

History



Find out about St. Mary's Lane in the past...

Hello! Welcome to St. Mary's Lane. My name is Sarah Holder and I was born and brought up in Tewkesbury. I'm eleven years old, how old are you? My Dad is a weaver and he makes cotton stockings, a bit like really long socks but very thin like tights. Men wear them too in my day. In the old days people used to make stockings by hand, which takes ages but my Dad uses a machine. So he knits them **mechanically** (say *me-can-ni-cally*).

The machine goes really fast – click clack click clack!

Everybody in our street is a stocking knitter. My Dad works in what you use as the sitting room, it's on the first floor. It's got a really long window so Dad gets as much daylight as possible to see by. There weren't any electric lights when I lived here. Dad only gets paid for the number of stockings he makes. He has to work very long hours to earn money for me and my brothers and sisters. This is called **piece-work**.

Facts:

A **mechanical** device has parts that move when it is working. Stockings which are knitted mechanically are made by machinery, not made by hand.

Piece-work- If you do piece-work, you are paid according to how many things you finish, rather than the length of time it takes you to do the work.



'The Art of Stocking-Frame-Work-Knitting'
Illustrated in the Universal Magazine 1750 (Science Museum)

I love the little dog in this picture. I reckon he's bored and wants to go out for a walk. All the people look hard at work. What do you think the little dog is called?

Jot it down here

.....

There are five children in our family and we all help our Mum to get the cotton ready for Dad to weave with. First we (that's me and all the little ones) **card** the raw cotton – it looks like cotton wool with seeds in. Carding means we use square wooden brushes to clean the cotton fibres so that they lie flat and smooth before spinning. Then it's time for Mum to **spin** the cotton into yarn. She uses a spinning wheel, just like the one in the story of Sleeping Beauty. You know the one where the princess pricks her finger and falls asleep for a hundred years. When Mum spins, she makes the thread by twisting the cotton together using a machine. You can see a woman spinning in the picture above. Anyway with all of us working together we make sure that there is always plenty of cotton thread for Dad to **weave** with.



We lived and slept together and worked together. Most of the day we are work, work, working. We don't go to school. But when it gets dark and Dad can't see to **weave**, then we can play and muck about a bit.

I like to play with our dog, Patch. He is lively and jumps about, not like the dog in the picture on the other page. I love to race up and down the river with Patch. He barks and chases all the ducks.

Have you been down to the river yet? It was a busy place when I lived here. There's always something going on down there.

Facts:

Weave means to make cloth by crossing threads over and under each other using a frame or machine called a loom.

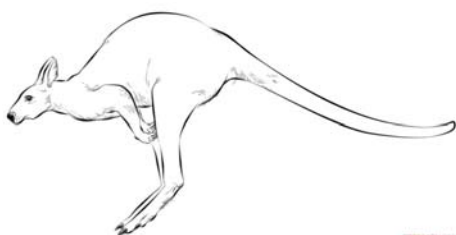
Spin means to draw out and twist natural fibres, (cotton, silk or wool) into a long continuous thread.

A **spindle** is a rod or a stick that has a notch at the top, used to draw out natural fibres, like cotton or wool, for spinning into thread. It has a long narrow body around which the thread is wound when spun. You can see this in the picture. .



Fluffy wool being turned into thread on a drop spindle.

Here's a good joke . . .



Sometimes, my Mum lets me have a go at spinning a yarn – no, not telling a long joke, but actually turning the cotton into a thread!

It's hard to do at first and my yarn kept slipping off the **spindle**, but I'm getting better at it now. In the picture, it's wool not cotton – you can spin with either.

Anyway, now, I'm getting older I'll need to learn to spin really well so I can make a strong thread for weaving.

What do you get if you cross a sheep with a kangaroo?

A woolly jumper!

I've never seen a kangaroo though; they live on the other side of the world.

Unruly Rulers

Who were the Georgians?

The **Georgians** were nobles from Germany. George I was King James I's great grandson. So when Queen Anne died with no heirs George became king. They are called **Georgians** because they are all called George (apart from William – but he wasn't meant to be king anyway!) They came from **Hanover** in Germany so this time is called the **Hanoverian** (say 'han-o-ver-ee-an') period.



1714 **King George I**

A king from Germany who couldn't speak much English. He kept his wife in prison for 32 years - how mean!



King George II 1727

A boring king who only liked to fight battles. He died on the toilet of constipation, pooh!

1760 **King George III**

A popular king who went mad. He started talking to an oak tree in Windsor thinking it was Frederick the Great! Poor Georgie, he had to stop ruling as he was so mad.



George III's son George IV had to step in and rule as Prince Regent. This was called the **Regency Period**.



King George IV 1820

A bad king who ruined all his dad's hard work. He loved to drink, eat and party!

1830 **King William IV**

A simple king who wanted to be a sailor but was too stupid to command a ship. He would sometimes offer people a lift in his carriage!





Meet King George III

– who ruled when Sarah lived at 32,
St. Mary's Lane.



Hi Georgie!

So when did you become king?

I became King on 25 October 1760 when I was just 22.

What are you most famous for?

I went mad, don't you know!

What is your favourite thing to do?

I like playing with my youngest children. I had 15 in all!

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

I tried to tax the Americans in the colonies and do you know what? They declared their independence!



What does 32, St Mary's Lane 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.

Square

Pretty

Brick

Symmetrical

Castle

Friendly

Tall

Industrial

Stone

Home

Elegant

Low

The stocking knitter's cottages in St Mary's Lane were built in the 1700s. They were specially made with their long windows on the first floor for weavers to work at home. As much daylight as possible came in through the window to light the stocking knitter's work.

When Sarah lived here, her family earned a decent amount, because these houses are tall and well made. Local bricks and tiles were used and elm timbers were used in the roof and the floor.

Mary's house was built at the same time as the two houses to the right, numbers 28 & 30. The three cottages were sometimes called 'The Stocking Factory' but they weren't a factory as we think of it. They were purpose built for '**cottage industry**'.

What's your favourite room in 32, St Mary's Lane? Explain why.

Fact:

Cottage industry is a small business that is run from someone's home, especially one that involves a craft such as pottery or knitting.



A pair of decorative knitted stockings from the 1700's



What is 32, St Mary's Lane built from?

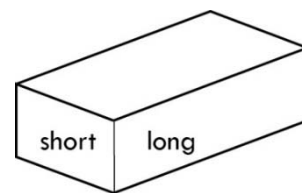
Answer:

Fact:

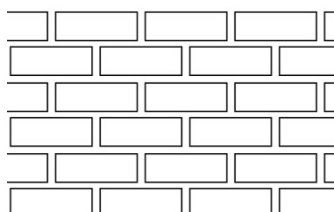
The earliest bricks date back to about 7,500BC and were made of mud. The mud was packed into wooden moulds. They were then turned out and left to dry in the sun until they were hard. The first fired bricks were made around 3,000BC. Fired bricks are harder and last longer in wetter climates.

Today we make bricks in factories by mixing together clay, sand and lime. This mixture is poured into a mould, dried and then fired in an oven at 1100 degrees.

Bricks have a long and a short face like this.

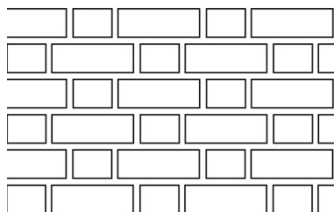


They are arranged in layers, or courses which have different patterns.

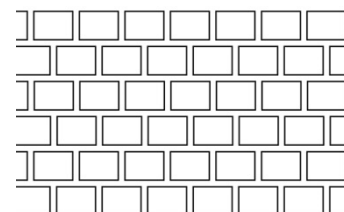


Stretcher bond

The simplest bond to lay – using the long face of the brick.

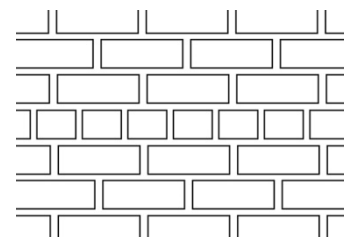


Flemish bond Bricks are laid with one header and one long face.



Header bond

The bricks are laid with the header facing outwards. The header is the end of the brick.

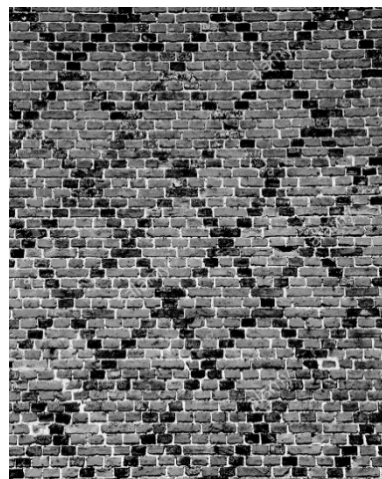


English bond

Three rows of long face and one row of headers.

Which style of bond do you think was used at St. Mary's Lane? _____

Some architects and builders were a bit more creative and designed very beautiful walls like these ones here. They used different coloured bricks to make these patterns.





Can you design your own patterned brick wall? The lines on the page will help to keep your design straight.

What other building materials can you find outside and inside St. Mary's Lane?

Stone

Glass

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

Wood

Plastic

Metal

Clay

Fabric

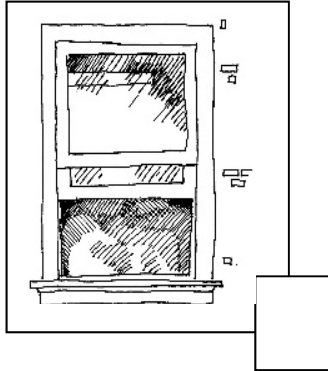
Concrete

Brick

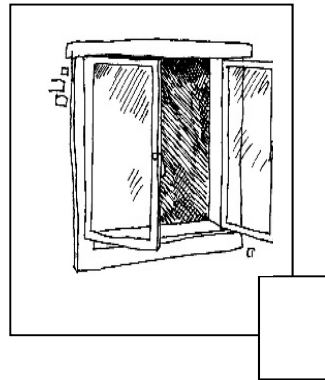
Ceramic



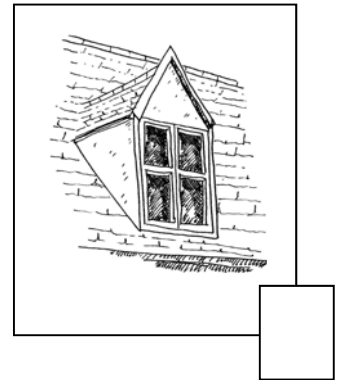
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows does St. Mary's Lane have?



Sash

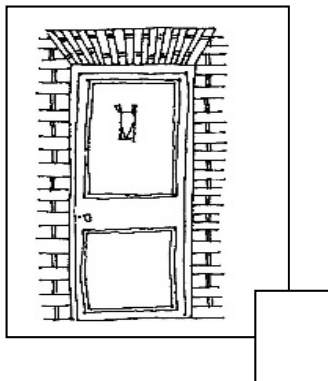


Casement

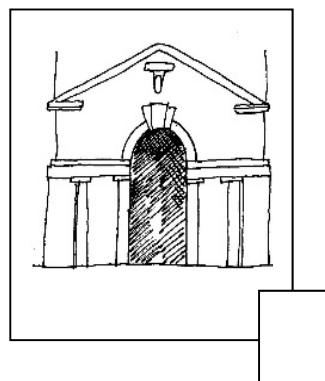


Dormer or attic

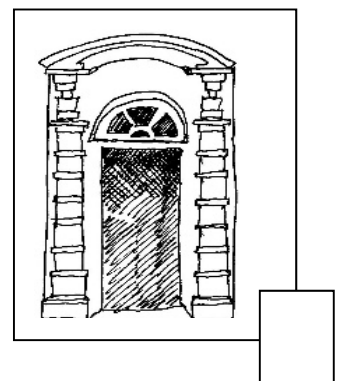
Entrances can be grand or simple. What is the front door of St Mary's Lane like?



Doorframe

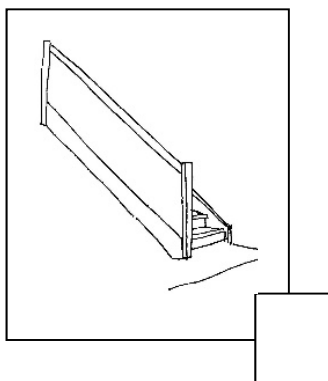


Porch

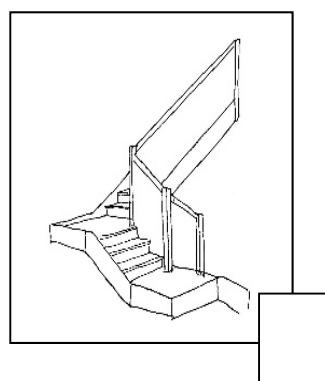


Canopy

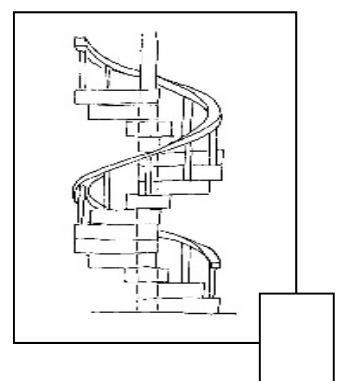
There are many different styles of staircases. Which style is closest to the staircase at St. Mary's Lane?



Straight



Quarter turn



Spiral

Quest



Discover more about St. Mary's Lane

32 St. Mary's Lane was built in the 1700s, that's over two hundred years ago. During that time, many things have changed both inside and outside. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

Can you find the place where this photo was taken?

Go outside to the lane. Remember to take a grown up with you because St. Mary's Lane is used by cars, bikes and people. Can you find the door you came out of on the photo?

Look at all the windows. If you can, show the window of the bedroom you are sleeping in with an arrow.

Can you see that the windows are different shapes and sizes but each of the three cottages has similar windows?



The windows on the first floor of the cottages are really big **Can you think why?**

.....



Can you find the place where this photo was taken?



It's taken from the top floor bedroom, the one with two single beds. This window was blocked up but when the Landmark Trust was restoring it in the 1980s the window was re-opened to reveal this amazing view over roof tops.

What is the name of the churchlike building you can see over the roofs?

.....

Yes, it's Tewkesbury Abbey. Have you been to visit it? It's an extraordinary building with lots to see and do. Make sure the adults who are with you take you to look at it. There are two free children's guides to the Abbey which you can pick up from the information point at the entrance. If you're over eight you may be able to go up the Tower but this does cost extra money.

Choose a different window and have a go at drawing the view from it in the box below.

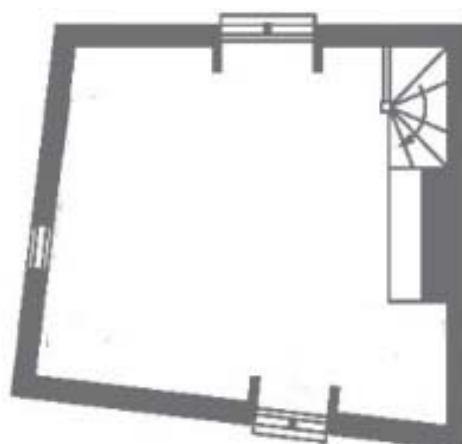
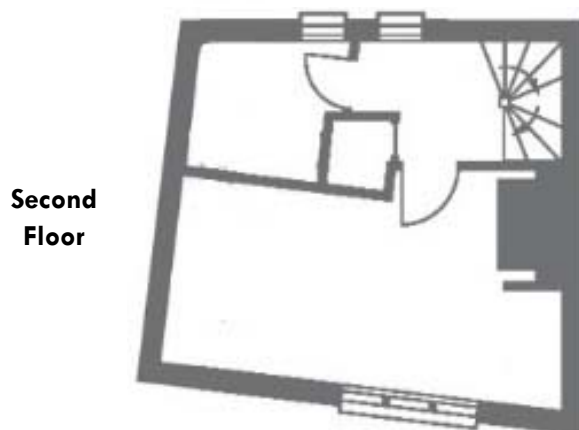
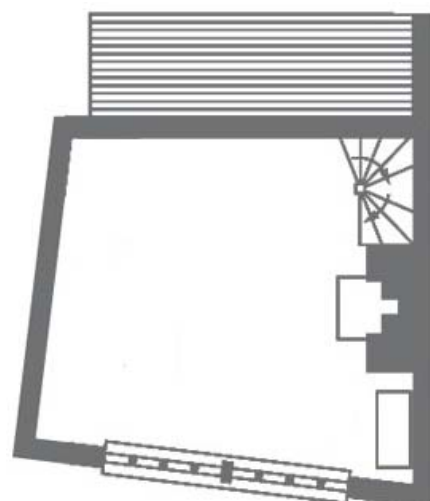
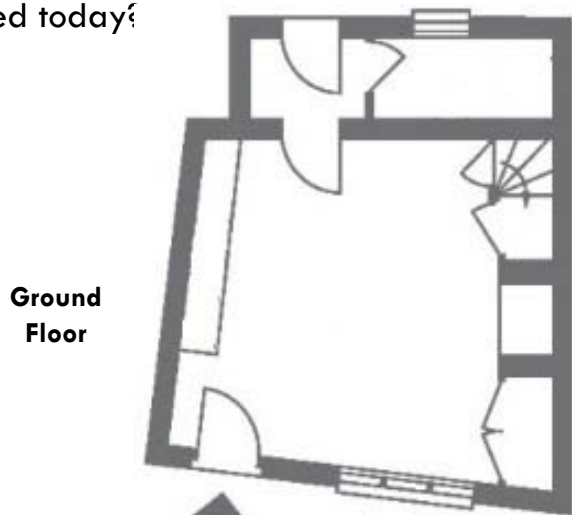




Living at St. Mary's Lane

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. St. Mary's Lane has four floors. The plans below show you how the rooms were once used.

Take a walk around each floor. The plans below show you the shape of each room. Take a walk around each room. Can you identify the rooms and write on the plan how they are used today?



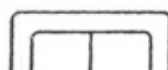
We use these symbols to show where beds, tables and bathrooms are. Colour in the symbols on to the floorplans when you have been in each room to show you have seen it.



Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Bed

Draw a star, like this *, on the bed you slept in.



Can you find an example of each of these things inside St. Mary's Lane?
Describe, or draw the object when you find it.

Your favourite chair

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

Draw the pattern of a rug on the floor

Look around the house at all the pictures.
There are lots in the sitting room but look
carefully in every room.
Decide which picture you like best and copy it
in the box below.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing or copying a picture.



Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. What county is St Mary's Lane in?

Herefordshire

Wiltshire

Gloucestershire

Shropshire

2. Which two rivers join together at Tewkesbury?

River Thames

River Wye

River Severn

River Avon

3. What used to be knitted in the sitting room?

Bobble hats

Jumpers

Stockings

Scarves

4. What material is St Mary's Lane built out of?

Stone

Plastic

Mud

Brick

5. Who was on the throne when Sarah lived here?

(Psst. Check Unruly Rulers!)

Victoria

George III

Henry VIII

Elizabeth I

6. What hills lie to the west of Tewkesbury?

Cotswolds

The Peak District

Malvern Hills

The Lake District

7. In which century was 32 St Mary's Lane built?

1700s

1400s

1600s

1800s

8. What hills lie to the east of Tewkesbury?

Malvern Hills

Shropshire Hills

Cotswolds

Pennines

To find the answers skip a page...



St. Mary's Lane Word Search

Now have a go at the St. Mary's Lane word search.
The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

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

YARD
STOCKING
KNITTERS
WINDOW

ABBEY
RIVERS
COTTON
PIECEWORK

WORKROOM
SEVERN
LANE
TEWKESBURY

FIREPLACE
AVON
ATTIC
YARN

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

/
16



Quiz Answers:

1. Gloucestershire
2. River Avon & River Severn
3. Stockings
4. Brick
5. George III
6. Malvern Hills
7. 1700s
8. Cotswolds

Fact: Tewkesbury is special because of its location at the junction- or confluence- of two rivers: the mighty River Severn which is the longest river in Britain & the picturesque River Avon.

How many did you get right?

/ 8

Matching Words & their Meanings:

Can you match the word from the word search with their meanings?

Join them with a line.

ABBEY		The room inside the roof of a building
ATTIC		It's now a church but it used to be occupied by monks or nuns
AVON		A place for a fire in a house, it has a chimney above
COTTON		This is the fibre of a plant which is used to make yarn
FIREPLACE		A river that runs through Tewkesbury and Stratford
KNITTERS		Work which is paid for according to how much is produced
LANE		The word for people who knit
PIECEWORK		Large natural streams of water flowing in a channel
RIVERS		Close fitting clothes covering the leg starting at the foot
SEVERN		A narrow road
STOCKING		The longest river in Britain
TEWKESBURY		The room where the knitters made their stockings
WINDOW		Spun thread used for knitting, weaving or sewing
WORKROOM		An opening in the wall, here it lets in plenty of light
YARD		The outside space at the back of the cottage
YARN		The town where you are staying



Bake some scones

If you've never had a scone you are missing out! They are plain cakes that you cut in half and spread clotted cream and jam on each side. This is called a cream tea. Mmmm, I could eat scones all day!

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

75g of butter

225g of self-raising flour

Pinch of salt

40g caster sugar

Pre-heat the oven: fan 220 °C : 425 °F : Gas 7

- Grease a baking tray.
- Sift flour and salt into bowl. Rub butter into the mixture until it looks like breadcrumbs. Add the sugar.
- Beat the egg and buttermilk together in a separate bowl.
- Add the egg and milk mixture to the flour mixture. Mix it all together with a spoon and then with your hands. This is called dough (say 'doh').
- Put some flour on the work top and then put the ball of dough onto it.
- Roll the dough into a circle (about 2.5cm thick). Then cut out the scones (if you don't have a cutter use a glass, making sure it too gets flour on the rim).
- Put them onto the baking tray and brush them with milk. Bake on the top shelf for 10-12 minutes.
- Let them cool and then serve with lots of clotted cream and jam! Yum!

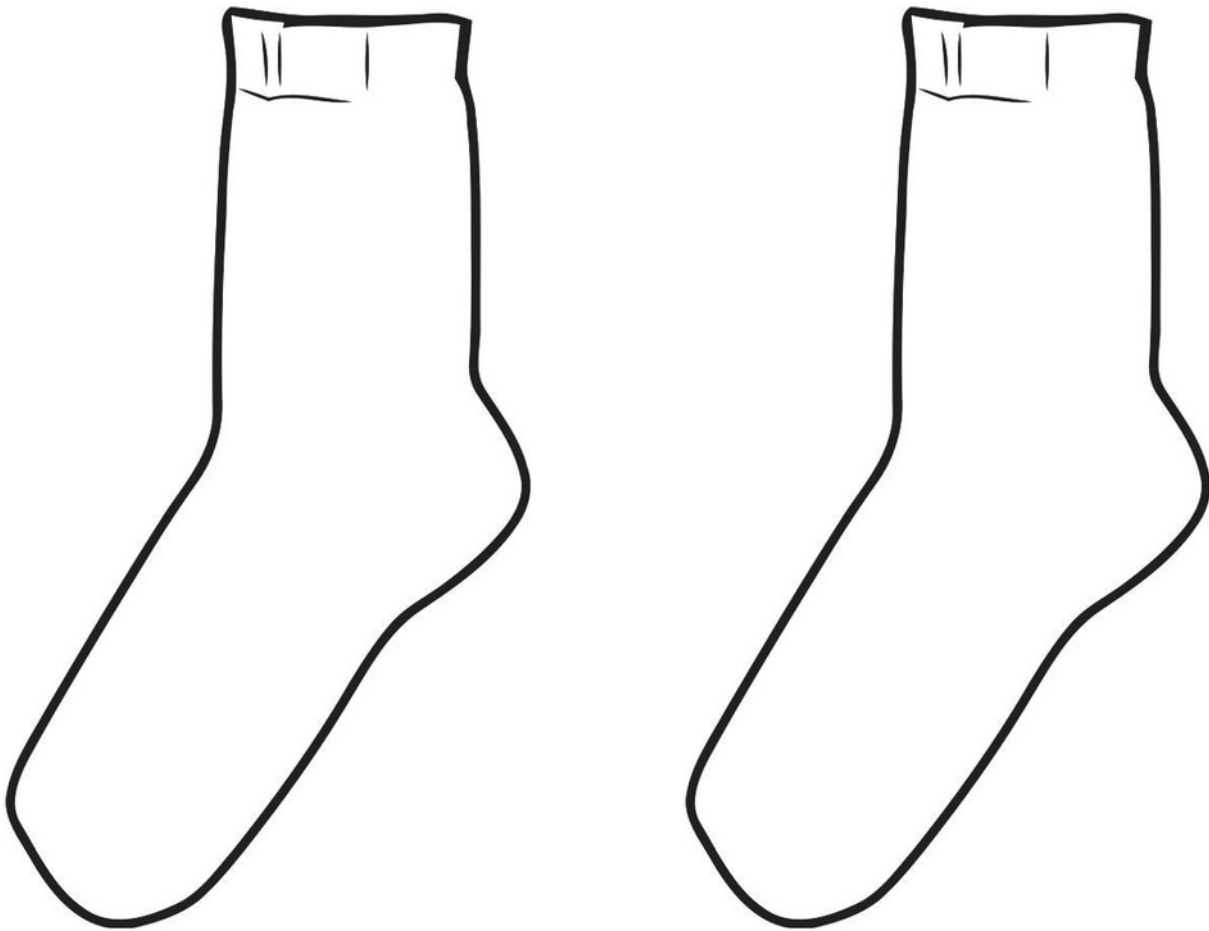




Design some stockings

The stockings my Dad made in this house were plain and knitted in just one colour but I bet you've seen fancy Christmas stockings in fun colours.

Have a go at designing and decorating some stockings for your self. These pictures look more like socks than old fashioned stockings or Christmas stockings . . . but you choose, you could use festive designs and colours in red & green with stars & bells on, or bright stripes or spots, or something very special & personal to you- Whatever you like!!



Ask the adults you're staying with whether they'd like to wear them!