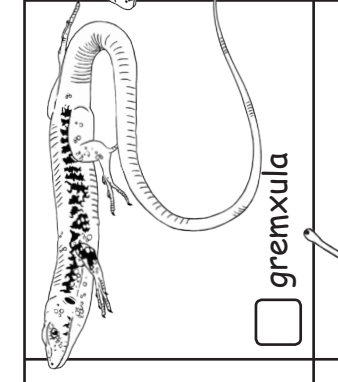
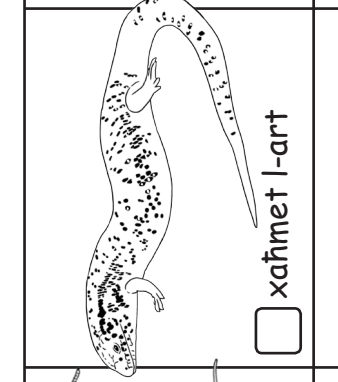
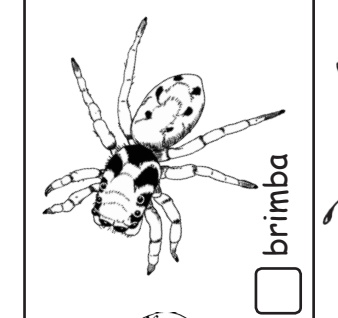
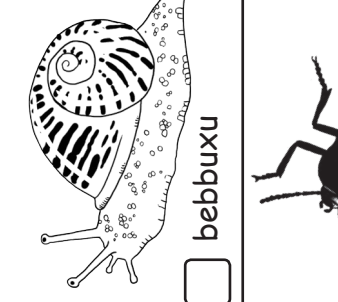
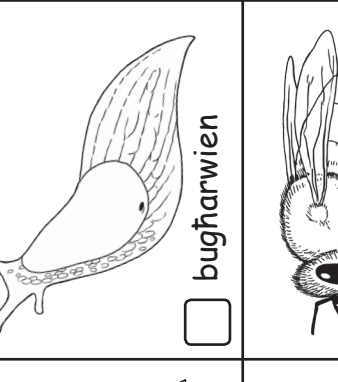
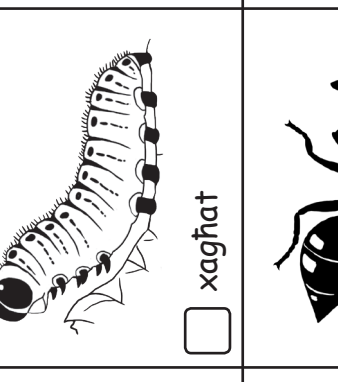
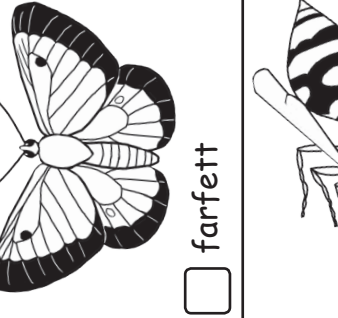
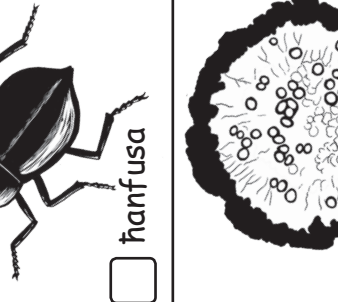
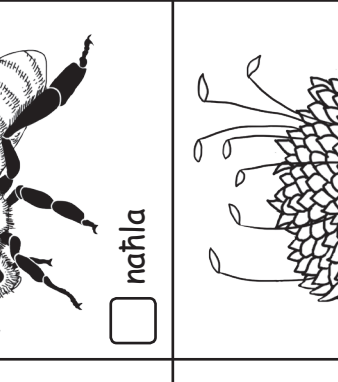
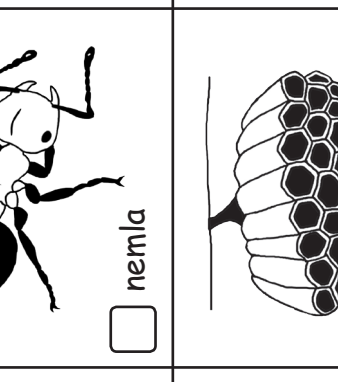
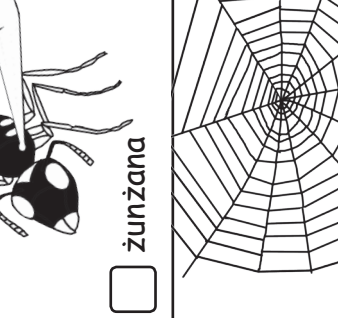
lva

☐

Le

8 Tista' ssemmi xi tnejn?

9 F'ħajt tas-sejjeġh jgħixu ħafna ħlejjaq. Ara kemm tara minn dawn t'hawn taht.

	☐ wiżgħa		☐ gremxula		☐ xaħmet l-art		☐ brimba
	☐ bebbuxu		☐ bugħarwien		☐ xagħat		☐ farfett
	☐ ħanfusa		☐ naħla		☐ nemla		☐ żunzana
	☐ likeni		☐ ħażiż		☐ xehda taż-żunżan		☐ għanqbuta

isem

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