

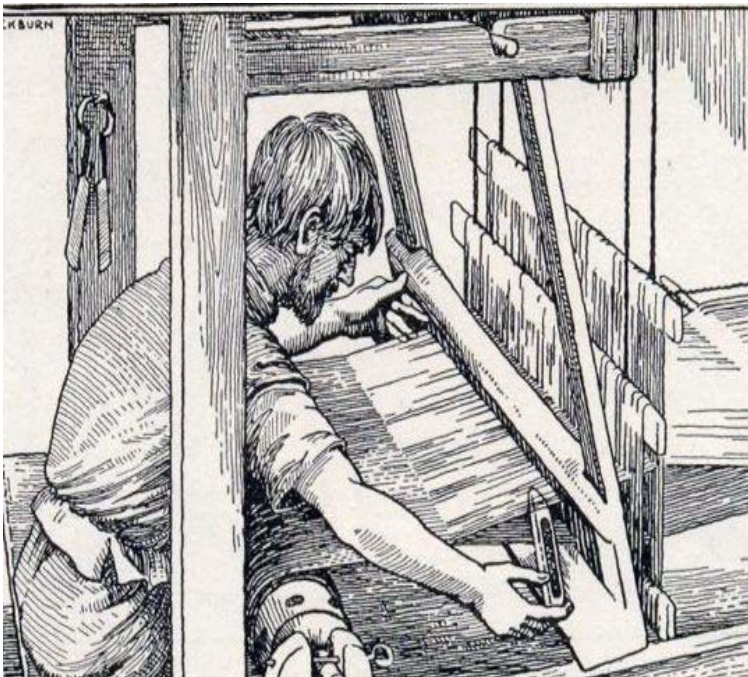


## Find out about Peake's House past...

Hello! Welcome to Peake's House. My name is Ambroos Fleming. I came to Colchester in 1572 when I was seven with my mother and my father, who was a **cloth merchant**. I used to live in Flanders in Belgium, but because my family were **Protestants**, the **Catholics** didn't like us very much and kicked us out of the country.

The city of Colchester welcomed families like mine and we soon made ourselves at home, in what became known as the 'Dutch Quarter', with other families who had also fled from Flanders.

My dad's job was to sell the cloth which had been made by **weavers**. The weavers would make the cloth and then pass it on to one of our neighbours who was a **fuller** – this meant he cleaned the cloth that was made. Once the cloth was free of dirt and oil it was sent on to a **dyer** (say *die-er*) who dyed the fabric into different colours. The dyes were made from different kinds of plants.



A **weaver** making cloth from wool strands on a loom. The threads running across the loom are the **weft**; the ones running back to front are the **warp**.

## Fact:

**Protestant** and **Catholic** are types of Christianity. They worship the same God but believe different things about how things should be done. The **Catholic** religion sees itself as the one true church and does not agree with the 'newer' religions like **Protestant** Christians. Kings took sides too.

Throughout history, there have been many quarrels between the churches and people have been 'picked on' for how they choose to practice their religion.

Our house was also dad's shop, my mum and I used to help him to sell the cloth on busy days from the ground floor rooms.

We lived and slept in the rooms upstairs. Our living room was where the double bedroom is now. In the winter we used to gather around the huge fireplace to keep warm, there was no central heating when I lived here!

Dad used the cellar downstairs to store the cloth – it was a safe room to keep goods in but very dark and spooky. I didn't like going down there by myself!



Dad told me that in 1571 the council decided to complete a **census** (**say sen-suss**) with the names and trades of the *aliens* (not actual aliens from another planet! That's just what they called us because we weren't from England!) in the town. By the time it was completed there were 185 names on the list: 177 were Flemish like me, four were French, and four were from Scotland.

The aliens or *strangers* as we were sometimes also called, brought a very valuable trade of **bay and say (baize and serge)** making.

Bay Cloths were lightweight woollen fabrics, prepared by hand weaving using hand spun yarns. My friends mum once let me have a go at spinning a yarn – no, not telling a long joke, but actually making the wool into a thread! I wasn't very good at it though and my yarn kept slipping off of the **spindle!**

## Fact:

A **census** is when the local town council count up all of the people currently living in the town. They take down the names and the jobs of everyone living there – what a job!

**Bay and Say (baize and serge)** are different types of fabric. **Bay** was a lightweight woollen fabric prepared by hand weaving using hand-spun yarns. **Say** was a heavier weight fabric with a diagonal weave which was harder to make.

A **spindle** is a wooden rod with a tapered end used in hand spinning to twist and wind a thread from a piece of wool.



Fluffy wool being turned into thread on a drop spindle.

Although we had settled in nicely and were earning a living, not everybody in the town was happy with us being here. In 1584 there were 1,148 Dutch people here and one of the town bigwigs wrote that Colchester was on the point of becoming a 'colony of Flemings' – as if that were a bad thing! He said that no new *stranger* should be allowed to live in the town without their permission.

It was always a little bit scary thinking that we could be forced to leave England as well as having had to leave our home country!

# Unruly Rulers

## Who were the Tudor and Stuart kings and queens?

This lot were a blood thirsty bunch, always chopping off heads. **Tudor** and **Stuart** are the family names of the kings and queens. The first Tudor was Henry VII in 1485 and they lasted till Elizabeth I. Then the Tudors' cousins, the Stuarts, ruled from James I to Anne.



### King Edward VI

Henry VIII's only son, he had some big shoes (and clothes) to fill! King at nine and dead at 16. Poor Eddie.

1509

### King Henry VIII

6 wives, only 1 son. Angry at the Pope horrible Henry made himself Head of the Church destroying all the Catholics churches.



1547

### Lady Jane Grey

Only 16 when she became Queen for just 9 days before Mary Tudor took the throne. Off with her head!



1553

### Queen Mary I

Back to Catholics again. Bloody Mary was her name, burning Protestants was her game.

1553

### Queen Elizabeth I

Good Queen Bess knew leaving religion alone was best. (Unless the Catholics attacked!) Had lots of boyfriends but married none.



1558

### King James I

What a silly king, he kept thinking witches were trying to kill him! He even wrote a book on witches.

1603

### King Charles I

Bad King Charlie wanted to rule without Parliament. That started a civil war which he lost. Onto the block went Charlie's head. One chop and he was dead.



1625

### Oliver Cromwell

Not a king but still a ruler. He didn't like the royals and made himself Lord Protector of England. He didn't last too long.

1649

### King Charles II

A merry monarch who brought back fun and games Oliver had banned!



1660

### King James II

A bit dim was this king. He tried to make everyone Catholic again, then ran away when they said no.

1685

### Queen Mary II & William III

She and her husband took her dad, James II's throne in the Glorious Revolution. Not so glorious for James.



1688

### Queen Anne

A sickly queen who loved to eat!

1702-1714





# Meet Queen Elizabeth I

– who ruled when Ambroos moved to Colchester.



**Hi Lizzie!**

**So when did you become queen?**

I became Queen on 17 September 1533 when I was 25.

**What are you most famous for?**

I defeated the Spanish army who tried to invade England. How dare they?

**What is your favourite thing to do?**

I loved having a bath and being clean, I have 4 baths every year! I was the cleanest woman in England. And I LOVE sweets.

**What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?**

I pretended to be a Catholic when my half-sister bloody Mary was queen; once she was dead I turned England Protestant again!



## What does Peake's House look like?

Can you walk all the way around it?

Can you use any of these words to describe the building? Draw a circle around the ones that do.

Does Peake's House look similar to nearby buildings?

Castle

Pretty

Stone

Symmetrical

Square

Friendly

Tall

Industrial

Brick

Home

Elegant

Low

Peake's House was originally three separate houses. At first, there was a **medieval** (say *med-ee-eval*) **hall house** on the site. The sitting room was once a service area with a **buttery** and pantry where foods were stored. The main room or hall would have been open to the roof, without a floor above.

By 1550, the top floor was added. The building may have been used as a shop at this time with living quarters upstairs. This would explain the large decorated fireplace in the double bedroom. What shape is the plaster decoration on this fireplace?

The **cellar** (say *sell-ar*) below the house may have been used as a place to make the goods that were sold in the shop. It was also a safe room to store goods and tools.

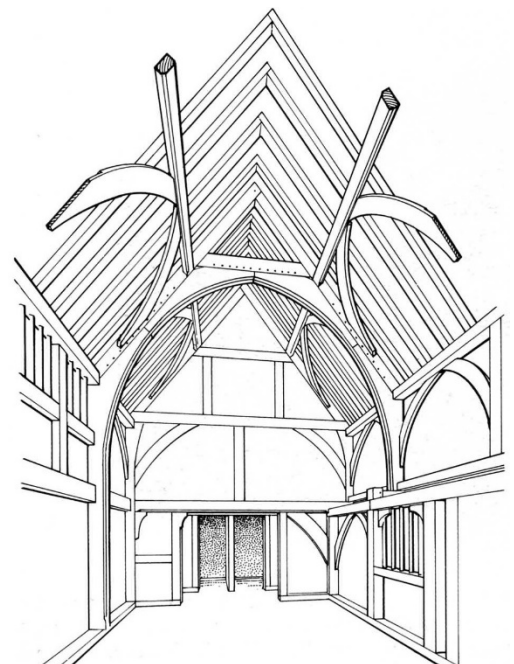
The other part of the building with today's kitchen was once a separate house built about 1500. It was linked to the building next door about 100 years later.

By 1928 the building was in such a bad state, that part of it was demolished – this part of the house was where you now park your car!

### Fact:

A **buttery** is a place where liquids were stored for the hall house, in butts or barrels

A **hall house** was a building that had a large hall in the middle of the house, open to the roof with a central **hearth** (fireplace).



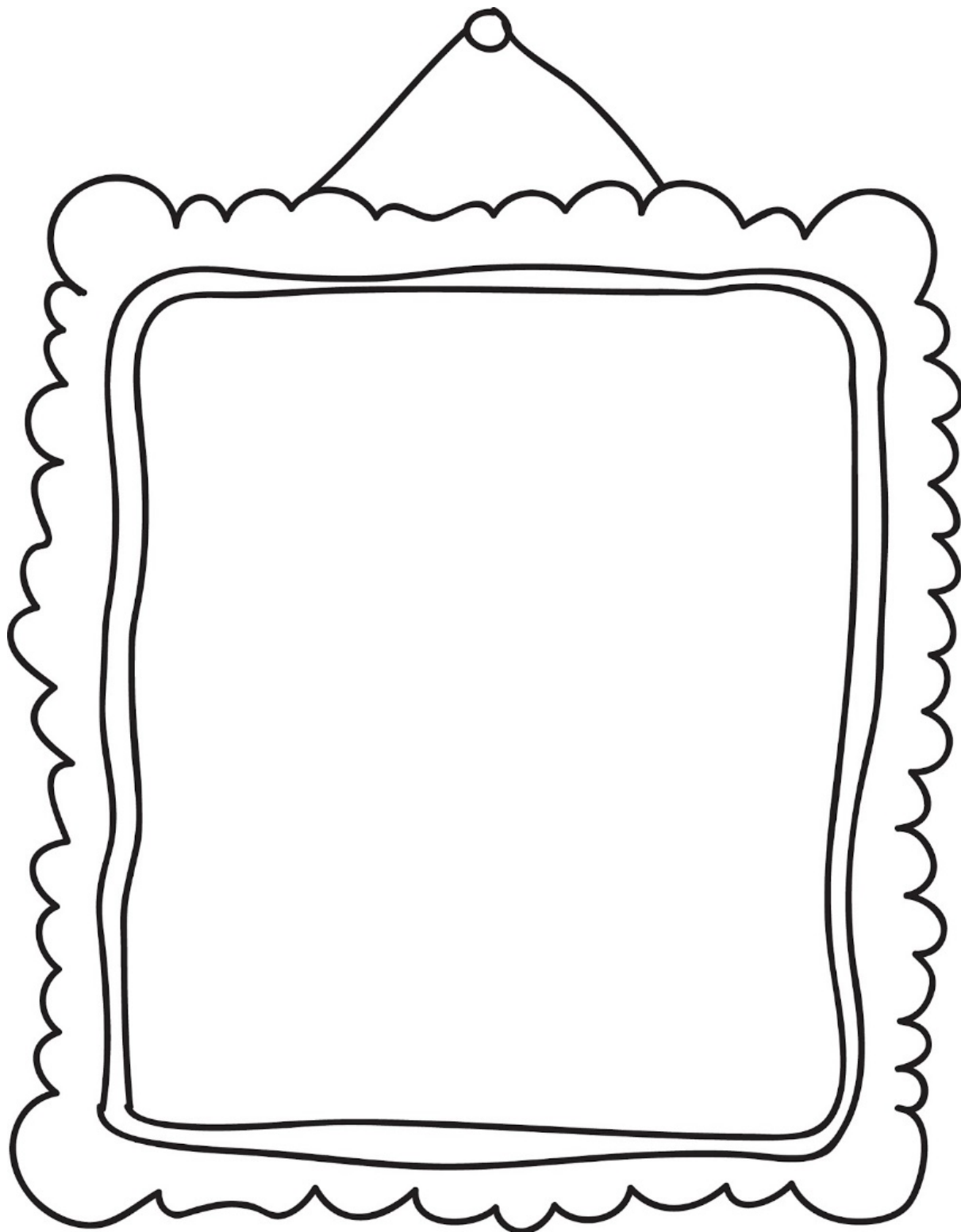
An example of a medieval hall house



Buildings are quite easy to draw. They are usually made up from lots of geometric shapes, like squares, triangles and circles.

**Have a go at drawing Peake's House.**

Please tell an adult where you are going so they don't worry about where you are!  
Don't worry if you make a mess of your drawing, just use the other side.



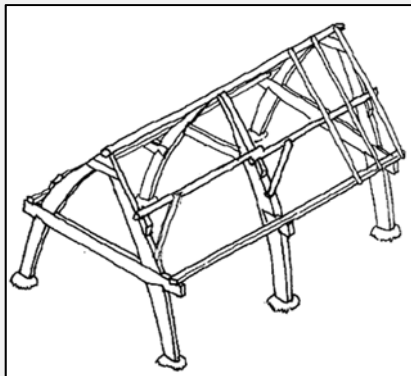


## What is Peake's House built from?

### Fact:

The simplest house frame was a Cruck. A curved tree was cut in two pieces along its length. You needed one cruck at each end of the building and one in the middle. This created your frame, which you then added to and filled in with mud walls and a straw thatched roof.

A Cruck frame was quick to build but it had not much room upstairs.



Peake's House is built with a wooden frame. Buildings with wooden frames are quite rare today. Most were pulled down to make way for more modern building. They caught fire easily too. Timber houses were quick and cheap to build (timber is wood used for building).

The timber from Oak trees was the best for building because it is very hard. Oak is a common tree in Britain, and it was grown especially to supply timber for building – not just houses but ships too. You can still see big oak trees in the countryside today. They look like this, and they have wiggly leaves and acorns in the autumn.



Next time you go for a walk, see if you can spot one.

People who work with wood are called carpenters.

Over time, timber framed houses started to look more like boxes, with a triangle for the roof. People wanted to have proper rooms upstairs.

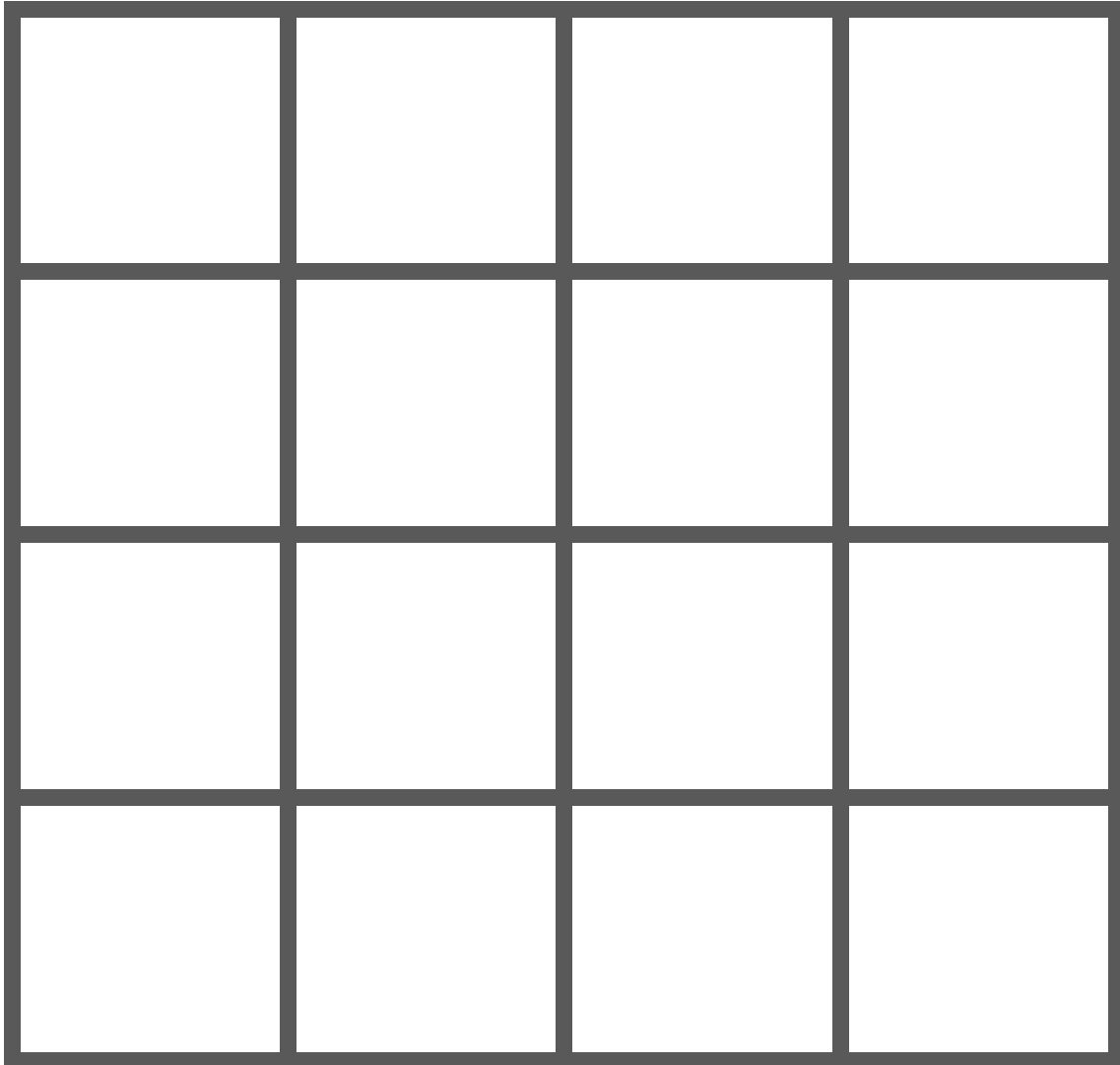
This is a picture of Langley Gatehouse, also owned by Landmark. The carpenter has made lovely patterns inside the basic box frame as decoration (say 'dec-or-ayshun').





The walls between the sections of timber frame were made of mud, with bits of straw and perhaps a bit of cow or pony poo!

If the grid below is your timber frame – design a pattern to make it more decorative. The carpenters were clever people and could make curves out of straight pieces of wood – so you can be as creative as you like! You can add windows and doors if you like.



What other building materials can you find outside and inside Peake's House?

Circle what you can see and note down where you found them.

Stone

Glass

Wood

Plastic

Metal

Clay

Flint

Concrete

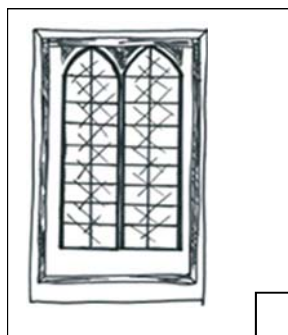
Brick

Ceramic

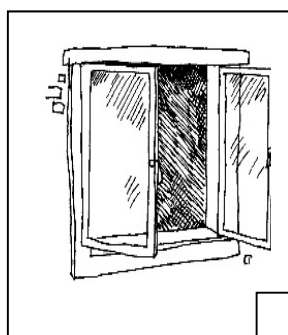




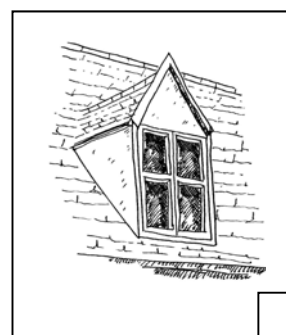
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows does Peake's House have?



Fixed Picture



Casement

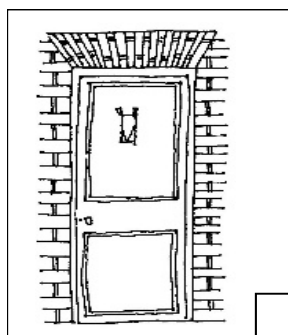


Dormer or attic

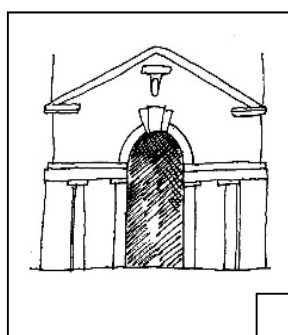
**Fact:**

Have you seen that in some very old buildings the windows don't open? Imagine how hot it got in the summer! When the casement window was invented it was the first type of window to open.

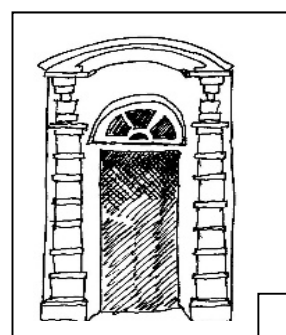
Entrances can be grand or simple. What is the front door of Peake's House like?



Doorframe

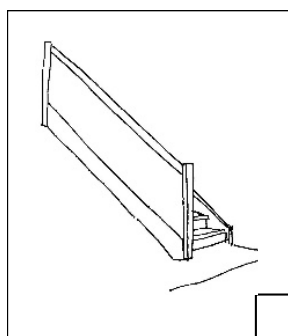


Porch

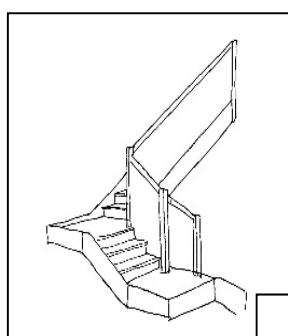


Canopy

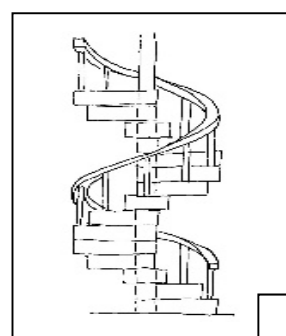
There are many different styles of staircases. Which style is closest to the staircase at Peake's House?



Straight



Quarter turn



Spiral



# Quest



## Discover more about Peake's House

Peake's House has seen many changes since it was first built. The name of the street on which it stands has changed four times in the past 600 years! Follow this quest to discover more about it.

Do you see how the top half of the building overhangs the lower part? This is called **jettying**.

### Fact:

**Jettying** was a popular building technique in the 1500's – it meant that you could create extra space in the upstairs rooms of your house without obstructing the street. It also sheltered the lower walls from the weather.

Can you find this flower? Which room is it in?

---

Have a look at the blue and white tiles in the kitchen – these are new and were specially made for Landmark when the building work was done to prepare Peake's House for people to stay in.

Can you spot the tile in which two ladies are sitting with piles of wool? One may be a **parter**, who separated the wool and the other holds a **spindle** used for spinning.

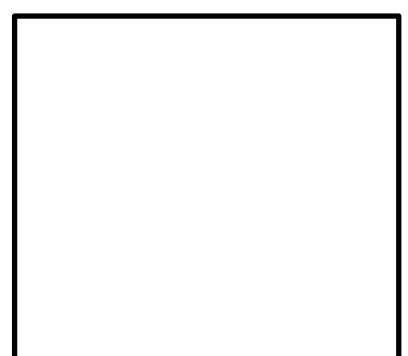
### Fact:

The tiles used in the kitchen are traditional Dutch **Delftware** tiles. Delftware is blue and white pottery made in and around Delft in the Netherlands (not where Peter Pan lived – that was Neverland!) since the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

Delftware was made from a clay that was coated with a tin glaze after firing.



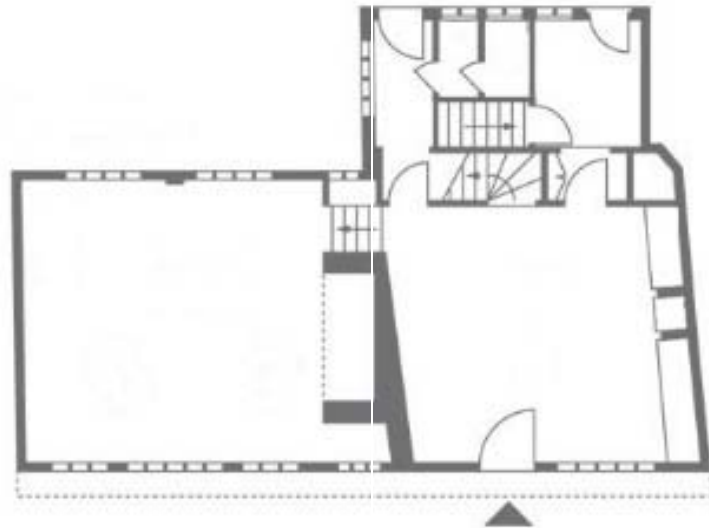
Have a go at creating your own tiles in the boxes below. For a real Delftware design, make sure you use blue and white!



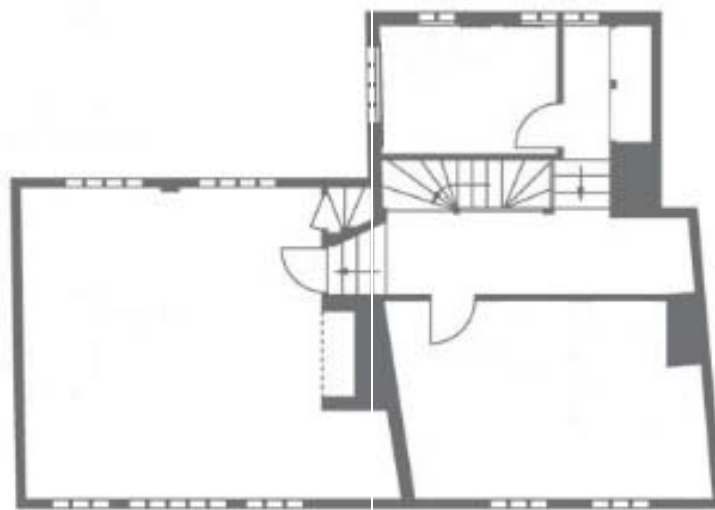


## Living in Peake's House

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Peake's House has two floors. The plans below show you the shape of each room. Take a walk around each floor. Can you identify the rooms and write on the plan how they are used today?



Ground Floor



First Floor

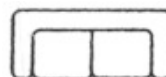
We use these symbols to show where beds, tables and bathrooms are. Add the symbols on to the floorplans to show where the furniture is.



Bathroom



Cooker



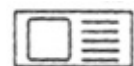
Sofa



Bed



Rectangular (or a round) table



Kitchen sink



Can you find an example of each of these things inside Peake's House. Describe, or draw the object when you find it.

Your favourite piece of furniture

The fireplace (is it an open fire or does it have a stove?)

The pattern of a rug on the floor

### Fact:

The street that Peake's House sits on has had four different names. By 1841 it was called East Stockwell Street and this is how we know it today. The Stock Well was a watering place for cattle, horses and sheep.

In the space below, draw the view from your bedroom window. Can you see all the different rooftops and chimneys? Do the buildings all look the same as Peake's House? Are there different coloured houses?





## Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. What does a weaver do?

Makes cloth

Chops wood

Farms crops

Arranges flowers

---

2. Who was on the throne when Ambroos moved to Colchester?

(Psst... check Unruly Rulers!)

Elizabeth I

George III

Oliver Cromwell

James Bond

---

3. Which country does Delftware come from?

France

Netherlands

England

Australia

---

4. What was a medieval hall house?

A house with a large central hall

A type of church

A house with a large entryway

A type of castle

---

5. Why did the Flemish weavers come to Britain?

A holiday

To worship freely

To fight Britain

To learn

---

6. What is jettying?

Jet Skiing

A type of drink

A computer programme

A building technique

---

7. What might the cellars have been used for?

Making goods

Parties

Keeping prisoners

Sleeping

---

8. What is the Dutch Quarter?

A coin

A piece of cloth

An area in town where the Dutch settled

A flower

To find the answers skip two pages...



## Peake's House Word Search

Now have a go at the word search. Think about different parts of the building when filling in the word search. The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

W B S I C T R B E A M S D  
O R P F W I N D O W S L U  
O S I I G M T B N M L I T  
L N N R A B W S C L A R C  
O M D E W E A V E R S P H  
W O L P S R O I L D A U Q  
D F E L H F A C L O T H U  
E U E A E R C O A P I C A  
L L A C D A W N R N U I R  
F L D E E M M A S I O L T  
T E E M J E T T Y I N G E  
W R D B U T T E R Y O O R  
A R T H A L L H O U S E E  
R H I M N E Y P P O I S T  
E A S T S T O C K W E L L

TIMBER FRAME

WINDOWS

HALL HOUSE

BUTTERY

WEAVERS

JETTYING

WOOL

FIREPLACE

DUTCH QUARTER

SPINDLE

FULLER

CLOTH

EAST STOCKWELL

DELFTWARE

BEAMS

CELLARS

How many of these words did you find? Put your score in the box.

16



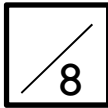


## Answer sheet:

### Woodland quiz answers:

1. Makes cloth
2. Elizabeth I
3. Netherlands
4. A house with a large central hall
5. To worship freely
6. A building technique
7. Making goods
8. An area in town where Dutch settled

How many did you get right?



### Fact:

Did you know that a quarter of the Netherlands is below sea-level?

It's one of the flattest countries in the world and its name even means "lower countries".







## Bake a honey cake

In medieval times cakes were very simple. People either bought the ingredients in a market or grew their own. Honey was used to make things sweeter as sugar came from the Middle East (and later Europe) and was very expensive.

Here's a simple recipe for you to try. You might need the help of an adult.

250g clear honey, plus extra 2 tbsp to glaze	100g dark muscovado sugar
225g unsalted butter	3 large eggs, beaten
	300g self-raising flour

Remember to pre-heat the oven: fan 140 °C or electric 160 °C: Gas 3

- Butter a 20cm round cake tin and line it with baking paper
- Cut the butter into pieces and drop them into a medium pan with the honey and the sugar, let it melt slowly
- When the mixture looks like liquid, turn up the heat under the pan and boil for about 1 minute
- Leave to cool for 15-20 minutes (important - this stops the eggs cooking when they are mixed in!)
- Beat the eggs into the melted honey mixture using a wooden spoon
- Sift the flour into a large bowl and pour in the egg and honey mixture. Beat until you have a smooth, quite runny batter
- Pour the mixture into the cake tin and bake for 50-60 minutes. You can tell it's ready as it will be golden brown and spring back when pressed. Push a skewer into the centre of the cake and it should come out clean.
- Turn the cake out on a wire rack
- Warm 2tbsp honey in a small pan and brush over the top of the cake to give it a sticky glaze, then leave it to cool.
- If you want, serve with vanilla ice cream! This is making me feel hungry...



## Experimenting with plant dyes...

### Have a go at making your very own dye using natural materials.

In medieval times dyes were made using plants and vegetables – there were no chemical dyes back then.

Follow these steps to make your own dye. You might need the help of an adult.

An old white t-shirt or piece of cloth	Nut hulls - not shells (makes brown dye)
White onion skins (makes yellow dye)	A few handfuls of spinach (makes green dye)
Red onion skins (makes pink dye)	Dandelion flowers (makes yellow dye)

As we're not using a **mordant** (a dye fixer), if you wash your t-shirt in future the dye will fade!

- Choose which colour dye you want to make. Cut up or bash up your plant materials and soak them in water overnight with just enough water to cover them
- Pour the contents of bowl into a stainless steel pan, bring to the boil and then simmer for one hour
- Strain the dye through a sieve to remove the plant material. Allow the liquid to cool
- Wet your t-shirt and wring it out then add to the dye mix. Put the pan back on the stove and simmer again until the fabric is just darker than the shade you want – the fabric will look lighter when it dries. Remember that natural colours will be soft, not bright
- Move the pan to the sink and pour everything through a strainer. Run cold water over the fabric to cool and rinse it. Wring it out and hang it up to dry outside where the drips won't hurt anything!
- Repeat the steps with other plant materials to experiment with other colours





**Colour in this picture of Queen Elizabeth I...**

