

IF WALLS COULD TALK



ON A QUEST WITH MARGARET

WELCOME TO MECHELEN!

I'm Princess Margaret of Austria.

You might recognise me from the statue on the Grote Markt.

I was born in 1480 and lived in this city for a while.

I was even the boss here, a bit like a mayor. Would you like to discover what happened in Mechelen 500 years ago?

Come on a quest with me! Along the way, I'll tell you fun stories and teach you about my favourite city.

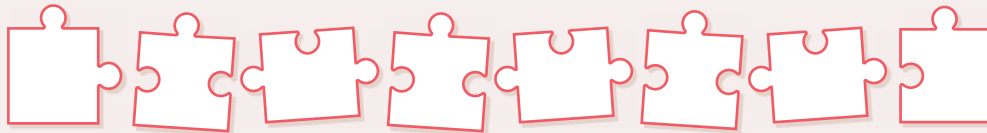


Search the password

Throughout this booklet you will find puzzle pieces in different places, where you have to fill in a letter. Collect them here and discover **the secret password**.

Did you find the password?

Then, after your quest, head to the **Aldermen's Building** (building 1 on the map) and show it there. You'll receive **a lovely surprise** to finish your day!



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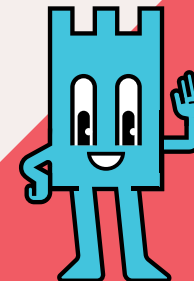
This quest booklet belongs to:

I'm going on a quest with:

My favourite building in Mechelen is:

If I were a prince or princess,
I would want to live in this palace:

.....



Hello there!


I'm Rommy, the Mechelen mascot. During your quest, I will sometimes pop up and ask you quiz questions. On the next page, read how to get started on this walk.

Ready? Then let's go!



HOW THE QUEST WORKS

1. Check out this map to see where to go.
Follow the dotted line and try to recognise the buildings along the way.

 The detailed walking route can be found in the walking brochure of the listening walk 'If walls could talk', available at Visit Mechelen.
2. Arrived at a stop?
Place a cross at the correct location.
3. Solve the tasks and find out which letter you need for **the secret password**.
4. Have you collected all the letters?
Form the password and show your solution at the Visit Mechelen counter.
You'll receive a lovely gift there!

Want a shorter walk, or are you travelling with a wheelchair or stroller?

Then skip the Large Beguinage **8**.
From the Klapgat **7**, you can walk straight to the Kraanbrug **9** via the Melaan.
The quest is then 2.7 km instead of 3.4 km.



1 ALDERMEN'S BUILDING

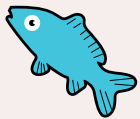
I was 27 when I moved to Mechelen. Later, we'll walk past the palace where I used to live. Now we are at the Aldermen's Building. This was once the oldest stone town hall in Flanders. It looks like a cute castle, doesn't it?

In my time, important decisions were made here when someone was in trouble. The Aldermen's Building has also been a prison and museum. Now, as a tourist, you can come here to ask someone from Mechelen questions about walks and activities in the city.



Rebus

Can you solve this riddle?



SH=ND

.....
-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

.....
-------	-------	-------	-------	-------



PI=TH



P=B



FL=T



Quiz question

What has the Aldermen's Building never been?

Tick the correct answer.

- ☐ A cinema
- ☐ A museum
- ☐ A prison

Quest task

What will you **not** find in the Aldermen's Building?

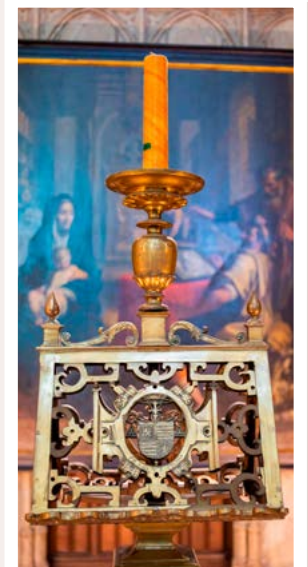
Circle the correct answer.



1



2



3

2 ST RUMBOLD'S TOWER

Have you seen my statue yet? So, does it look like me? I've been standing here for over 20 years. I get a lovely view of the city. St Rumbold's Tower behind me is the most famous building in Mechelen.

Selfie time!

Pose like my statue, and take a selfie.



LOOK UP!

Isn't St Rumbold's Tower tall! Just another three centimetres and it would be 100 metres high.

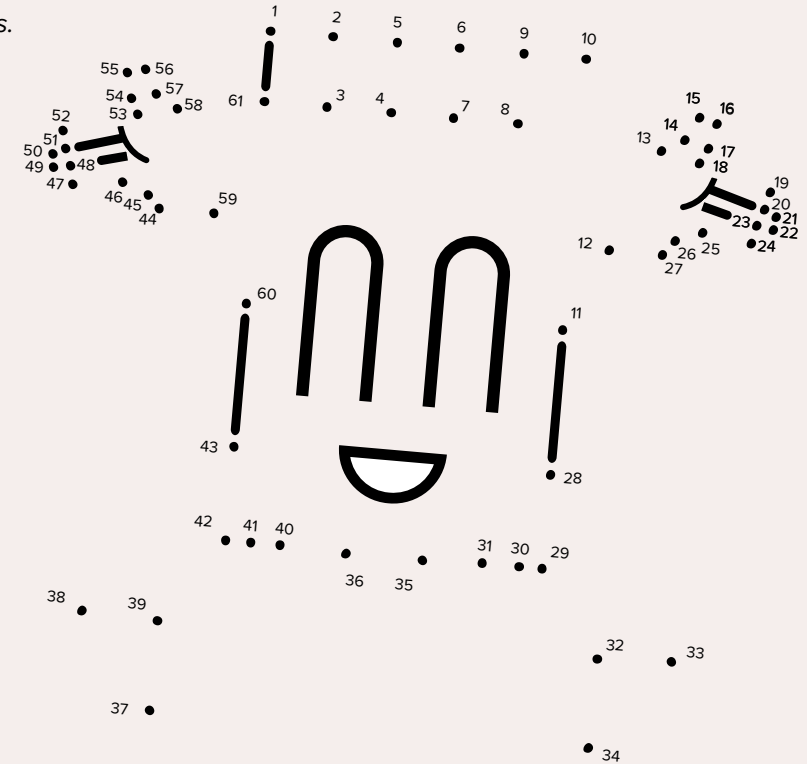
There are two carillons in the tower: they are the heaviest instruments in the world. A carillon keyboard is like that of a piano and is connected to 49 bells. Each bell has a name: Rumoldus, Libertus, Magdalena, Karel (Charles) ...

Unfortunately, no Margaret yet. You can hear these bells every 7.5 minutes in the city.

Would you like to climb the tower? Off you go! If you count the steps to the top, you should end up with 538. Once there, you can enjoy a beautiful view of Mechelen. But can you also see the shiny balls of the Atomium?

Are you going to complete Rommy?

Connect the dots.



Quiz question

How many carillons are in this tower?

.....

How many steps does the tower have?

.....

What can you see from the top of the tower? Write the correct letter in the puzzle piece.



☐ Eiffel Tower (K)

☐ Atomium (M)

☐ Manneken Pis (X)

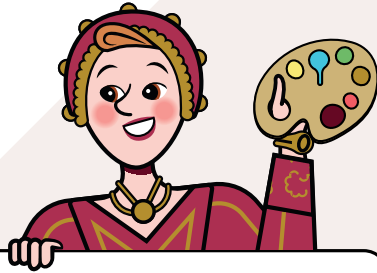
3 TOWN HALL – CLOTH HALL

You are now standing in front of the town hall of Mechelen. This is the workplace of the mayor and other important people who make decisions about life in the city. The town hall consists of three parts: on the left is the Palace of the Grand Council, in the middle the belfry, and on the right the cloth hall. In the cloth hall, wool and cloth were still sold in my day, while one floor higher there was a prison. If you committed a crime, you were locked up here.



Design your own dream palace.

Get some inspiration from the decorations on the buildings or use your imagination.



Word search

Can you find the following words?

- ☐ Town hall
- ☐ Opsinjoorke
- ☐ Cloth
- ☐ Mechelen
- ☐ Tower
- ☐ Margaret
- ☐ Palace
- ☐ Carillon
- ☐ Wool
- ☐ Market

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

What part of the Town Hall is missing here?

Write the correct letter in the **puzzle piece**.



Q



P



A

4 PALACE OF MARGARET OF YORK

My step-grandmother Margaret of York lived in this beautiful palace. I spent hours at her home when I was young. She had a small zoo with an ostrich and camels, among other animals. Incidentally, this palace was home to some well-known nephews and nieces, such as Charles V. My nephew Charles was a very important person in Europe 500 years ago. Would you like to see him? A little further on, you'll find a statue of him on a golden rocking horse.



Do you like animals too? If it had been up to me, I would have had a zoo, like my step-grandmother. Although it wasn't exactly quiet at home with a parrot in the palace.

What's your favourite pet?



Quiz question

Charles V is the of Margaret of Austria.

Tick the correct answer.

- ☐ Father
- ☐ Nephew
- ☐ Little brother

I like to play hide and seek!

Do you? Can you find the 5 hidden objects and the letter in this painting?

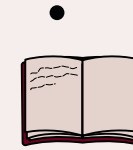
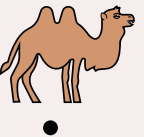
Write the correct letter in the puzzle piece.



Objects: painting palette, parrot, smartphone, camel, feather pen

Which objects belong together?

Help Margaret make the right choices!



5 PALACE OF MARGARET OF AUSTRIA

Here we are! Welcome to my palace.
What do you think? Nice, hey! My nephew Charles and my nieces played in the palace garden.
I lived here with my lady-in-waiting, Clara.
She helped me with house chores. In my spare time, I loved writing poems.

Selfie time!

Take a picture of a group of you as if you're listening to secrets behind the gate of my palace.



Quiz question

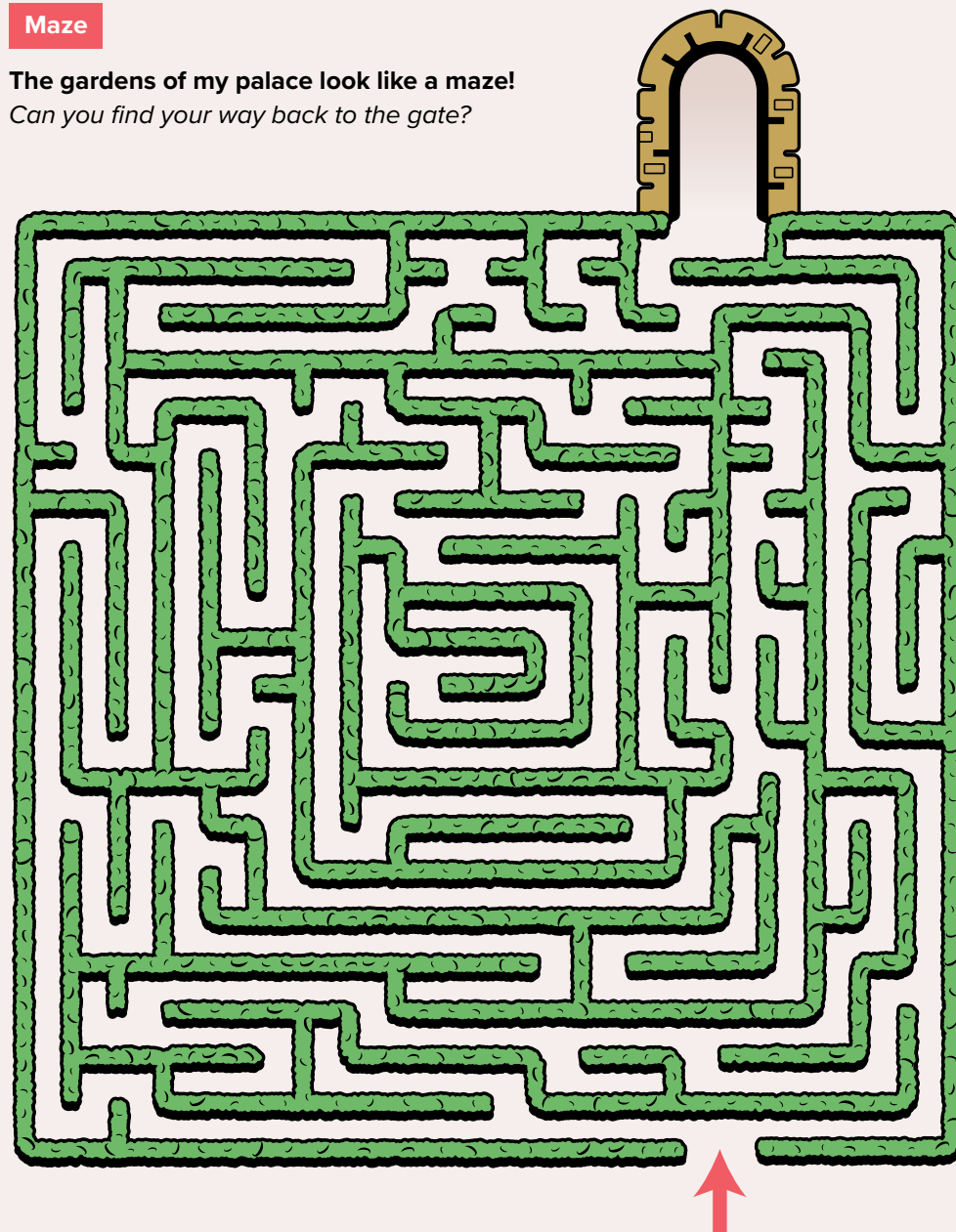
What is Margaret's favourite hobby?
Write the correct letter in the **puzzle piece**.

- ☐ Writing poems (G)
- ☐ Buying clothes (A)
- ☐ Cooking (C)



Maze

The gardens of my palace look like a maze!
Can you find your way back to the gate?



6 MUSEUM HOF VAN BUSLEYDEN

Hieronymus van Busleyden lived in this building. He was a clever Dutchman who attracted important visitors from other countries: architects, judges, artists ... Today, this palace is a museum about what life was like here 500 years ago. In the beautiful garden you can enjoy the sun and peace.

What part of Hof van Busleyden is missing?

Write the correct letter in the **puzzle piece**.



Y



A



X



Can you form this word?



M A U S L E I

♣	♥	♦	♠	♥	♣
.....

Solution:



Seek and find

Oh no! Rommy has messed with my painting ... Can you spot the five differences?



Painting "Puppet show at the court of Margaret of Austria"



7 KLAPGAT (GOSSIP ALLEY)

Do you know why this little alley is called Klapgat?
 Women from the neighbourhood used to come here secretly
 to gossip ('klappen' is the Mechelen word).
 So that's what happened down this alley.
 Gossip was forbidden at the time but no one heard them here.

Many Beguines used to live nearby.
 They were religious women who decided not to marry but
 to take care of each other. Unlike nuns, who lived in a
 convent their whole life, a beguine lived in her own
 house in the beguinage.



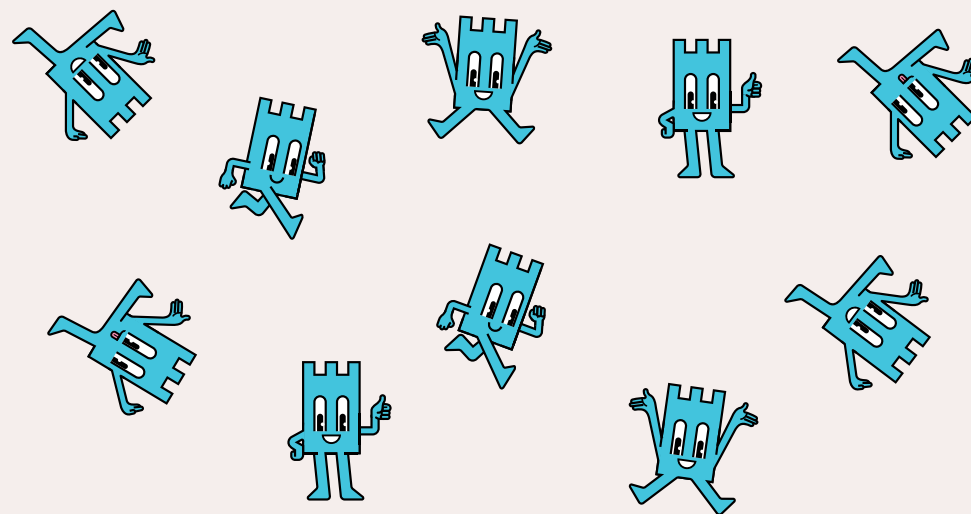
Quiz question

What was the favourite pastime of the women who visited the Klapgat?

Tick the correct answer.

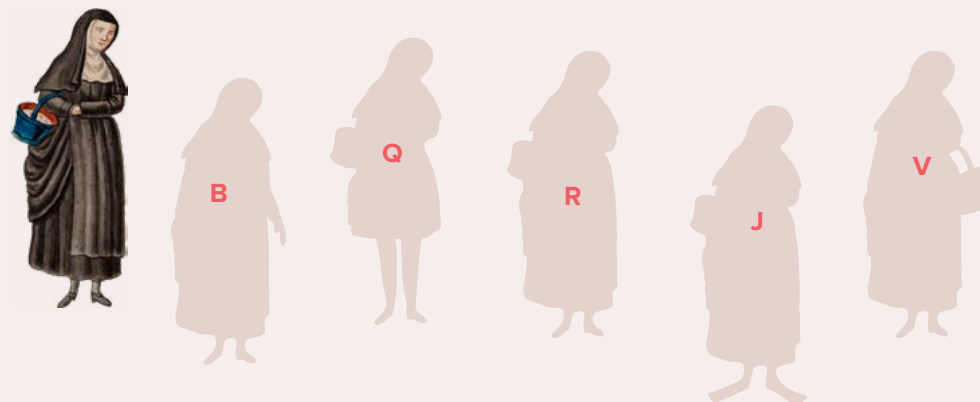
- ☐ Dancing
- ☐ Going to a cafe
- ☐ Gossiping with each other

Can you match up the Rommys with each other?



Which silhouette belongs to the right beguine?

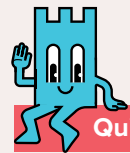
Write the correct letter in the puzzle piece.



8 LARGE BEGUINAGE

In Mechelen there are two places where beguines used to live: the Small and Large Beguinage. They worked and in exchange they were allowed to buy or rent a house here. A beguinage was a safe place for them to live.

Can you smell a special fragrance?
That's the beer that's made next door.
The beguines used to brew their own beer in the same place. Today it is the city brewery Het Anker.
At this world-famous place, they still make my nephew Charles' favourite beer.



Quiz question

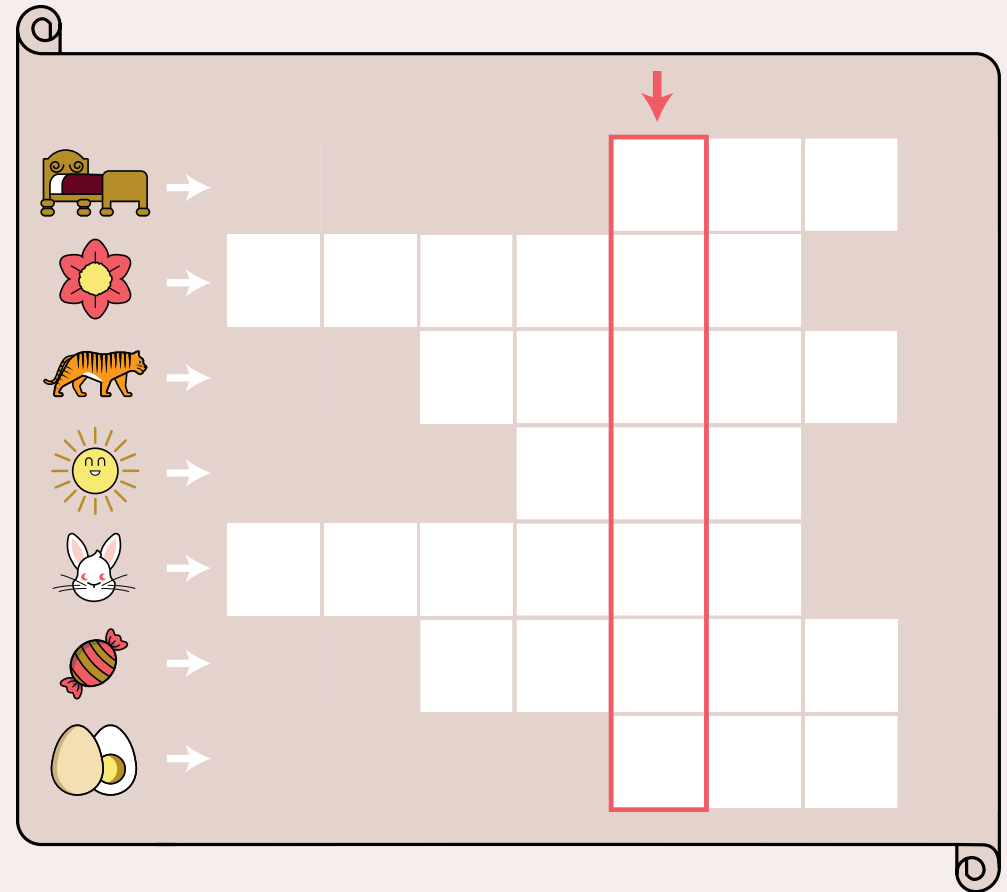
What did the beguines make?

Tick the correct answer.

- ☐ Cheese
- ☐ Chocolate
- ☐ Beer



Which word are we looking for?



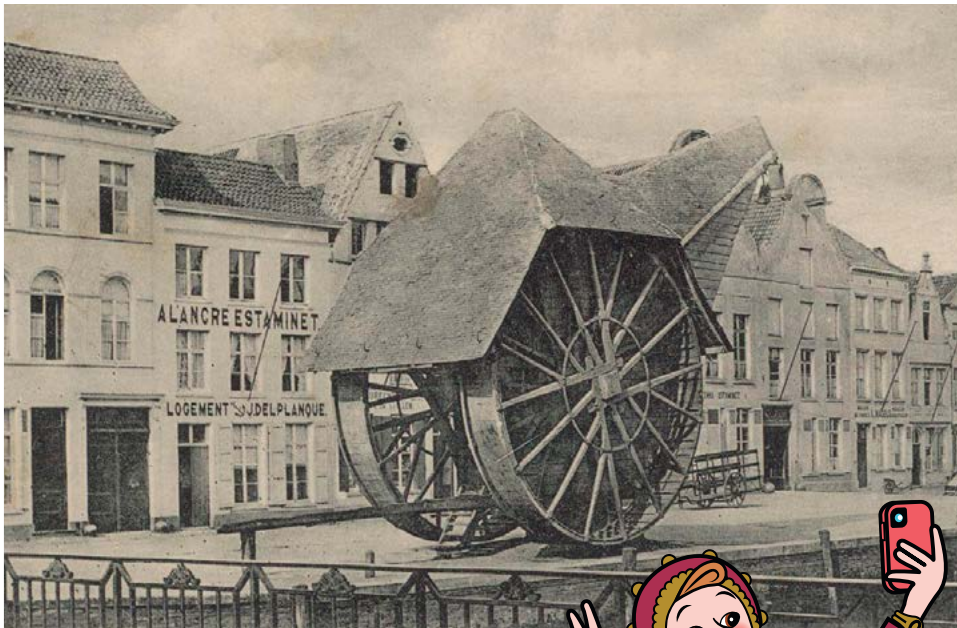
This is an optional stop.

So you will not find a letter for the password here.

9 KRAANBRUG

In my day, there was a crane (*kraan*) on this bridge that looked like a hamster wheel. Men stepped into the wheel and then began walking to make the crane work. This is how they lifted items such as food, drinks and work materials from the boats.

Mechelen was an important trading city. Salt, fish and grain were removed from the boats and then resold. Afterwards the boats continued to other cities such as Brussels and Antwerp.



Selfie time!

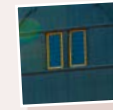
Pretend you're fishing. Cheese!

Which part of the three houses is missing?

Write the correct letter in the *puzzle piece*.



E



X



K

Which figure do you recognise on the green house?

Circle the correct answer.



10 VISMARKT (FISH MARKET)

Welcome to the Fish Market! Can you smell other food than fish here? That's normal, because there are so many restaurants and cafes now. But when I was still living in Mechelen, everyone came to this square to buy their fresh fish. By the way, it's true what they say: I did have the fish market moved. When I moved to Mechelen, the fish market was located on the IJzerenleen, a little further away. But because I didn't like the smell of the fish, I made them put the market elsewhere. Clever, hey!



Quiz question

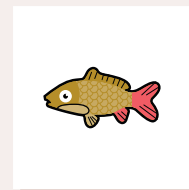
Why did the Fish Market move here from the IJzerenleen?

Tick the correct answer.

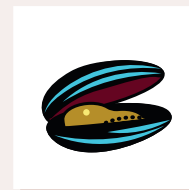
- ☐ Margaret thought the fish stank too much.
- ☐ The fish kept jumping back into the water from the stalls.
- ☐ The cats in Mechelen came and ate all the fish.

What doesn't fit here?

Write the correct letter in the puzzle piece.



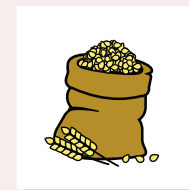
E



W

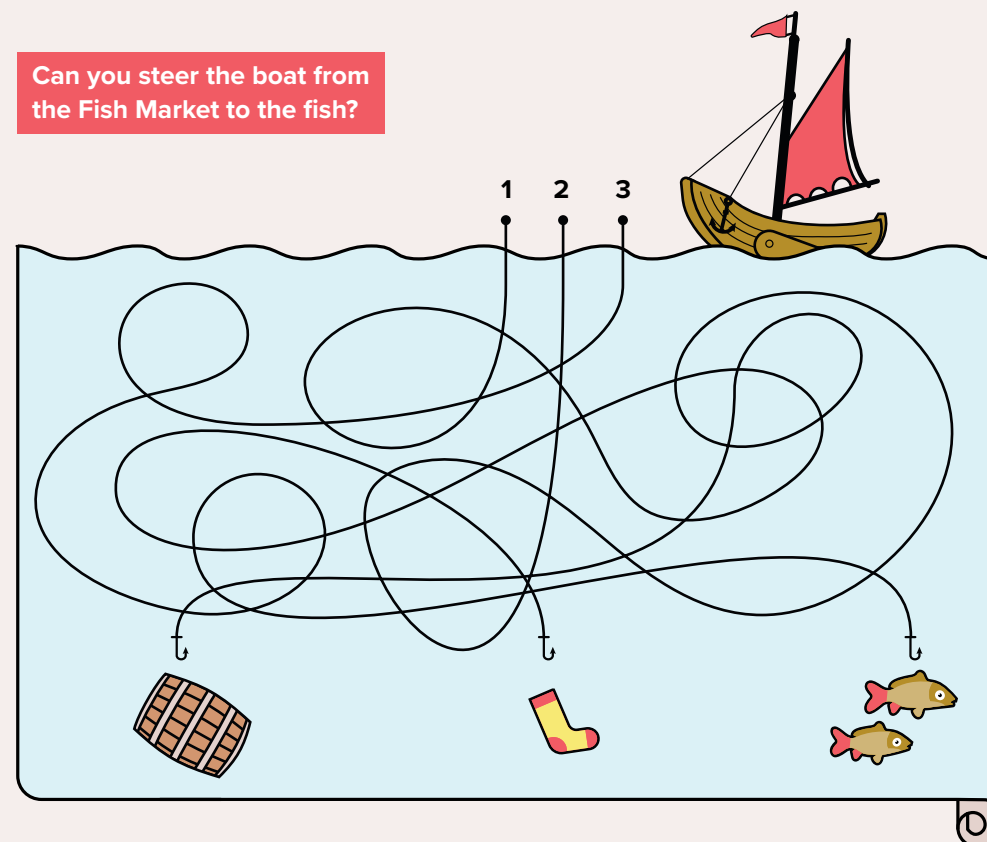


V



T

Can you steer the boat from the Fish Market to the fish?

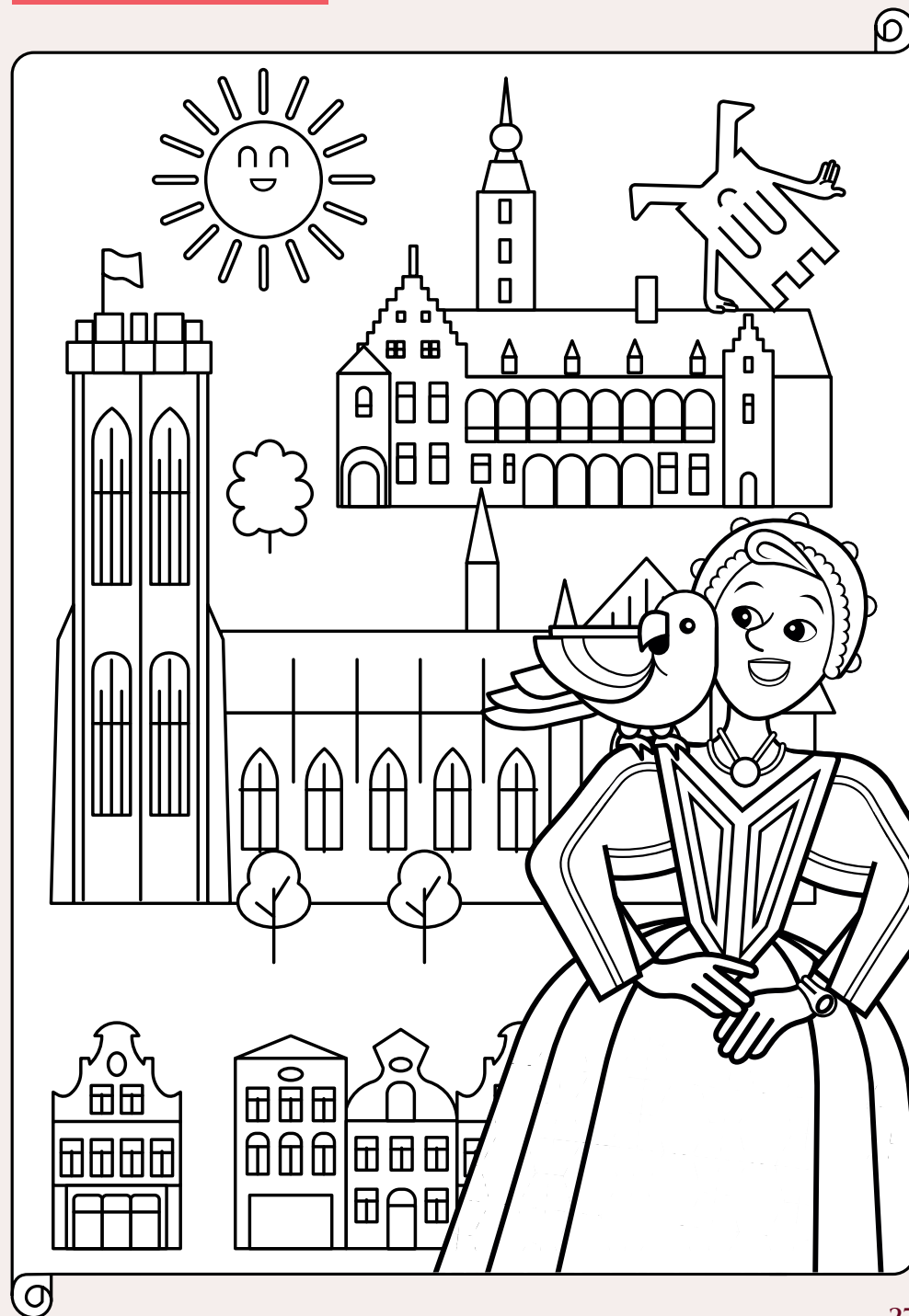
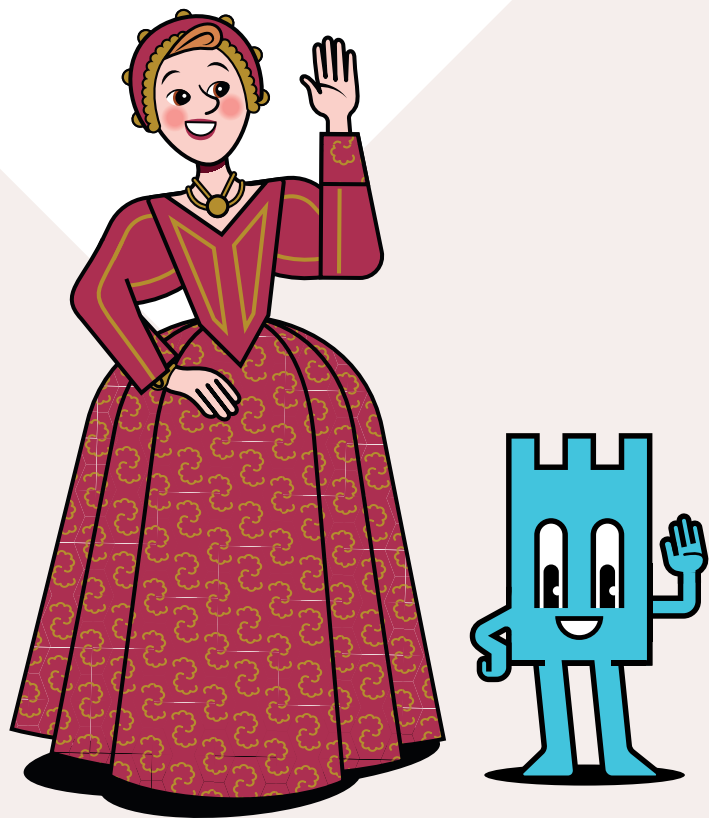


END ALDERMEN'S BUILDING

Well done! You have reached the final destination.
We're back at the Aldermen's Building.
Did you like the walk and enjoy discovering my beautiful city?

**Don't forget to show the password found
at the Visit Mechelen desk.**

Enjoy your gift and see you next time!





Discover Mechelen together

While your child(ren) go on a quest with this brochure, you can walk alongside and do the listening walk **'If walls could talk'**. Through a listening horn, you will hear intriguing conversations between dignitaries, workers and prisoners from Mechelen's rich Burgundian past.

The listening walk and this quest work according to the 'pay what you can' principle: you pay what you can afford. The proceeds go entirely to the UiTPAS discount scheme, which helps people in poverty in Mechelen to participate in culture and sport.

Ask about the listening walk at the Visit Mechelen desk and experience a city walk with that little extra!

More info: www.visitmechelen.be/if-walls-could-talk

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