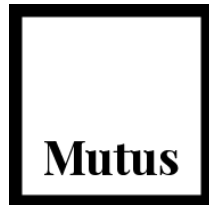




# "LA CARTOIXA DE VALLDEMOSSA" EDUCATIONAL BOOKLET

*Educational booklet for La Cartoixa de Valldemossa. Content adapted specifically for the primary school curriculum. Designed to enhance pupils' experience of the visit.*

PRIMARY



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# VISIT TO LA CARTOIXA DE VALLDEMOSSA

EDUCATIONAL BOOKLET (PRIMARY)

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# ABOUT THE EDUCATIONAL BOOKLET

This educational booklet has been designed as an intermediary tool between primary school pupils and all the possibilities offered by a visit to the site of *La Cartoixa de Valldemossa*. Its aim is to provide information on the different places at *La Cartoixa*, relating them to various subjects on the current primary school curriculum. The variety of places at *La Cartoixa* means that a range of subjects are covered from Social and Natural Sciences, adapted especially for the educational level of primary schoolchildren.

The different sections begin with a box specifying the content related to each subject, followed by a description and explanation of the place in question.

Some words in the text are highlighted in bold, indicating that they are covered by the glossary at the end of the booklet.

A number of activities are proposed for each place that can be carried out before, during and after the visit, encouraging active involvement, a critical approach, independent research, perceptive and observatory skills and also teamwork. Teachers can select the most suitable activities for their class from all those proposed here.

There is also a timeline of the most important events related to *La Cartoixa*, as well as a games section, providing a fun way for children to learn and remember what they have covered.

# INTRODUCTION



## Related content

### Social Sciences

- The peninsular kingdoms and the Balearic Islands in the Middle Ages. The "Regne Privatiu" or independent kingdom of Mallorca.
- Spain in the Contemporary Age. The 19th century. The ecclesiastical confiscations of Mendizábal.
- Our historical and cultural heritage. Making the most of and preserving heritage.

Welcome to the *Reial Cartoixa de Valldemossa* or Royal Carthusian Monastery of Valldemossa. You're about to journey back in time through seven hundred years of history, starting with a king, a palace, some monks and a monastery.

Today's *Cartoixa de Valldemossa* is the result of many transformations carried out by the different people that have lived here over the years. First it was a palace, then a monastery and after it became a private home for a range of people and now, finally, it's a monument. It can be divided into two large areas that you'll soon get to know: the old *Cartoixa* and the new *Cartoixa*.

You'll start your visit with the new *Cartoixa*, visitant the church, the apothecary, the Prior's cell, the Frédéric Chopin – George Sand collections and the municipal museum, finishing right where the first page was written in the history of the Carthusian Order on Mallorca; the early *Cartoixa* located in the King Sancho Palace.

For seven centuries princes, kings, emperors, politicians, artists and writers have all come inside these walls and have been entranced by the charms of this historical site which you will now get the chance to visit. We invite you to discover, for yourselves, why *La Cartoixa* has been and continues to be worthy of so many illustrious visitors... including yourselves!

# HISTORY OF LA CARTOIXA



## Related content

Social Sciences

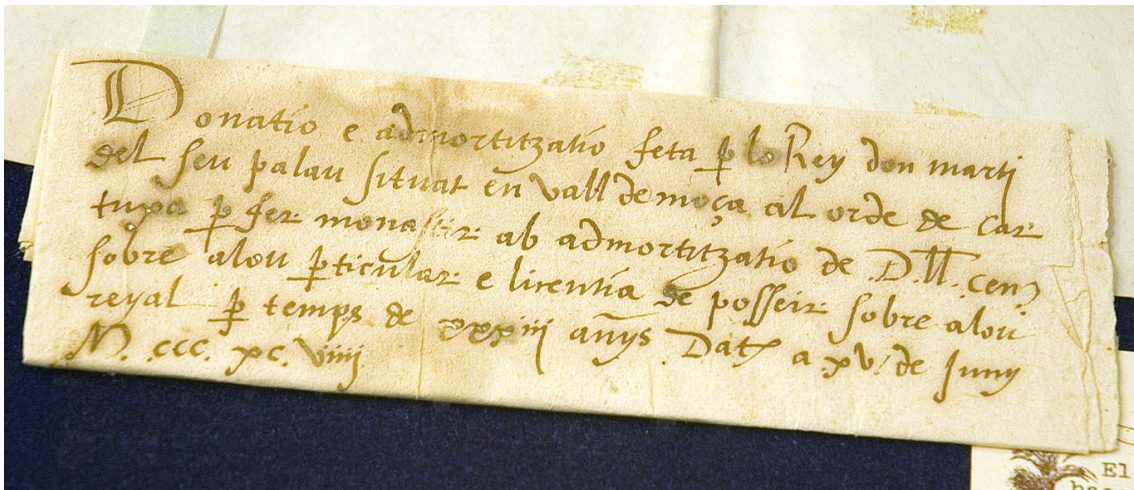
- Our artistic and cultural heritage. Art and architecture.

In 1229, King Jaume I of Aragon, known as the Conqueror, arrived in Mallorca. His son, Jaume II, was the first king of the "**regne privatiu**" of Mallorca, ruling a kingdom that was not dependent on the **Crown of Aragon**, the dominant kingdom in the area at that time.

Jaume II had a son who suffered from asthma, Sanç or Sancho I. In 1309, in an attempt to help his son, Jaume II ordered a palace to be built for Sancho in Valldemossa as it was believed the local climate could relieve his asthma.

For several years this palace was used as a **royal residence**; in other words, the home of the kings of Mallorca. However, the kingdom of Mallorca didn't last long and, in 1349, it definitively joined the kingdom of the Crown of Aragon.

As there were no longer any Mallorcan kings, the palace built by Jaume II was never used again as a home for royals. It was therefore decided to donate the building to some monks so they could use the old palace by converting it into a **monastery**. These monks were Carthusian; they belonged to one of the many different groups of monks. The year was 1399.



*Deed certifying the donation of the palace by Martin I to the Carthusian Order in 1399*

After some time, during which the monks made changes to be able to live in the old palace, they realised the space was too small for them: it was necessary to build a new monastery. So, in 1717 work started on building a new monastery that was attached to the palace, representing the second big transformation of *La Cartoixa*.

After the Carthusian Order had lived in the monastery for four hundred years, in 1835 the Spanish government forcibly took *La Cartoixa* from the Carthusian monks and sold

it to some individuals; in other words, to people like you! This event was called the **ecclesiastical confiscations**.

This was the third big transformation for the monastery as several people bought different parts to make them their home. Imagine the luxury of being able to live in such a beautiful place as *La Cartoixa de Valldemossa*! During this time a lot of artists and writers stayed here: George Sand and Chopin, Rubén Darío, Azorín, Santiago Rusiñol, Eugeni d'Ors...

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*Because of its importance and historical and cultural value, the complex of La Cartoixa has been declared a **BIC (Asset of Cultural Interest)**, which means it's a place that should be known, preserved and looked after by everyone*

---

Today the site has become a monument that everyone can visit. Like you!

### PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

#### **Before/After the visit**

1. *La Cartoixa de Valldemossa* has been declared a BIC (Asset of Cultural Interest). Find other places of heritage in the Balearic Islands that have also been declared a BIC.
2. What other things do you think should be especially protected and looked after, like we do with BICs? Why have you chosen them?

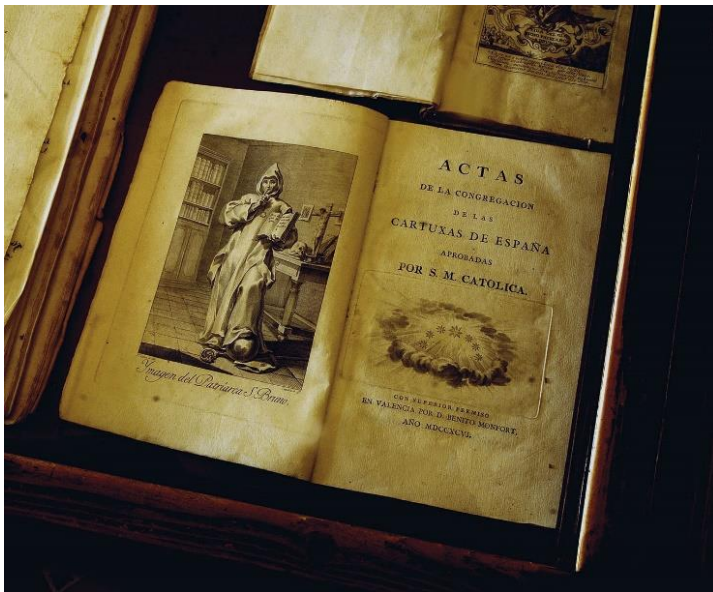
## THE CARTHUSIAN ORDER

*La Cartoixa de Valldemossa* gets its name from the function it had for four hundred years: a monastery for Carthusian monks. Although there are no longer any monks here, Carthusian monks still exist in other places and lead a very special life. Do you know who these monks are?

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*Carthusian monks are a group of people who form part of a religious order that emphasises **austerity**, **silence** and **prayer**.*

---



Picture of Saint Bruno

The origin of the Carthusians dates back to the 11th century in France.

The first monastery was founded by Saint Bruno in the area of Chartreuse, France, in 1084. Look how similar the names *Carthusian* and *Chartreuse* are, the place where the first monastery was set up!

Saint Bruno had a lot of followers all over the world who also wanted to set up Carthusian monasteries like him: *La Cartoixa de*

*Valldemossa* is an example of these.

At *La Cartoixa* the monks led a very simple life dedicated to praying, reading and doing manual work to relax the mind. To be able to concentrate on all this, Carthusian monks had to remain silent the whole time. They were only allowed to talk for half an hour a week, so they could sort out any important problems in the community. Can you imagine being silent for a whole week and not being able to talk?

The place where monks spent most time was called a **cell**. The cell was the room where the monks used to work, sleep and eat all alone: they were like individual little "houses"! Each cell had its own garden where the monks grew fruit and vegetables to eat.

And talking of food... do you know what the Carthusians ate? The diet of Carthusian monks and nuns was a little special: they never ate meat. And at some times of the year they had to follow an even tougher diet! During Advent and Lent they couldn't eat any milk products. On Fridays, in union with God, they had just bread, water and salt.

As we've already said, there are still Carthusian monks and nuns today and they lead a very similar life to the monks who used to live at *La Cartoixa de Valldemossa*, isolated

from the world. Today, moreover, Carthusian monks and nuns aren't allowed to listen to the radio or watch TV.

# THE CHURCH



## Related content

Social Sciences

- Our artistic and cultural heritage. Art and architecture.

The church was the main building of the monastery as it was where the monks would go to pray each day. The church was started in 1751 when the old *Cartoixa* was being extended.

The church you can see today was finally **consecrated** in 1812.

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*Buildings are constructed in the style that's in fashion during the time when they are made, which is called an **architectural style**.*

---

The architectural style of this church is Neo-Classical. This “architectural fashion” takes its inspiration from the monuments of Ancient Greece and Rome and uses shapes that are simple, pure, balanced, symmetrical and in proportion.

Looking up, you can see some paintings that cover the whole ceiling. These paintings were created by Manuel Bayeu, the brother-in-law of the famous painter Francisco de Goya. Bayeu used the technique known as **fresco painting**, painting directly onto walls and ceilings using colours dissolved into water and lime, spread over a layer of fresh plaster. This was a very difficult technique as you had to be very quick and skilful to do it!



*General view of the church*

## PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

### Before the visit

1. Look for pictures of buildings and sculptures from the time of Ancient Greece and Rome on the internet.

- Where are they?
- What are they called?
- When were they made?

Look at them: how would you describe them?

### During the visit

2. Look at the frescoes on the ceiling of the church. The scenes painted depict different passages from the Old and New Testament. Now look closely at the four women painted on the pendentives of the dome.

- Between everyone in the group, try to find out the name of each of the women.

3. Take photos of the inside of the church.

### After the visit

4. Find out who the women are, who are painted on the pendentives of the church dome.

5. Compare the photographs you took of the church with the pictures of the buildings and sculptures from Ancient Greece and Rome you found before the visit.

- Do you see any similarities? Any differences?

# MONASTIC APOTHECARY



## Related content

Natural Sciences

- Technology, objects and machines

The apothecary at *La Cartoixa* is one of the oldest pharmacies on Mallorca and one of the best preserved in Europe.

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*The apothecary was the place where the monks made the medicine they needed when they were ill.*

---

It was founded by the Carthusians between 1723 and 1725, the time when the buildings were being extended for the new *Cartoixa*. The garden of medicinal plants was also created during the same period, where the pharmacist would collect the ingredients to make the medicines.

At the apothecary you can see how an old pharmacy was arranged; in other words, how all the pharmaceutical equipment was placed.

One of the most curious aspects of this pharmacy is that you can still find some of the raw materials and medicinal preparations originally stored in the apothecary's glass containers.



*Monastic apothecary of La Cartoixa*

Another of the interesting things about this pharmacy is the **collection** of medicine containers there, many of them ceramic. Ceramic was used because it's impermeable and very easy to manipulate. Look how pretty the white pots are with their pictures of men, women, plants and animals in blue! For pharmacists it was very important to have pretty pots like these because it was how they could show everyone they were distinguished professionals.

Shortly after the apothecary was set up at the monastery, it started to sell medicines to the people living in Valldemossa and neighbouring villages. The apothecary's services were also used by people as important as the writer George Sand and the musician Frédéric Chopin, who stayed at *La Cartoixa* for a while.

### PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

#### Before the visit

1. With the winter of 1838 approaching, doctors advised Chopin to travel to Mallorca in order to improve his health. Once he'd settled into *La Cartoixa*, Chopin needed medicine for his illness and George Sand, his companion, bought this from the apothecary.

- Find out what illness Chopin suffered from.

#### During the visit

2. At the apothecary you can see different substances used to make medicinal preparations.

- Find the sharks' teeth and note down what they were used for.

3. Look at the different instruments on show in the apothecary and take photographs.

- What differences do you notice between this apothecary and a normal pharmacy?
- What are the similarities?

#### After the visit

4. Do some research and find out the instruments used today by pharmacists. Compare them with the instruments you photographed at the apothecary.

- How do you think they've changed?

# PRIOR'S CELL



## Related content

Natural Sciences

- Humans and health.

The Prior's Cell was where the **Prior** lived; i.e. the senior monk or head of the monastery. The Prior's cell occupies the space of two normal cells and is divided into different areas: a chapel, library, audience room, garden, bedroom and dining room.

The Prior's cell looked a lot like the other monks' cells but was larger. This is because, as head of the community, the Prior had to receive visitors to the monastery.

The library was where the books were stored and kept, ordered for reading. In the case of *La Cartoixa*, the library was also the place where the monks gathered. It was also the place where, for half an hour a week, the monks interrupted their silence to be able to talk about any important issues for the community.

The Audience Room was the place where the Prior received the monastery's frequent visitors.



*Model wearing a Carthusian monk's habit. Prior's Cell*

The account book of the Carthusian monks is on display in the Audience Room, written in Catalan.

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*The account book was where the monks noted everything they earned and spent throughout the year.*

---

The last of the areas in the Prior's Cell is the Prior's most secret place. Here he ate, slept, worked and read. This area shows that the Prior was actually like all the other Carthusian monks as it has similar objects to those possessed by the rest of the community: the **bunk** (or bed) used by the monks and the winch used by the Prior, like the other monks, to receive his bread in his solitary cell.

In the room you can see a model wearing the Carthusian **habit**, in other words the typical white garment worn by these monks.

### PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

#### During the visit

1. In one of the last rooms of the Prior's Cell there's a document on display that describes the typical day of the Carthusian monks. Notice when they used to sleep and what they did during the day.
2. Look at the model of a monk wearing the white Carthusian habit.
  - Do you know the name of any other religious orders?
  - Do you know what they dressed like?
3. Look for the Carthusian monks' account book.
  - Note down three of the products described in the general harvest.

#### After the visit

4. Based on the document you found in the Prior's Cell about the monks' typical day at *La Cartoixa*, and also based on the previous paragraph describing the food eaten by the Carthusian Order, compare your typical day and your eating habits with those of the Carthusian monks.
  - What differences do you see?
  - What things in the Carthusian day do you think are the healthiest? What do you think are the unhealthiest?

# FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN – GEORGE SAND COLLECTIONS



## Related content

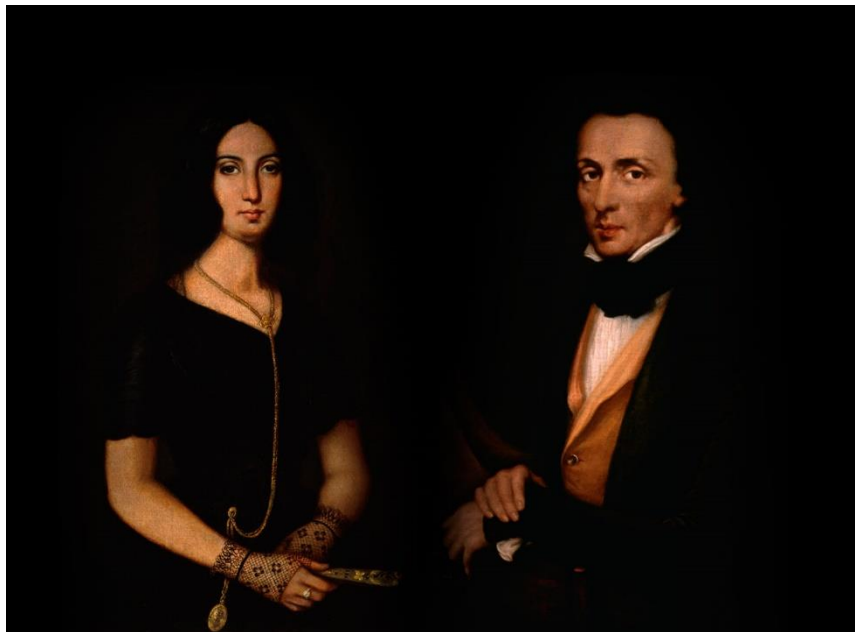
Natural Sciences

- Equality between men and women

Social Sciences

- The marks of time

Frédéric Chopin and George Sand arrived at *La Cartoixa de Valldemossa* in the winter of 1838. These two artists were a very famous couple in 19th-century Paris: he was a musician and she a writer. In their era, the main cultural movement was **Romanticism**, which influenced literature, music and painting.



*Original portraits of Sand and Chopin by Auguste Charpentier and Ary Scheffer respectively*

The Romantic Movement placed great emphasis on passions and feelings. It emerged as a reaction to the previous movement, Classicism, in which balance and control were very important.

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*The Romantic Movement also stressed imagination, freedom, instinct, originality and creativity. Those following the Romantic Movement loved extravagant and exotic things but they also liked everything related to their own country.*

---

In music, Chopin is one of the most important pianists and composers of the Romantic Movement while Sand represents the literary sphere.

Frédéric Chopin was born in Poland. From a very early age he was a **virtuoso** of the piano, his favourite instrument. When he was twenty years old he went to live in Paris and started his career as a concert pianist and composer. His music contains elements of the folk music from his native Poland, as well as a large amount of freedom and fantasy. His piano compositions are extremely difficult to play. Chopin is known as "the poet of the piano".

George Sand was born in France. George Sand is a man's name but it wasn't her real name. George Sand was the **pseudonym** she used when she wrote books. Sand was an independent woman who was not content to following the standards of the time. She used to wear masculine clothes, used a cane and smoked (something very rare among women at that time). In a very male-based society, dressing as a man allowed Sand to move around Paris more freely, accessing places she wouldn't have been able to enter as a woman.

Among the books she wrote are several **autobiographies**, a genre that became very fashionable during the Romantic Movement because of the importance it placed on the individual.

Chopin and Sand met in Paris. He was 26 years old and she was 32. Although they didn't like each other at all at first, over time they became a couple. The two artists came to Mallorca on the advice of the doctor who looked after George Sand's son, Maurice, so they made the trip together with the writer's two children: the aforementioned Maurice and his sister, Solange.

Chopin and Sand took advantage of their time on Mallorca to work. Chopin composed a series of short pieces for piano called *Preludes Op. 28*, and Sand, as well as writing several literary works, also took notes to write *Un hiver à Majorque (A Winter in Majorca)* in 1841.

One of Chopin's most famous compositions from this series of **preludes** is called *Raindrop*. This composition has become famous not only because it's so beautiful but also because of the story that inspired it.

Chopin composed this prelude on a very rainy day, anxiously waiting for George Sand to return from a shopping trip to Palma. As Sand was taking longer than expected, Chopin started to think something terrible had happened to his loved one. The "Raindrop" prelude was created out of this anxiety.

Sand's *A Winter in Majorca* is an autobiographical travelogue in which the French writer describes the experiences of her trip and stay with Chopin and her children on Mallorca and at *La Cartoixa de Valldemossa*.

Although this book has helped to promote Mallorca as a tourist destination, Sand's image of the island and its inhabitants is not good. Sand portrayed Mallorcan society as backward, rural and uneducated but we must remember she had just come from Paris and, at that time, the French city was much more advanced than Mallorca.

*La Cartoixa* remembers the time spent by Chopin and Sand at the monastery with various objects related to the couple: photographs, drawings, portraits, letters, sheets of music...

Moreover, since 1930, the "International Chopin Festival of Valldemossa" is held every year at *La Cartoixa*. Chopin is still very much present at Valldemossa through his music!

## PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

### Before the visit

1. George Sand is the pseudonym chosen by the French author for her writings. It was relatively common at that time for women to use a man's name when publishing books.

- Find out Sand's real name and why she chose the pseudonym we all know her by.
- Find other female authors who used a man's name for their books.
- Why do you think these women preferred to use a man's name when publishing their work?

### During the visit

2. In the glass cabinet, find the watercolour painted by Maurice Sand (George Sand's son) showing the event that inspired Chopin's "Raindrop" prelude.

### After the visit

3. Listen to the "Raindrop" prelude and try to make out the sounds that attempt to imitate the droplets of water hitting the window.

# GUASP COLLECTION



## Related content

### Natural Sciences

- Important discoveries and inventions

### Social Sciences

- The marks of time: our historical and cultural heritage

Some of the cells at *La Cartoixa* hold the Municipal Museum of Valldemossa which has several rooms devoted to different subjects. The first of these rooms is about the Guasp printing firm.

The invention of **printing** meant that a lot of identical copies of a document could be made automatically whereas, before printing was invented, they had to be copied by hand and this was very laborious and slow work.

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*Gutenberg is generally considered to have invented printing in the 15th century although earlier the Babylonians, Egyptians and Chinese had all experimented with similar inventions.*

---

Gutenberg was born in Germany and worked as a goldsmith. Gutenberg set about copying the Bible in much less time than a monk would take to copy it by hand. He borrowed money and made wooden moulds of each letter in the alphabet. Afterwards he filled the moulds with lead, creating the first movable type, and adapted an old wine press, creating an elementary printing press and the basis of the success of Gutenberg's invention. He delivered a first order of 150 Bibles and then began to receive a lot more orders.



*Press in the Guasp Collection*

The invention of printing meant that more people had access to books, which helped to spread culture and promote **vulgar languages** (Spanish, Catalan, French, Italian, etc.) instead of Latin.

The first printer's was set up on Mallorca one century after Gutenberg's invention. Later on, in 1579, Gabriel Guasp founded an important printer's on Mallorca which was in operation for 400 years, always run by members of his family.

At *La Cartoixa de Valldemossa* you can see the old press from the Guasp printer's. This is one of the best preserved printing presses in Europe and the most amazing thing about it is that it still works!

In addition to the press, the room also contains prints made by the Guasp workshop, as well as **xylographs** (woodblocks) used for printing. There are a lot of examples on display in the room!

## PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

### During the visit

2. In the room devoted to the Guasp printer's you can find woodblocks and also the prints made with them. Look for some of these pairs of woodblock+print and notice how the drawing from the woodblock has been transferred to the paper.

### After the visit

3. Find out more about the woodblock printing technique.
  - Where was it invented?

# ARCHDUKE LUDWIG SALVATOR ROOM



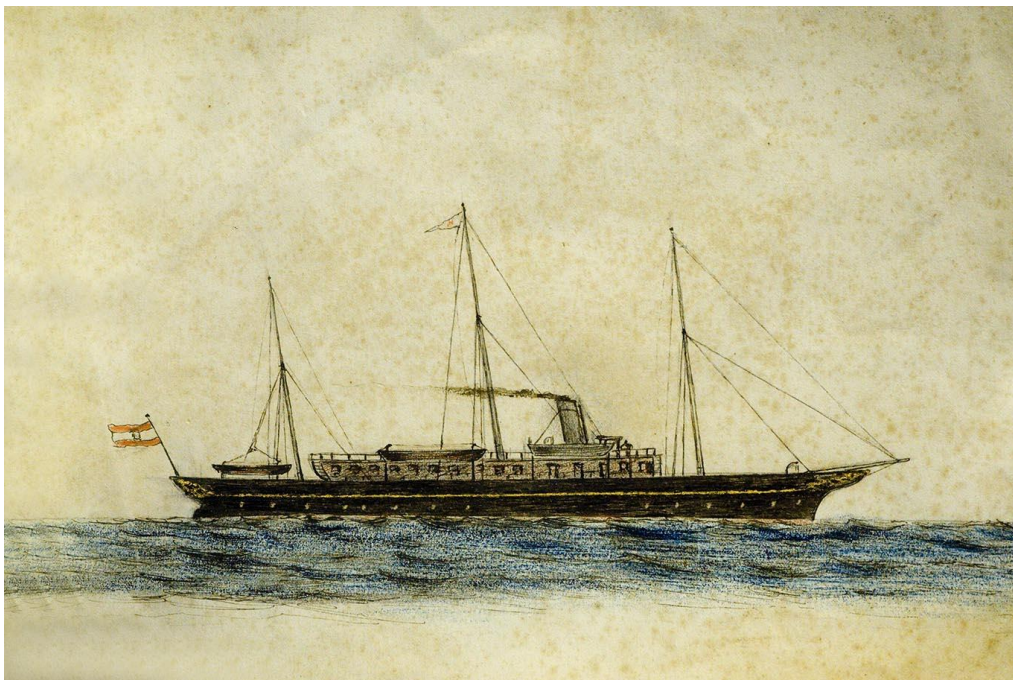
## Related content

Social Sciences

- The world around us. Climate and climactic factors. Cartography: plans, maps and scales

Archduke Ludwig Salvator was a very important aristocrat from the house of Austria who fell in love with Mallorca.

The Archduke was a learned man who travelled extensively around the Mediterranean. On one of his voyages he reached Mallorca and he liked our island so much he decided to stay here. The year was 1867.



*Illustration of the steam yacht, Nixe II, used by the Archduke to sail around the Mediterranean*

The Archduke had a very special personality. He didn't like to follow palace rules and was known to do whatever he felt like. On Mallorca he bought a lot of land in the Serra de Tramuntana hills, where he made a home for himself. The Archduke had good taste!

Here he found his own particular hideaway, a paradise where he could do whatever he wanted without having to follow strict palace rules: he dressed in peasant clothes, spent time with all kinds of people, devoted his time to studying and was very close to the sea, his great passion. No-one controlled him!

---

*In the Balearics he devoted his time to studying the local countryside, nature, animals and people. He wrote a very famous book called "Die Balearen", which is still the most important work on the countryside, customs and traditions of the Balearic culture in the 19th century.*

---

For this study, the Archduke worked with a team. He was helped by a lot of people from all over the islands who would note down the information requested by the Archduke.

In his studies the Archduke discovered species of plants and animals **endemic** to the Balearic; i.e. animals and plants that had originated on the islands. Specifically, the Archduke discovered several species of beetle and a kind of privet bush. In honour of the Archduke's discovery, these animals and plants are named after him: *Asida ludovici*, *Cryptomphagus ludovici* and *Rhamnus ludovici-salvatoris*. What a privilege!

Thanks to his studies, Archduke Ludwig Salvator is known as one of the most important **ethnographers** of the Balearic Islands and one of the first to promote tourism to our islands.

Apart from studying Balearic nature and culture, the Archduke was also a great **ecologist!** He couldn't stand it when peasants cut down trees so that, when they planned to clear a patch, he would buy the land off them. Needless to say some peasants took advantage of the Archduke's good nature and pretended they were going to cut down some trees just so he would buy their land. They were too clever!

## PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

### Before the visit

1. Ludwig Salvator of Habsburg-Lorraine and Bourbon arrived in Mallorca in 1867. He was born in 1847 in Florence (Italy) but had to leave for Austria when he was young, with his family, and afterwards to Bohemia, for political reasons. Among other things he loved Mallorca for its climate, which was more pleasant and gentler than central Europe where he used to live with his family, and it also reminded him of his childhood in Italy.

- Find out the differences between the Balearic climate and that of central Europe.

### During the visit

2. The Archduke was a great traveller. At the beginning of the room you can see a map entitled "Explorer of the Mediterranean" showing the places visited by the Archduke with his steam yacht, the Nixe.

- Look at this map to note down which places he travelled to.

3. The Archduke worked with a team to produce his ambitious work, *Die Balearen*.

- In the room, find out the name of the book-survey sent by the Archduke to his helpers throughout the different islands.

4. Find the copy of *Die Balearen* in the room.

- How many volumes are there?

### After the visit

5. In the room, you saw a map of the Archduke's voyages around the Mediterranean.

- Produce your own map showing the trips you've made around the world.

# PAINTERS OF THE SERRA DE TRAMUNTANA



## Related content

Social Sciences

- The world around us. The Serra de Tramuntana as Human Heritage.
- Living in society. Cultural and linguistic aspects of Spain.
- The marks of time. Our artistic and cultural heritage.

Our **Serra de Tramuntana** has always been very popular. It has even been classified by **UNESCO** as a World Human Heritage site, the highest category that can be given to a location!

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*A lot of artists, from Mallorca and abroad, have loved the Serra de Tramuntana so much they've represented it in their work.*

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You can see a selection of these paintings in the gallery of the Municipal Museum of Valldemossa. Note how the favourite theme of painters living on Mallorca was the landscape! Some of the painters who painted Mallorca countryside a lot were Santiago Rusiñol, Joan Fuster and Eliseo Meifrén.



*Serra de Tramuntana gallery*

One of the pictures on display is by Santiago Rusiñol. Santiago Rusiñol was a very important painter and writer and he didn't just paint the Serra de Tramuntana but also wrote a book dedicated to Mallorca, called *L'Illa de la Calma* (*Majorca: the Island of Calm*).

In *L'Illa de la Calma*, written in 1905, Santiago Rusiñol uses a type of Catalan that is different from today's language. This is because, when he wrote the book, the Catalan language had yet to be standardised.

## PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

### Before the visit

1. See if you can find pictures of the Serra de Tramuntana on the internet (the countryside, towns...)

### During the visit

2. The pictures in the gallery show a lot of landscapes inspired by Mallorca.

- Look closely at all of them. Can you recognise any particular landscape or place? Can you recognise any of the pictures you found on the internet?

3. In addition to the Serra de Tramuntana landscapes, the gallery also contains pictures showing other places on Mallorca.

- Find the picture showing Palma Cathedral and note the name of the artist.

# CONTEMPORARY ART COLLECTION



## Related content

Social Sciences

- The marks of time. Our artistic and cultural heritage

The last room in the Municipal Museum of Valldemossa is devoted to **contemporary art**.

Contemporary art is the most up-to-date, the most recent, the art from today. You've probably heard of Miró and Picasso. These two important artists, who are no longer alive, are examples of contemporary art.

Before contemporary art, most paintings tried to represent actual things in the world as far as possible: if they were creating a **portrait**, they wanted it to resemble the person acting as the model, if they were painting a chair they wanted it to look like a chair, if a horse, then they wanted everyone to recognise it was a horse...! This kind of art is called "**figurative art**".

One of the characteristics of contemporary art is the creation of abstract works (although figurative work is still being created as well). Abstract art, however, doesn't try to get people to recognise the reality in the picture: its aim isn't to represent the world as we see it with our own eyes.

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*What's important in **abstract art** is shape, colour and line, and creating a new way to express feelings and ideas without copying anything in the real world.*

---

Contemporary art also started to use a wide range of materials to create works; not only canvas and oil paints but artists such as Miró also used other materials such as sand, iron, footballs, dolls, clams, etc. which he added to his creations in an attempt to express more intensely what he wanted to say.

In the last room of the Municipal Museum you can find works by Miró, Picasso and other important contemporary artists such as the Mallorcan Juli Ramis.

If you look closely, you'll realise that Juli Ramis is an example of a contemporary artist whose works are both in the figurative and abstract style. Juli Ramis started his career creating figurative pieces: they're portraits representing different people. Over time, the way he painted gradually changed until he created abstract works where nothing from the real world can be recognised.



*Contemporary Art Collection*

You've already seen the printer's in the first room of the Municipal Museum of Valldemossa. Well, thanks to this invention, works of art could also be reproduced; in other words, a lot of "authentic copies" could be made of an artist's work. In general, this kind of art is called "print". This meant that ordinary people could have a work of art in their own home and not just the rich. In this room of the Museum you can see a lot of examples of prints by Miró and Picasso.

## PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

### Before the visit

1. The important Mallorcan painter, Juli Ramis, takes centre stage in this room.

- Do some research about Juli Ramis.

### During the visit

2. Look for the painting that appears in the picture of the room and note the catalogue details: author, title, technique and measurements.



3. Juli Ramis created both figurative and abstract works of art.

- In the room, find an example of abstract art and an example of figurative art by Juli Ramis. Note the title and year each one was created.

4. Draw the work of art that most catches your attention in the whole room. You can try to imitate it or take inspiration from it to create a totally different drawing. Note the author, title, technique and measurements of the work that's inspired you.

5. In a room with so many works of art like this one, it's normal for you to like some pieces more than others. It's even possible that a friend hates a picture you particularly like. That's because personal taste has a lot of influence on our appreciation of art. Whether you like a work of art or not can depend on the emotions it makes you feel, if it reminds you of something, if you think it's beautiful, if it surprises you, if it makes you think about something you've never thought about before, etc. What's important is to be able to analyse and explain why you like or dislike something.

- Choose the picture you like the most and the one you like the least.

### After the visit

6. Compare the works of art chosen in activities 4 and 5. Discuss why you chose them.

# KING SANCHO PALACE



## Related content

### Social Sciences

- Living in society. Cultural and linguistic aspects of Spain.
- The marks of time. Our artistic and cultural heritage.

You're about to finish your journey in time. To end your tour through the fascinating history of this place and the people who've lived here, we propose returning to the origins, back to where it all began. It's precisely here, at the King Sancho Palace, where the first pages were written in the history we've been learning about today.

By now you're familiar with its history: first it was a royal residence, then a Carthusian monastery and after the ecclesiastical confiscations it was sold to private individuals who redecorated some parts of the building with the typical ornamentation of Mallorcan homes in the 18th century. The red and yellow rooms are an example of this.

---

*What a difference between the austerity of this building in the time of the Carthusian monks and the luxurious lifestyle of its last occupants!*

---

One of the new families who moved into this place, the Sureda family, invited important writers to their home such as Rubèn Dario, Azorín, Unamuno and Eugeni d'Ors. Also Santiago Rusiñol, whom you've already met, stayed here as a **guest** of the Sureda family.



*Santa Maria Cloister (King Sancho Palace)*

Rubén Darío liked the place so much and was so impressed during his stay in the old Carthusian monastery that he started to wear the monks' typical white habit. He also wrote a poem called "La Cartuja", which provides a beautiful description of the sacrifices involved in the daily life of a Carthusian monk.

*Este vetusto monasterio ha visto,  
secos de orar y pálidos de ayuno,  
con el breviario y con el Santo Cristo,  
a los callados hijos de San Bruno*

Rubén Darío, Fragment from "La Cartuja", 1913

***This ancient monastery has seen,  
dried up from praying and pale from fasting,  
with the breviary and with the Holy Christ,  
the silent sons of Saint Bruno.***

## PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

### Before the visit

1. Apart from the King Sancho Palace, King Jaume II also had another incredibly famous round castle built in Palma. What's this castle called?

### During the visit

2. Look for the model representing Rubén Darío dressed in the typical white Carthusian habit.

- What do you think he's doing?
- In another room at *La Cartoixa*, which you've already visited, there's a photograph of Ruben Dario wearing a Carthusian habit. Can anyone remember which room this photograph was in?

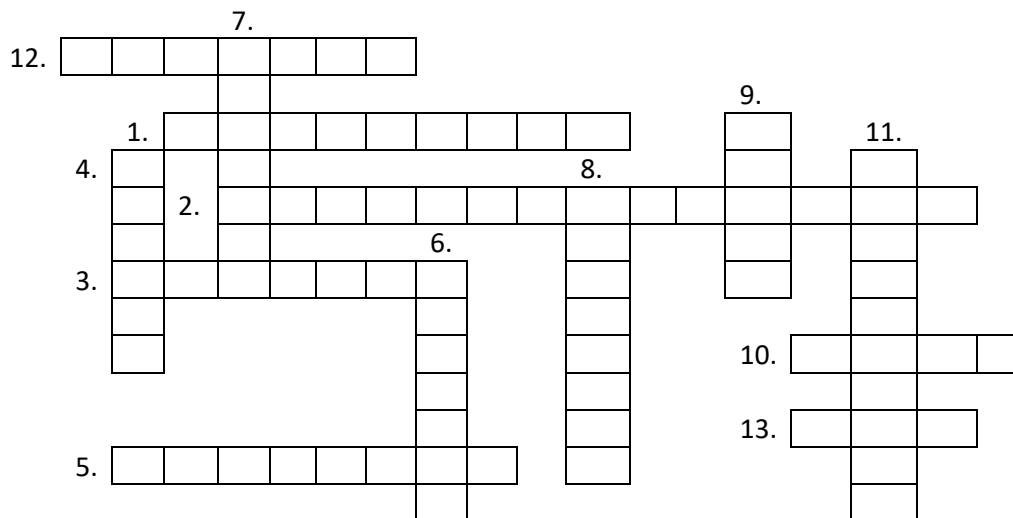
### After the visit

3. Read aloud the extract from the poem "La Cartuja" by Rubén Darío.

- Do you think you could write a poem inspired by your visit to the site of *La Cartoixa*?

# GAMES

## CROSSWORD



1. False name used by an author instead of their real name.
2. A period in Spain's history when the government took some of the Church's property and sold it to private individuals: the \_\_\_\_\_ confiscations.
3. A brief, free musical composition, often played on keyboard instruments such as the piano.
4. Musician who lived at *La Cartoixa* for a few months between 1838 and 1839.
5. A representation of a person or animal in a painting, drawing, engraving or photograph.
6. Describing plants and animals, exclusively from a specific location or region.
7. Characteristic way of life of Carthusian monks.
8. Art that doesn't try to imitate nature and things in the real world.
9. Name of the head of a monastery.
10. A very simple, small bed for a single person used in Carthusian monasteries.
11. A monk who belongs to the monastic order founded by Saint Bruno in 1084.
12. Artist from the 20th century whose works are considered to be masterpieces of contemporary art: some of these can be seen at the Museum of Contemporary Art of *La Cartoixa*.
13. Abbreviation, in Spanish, of the classification or category given to certain objects or places of cultural heritage to ensure everyone knows about, preserves and looks after them.

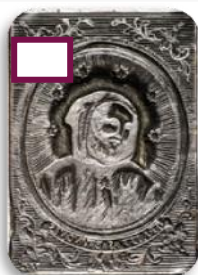
## LETTER SOUP

Find sixteen words related to your visit to *La Cartoixa de Valldemossa* and which you have learned in this educational booklet. The words can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal and even backwards.

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

## DETECTIVE GAME

Would you make a good detective? Have you paid attention during the visit? Look at the images below and place them within *La Cartoixa* by putting the right number next to them in the box.



### PLACES

1. Church
2. Monastic pharmacy
3. Prior's cell
4. Chopin – Sand Collection
5. Guasp Collection
6. Ludwig Salvator of Austria room
7. Painters of the Serra de Tramuntana
8. Contemporary Art Collection
9. King Sancho's Palace

## TIMELINE OF LA CARTOIXA

YEAR	EVENT
1229	Conquest of Mallorca by Jaume I
1276	Start of the "Independent Kingdom" of Mallorca
1309	Jaume II orders a palace to be built at Valldemossa for his son, Sancho
1349	Mallorca definitively becomes part of the Crown of Aragon
1399	Martin I of Aragon assigns the palace to the Carthusian monks
1717	Start of extensions to <i>La Cartoixa</i>
1723	The pharmacy is set up at <i>La Cartoixa</i>
1835	Ecclesiastical confiscations of Mendizábal
1835	The monks are forced to leave <i>La Cartoixa de Valldemossa</i> . Start of the private period
1838	Chopin and Sand stay at <i>La Cartoixa</i>
1838	<i>Mazurka</i> Op. 41 no. 2 by Chopin, composed at <i>La Cartoixa</i>
1841	Publication of the book <i>Un hiver à Majorque</i> by George Sand
1880	Start of the <i>Modernisme</i> movement in literature
1867	Archduke Ludwig Salvator arrives in Mallorca for the first time
1901	Santiago Rusiñol travels to Mallorca
1906	Rubén Darío stays for the first time at <i>La Cartoixa</i>
1912	First edition of <i>L'illa de la calma</i> by Santiago Rusiñol
1913	Rubén Darío stays for the second time at <i>La Cartoixa</i>
1913	Poem "La Cartuja de Valldemossa" by Rubén Darío
1930	First International Chopin Festival of Valldemossa
1971	<i>La Cartoixa</i> is declared to be Historical Heritage of Spain (now an Asset of Cultural Interest)

## GLOSSARY

**Abstract art:** Art that doesn't try to imitate nature or things from the real world.

**Contemporary art:** Art produced in our era; i.e. from the early 20th century up to the present; modern art.

**Figurative art:** Art that aims to represent specific beings or things in the real world.

**Austerity:** Severity, plainness.

**Autobiography:** A person's biography written by themselves.

**BIC (Asset of Cultural Interest):** A classification or category given to certain elements of cultural heritage to ensure that everyone knows of, preserves and looks after them.

**Bunk:** very austere and light bed for a single person.

**Cell:** A monk's room inside the monastery where they work, sleep and eat, all alone.

**Collection:** A group of things from a specific category.

**Consecrate:** Prepare a building for worship, like a religious inauguration.

**Crown of Aragon:** Group of regions that depended on the King of Aragon between 1164 and 1707. These regions were essentially: Aragon, the county of Barcelona, Provence, Rossellon, Mallorca, Valencia, Sicily, Corsica, Sardinia and Naples.

**Ecclesiastical confiscations:** A time in history when the Spanish government forcibly took some of the Church's property and sold it to private individuals.

**Ecologist:** Someone who defends nature and the conservation of the environment.

**Endemic:** Exclusively originating from a certain location or region.

**Architectural style:** A fashion influencing how buildings are constructed during a particular time in history.

**Ethnographer:** Person who studies different cultures and the people who form part of them.

**Habit:** Characteristic costume of a religious order.

**Guest:** Someone who stays at another person's home for free.

**Printer:** Workshop that reproduces, on paper or other materials, marks in ink for documents, drawings, etc., which are normally engraved onto a metal plate.

**Inspiration:** Stimulus that motivates creation in art or science.

**Vulgar languages:** Popular languages spoken as from the 9th century by normal people, resulting from Latin: the literary language and official language of the

Roman Empire. Some examples of so-called vulgar languages are Spanish, Catalan, French and Italian.

**Monastery:** Building inhabited by monks who live there "enclosed"; i.e. their movements in and out of the monastery are restricted.

**Carthusian Order:** Monastic order founded by Saint Bruno in 1084, characterised by austerity, silence and prayer.

**Religious order:** Group of people living together and following a series of rules in order to devote their lives to God.

**Fresco painting:** Technique used to create paintings on walls and ceilings using pigments dissolved in lime and water and spread over a layer of fresh plaster.

**Prelude:** Brief, free musical composition often played on a keyboard, such as a piano.

**Pryor:** Head of a religious community.

**Pseudonym:** False name used by an author instead of their real name.

**The "Regne Privatiu" or "Independent Kingdom" of Mallorca:** Period when Mallorca was a self-governing kingdom and not part of the Crown of Aragon (between 1276 and 1349).

**Royal residence:** The house where the royal family lives.

**Portrait:** Representation of a person or animal via painting, drawing, engraving or photography.

**Romanticism:** Artistic movement that developed in Europe in the 19th century which typically prefers feelings over reason and freedom of the individual over that of society.

**Serra de Tramuntana:** A range or series of mountains in the north-west of Mallorca.

**UNESCO:** A United Nations organisation that promotes international collaboration in education, science, culture and communication.

**Virtuoso:** Someone who plays their musical instrument particularly well.

**Xylography:** A technique used for printing, especially illustrations, to obtain a lot of copies. Wooden moulds in relief (woodblocks) are used, which are covered in ink and then, using a press, transfer the drawing they contain to a piece of paper. Xylography was used especially to illustrate the first texts that appeared with the invention of printing.

# ANSWERS TO THE GAMES

## CROSSWORD

7.

12. P I C A S S O

1. P S E U D O N Y M

4. C T

2. E C C L E S I A S T I C A L

3. P R E L U D E

6. B S T R A C T

9. P R O R

11. C R T H

10. B U N K

13. B I C

5. P O R T R A I T

## LETTER SOUP

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

## DETECTIVE GAME



6



9



2



1



5



1



7



4



3



8



3



4

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## LINKS

- "Diccionari Català" < <http://www.diccionari.cat/> >
- "Cartuja de Valldemossa" < <http://www.cartujadevalldemossa.com/es/visita-la-cartuja/el-palacio/historia/1835.html> >
- "La Orden de los Cartujos" < <http://www.chartreux.org/es/> >
- "Visit Cartuja de Valldemossa" <http://www.visitcartujadevalldemossa.com/>