

Welcome in Saeul, a little municipality situated in the wild west of Luxemburg.

Our municipality has the smallest number of inhabitants in the whole country. Therefore, the locals sometimes lovingly refer to it as "bonsai-municipality". Despite its humble size and rural character, Saeul has some historical and cultural sites to offer. We invite you to take this booklet with you on a time travel adventure.

This booklet was created by the pupils of the school of Saeul and guides you along the hiking path. It supplies you with interesting information about the different sites you come across. It is also filled with little riddles and games. Furthermore, if you download an app to read QR codes, you can discover a variety of supplementary video-files.

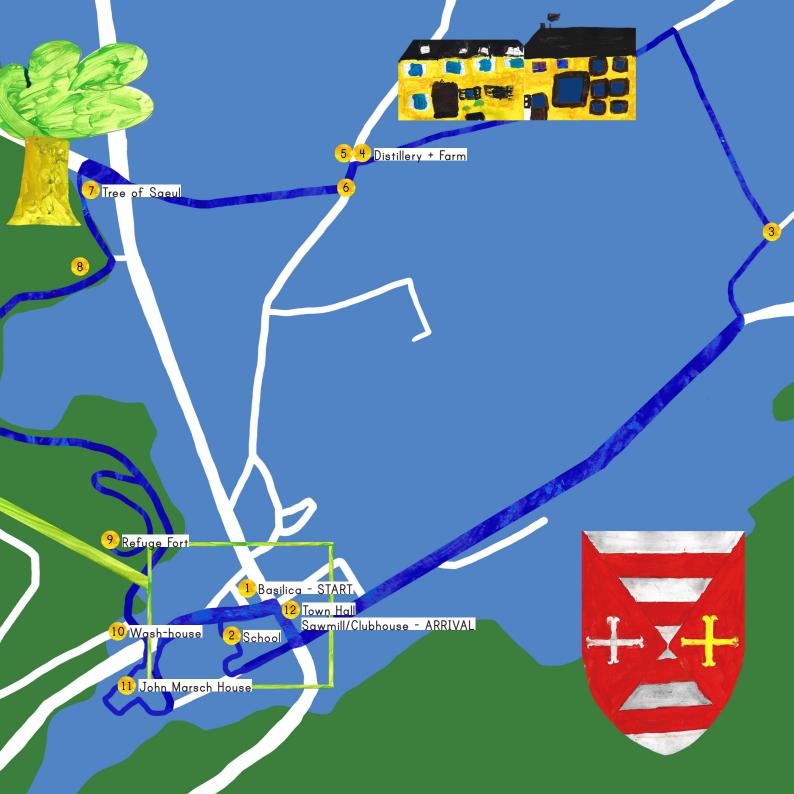
On this theme path, you will learn about the daily life of a village community from the past. Discover how the farmers laboured and the craftsmen pottered around, how the laundresses washed and the students learned and how the faithful worshipped. Not to mention, you will learn how people in a village community laughed, celebrated and gossiped.

In addition, you will come across impressive buildings and remarkable places. Enter an imposing basilica, so beautiful that it's used regularly as a movie set. Admire a stately mansion, with a history as exciting as the stories of its inhabitants. Lean against a majestic tree that braved the centuries. Search out a mysterious spot in the forest, which gave shelter to the whole village in case of attacks.

Moreover, don't miss out on the local folk tales. You can listen to the quacking of the geese, but be careful to not fall under the spell of the cat witch!

Have fun discovering!



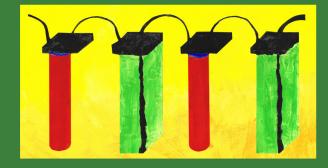


1. The basilica of Saeul

Nobody knows exactly when the parish church of Saeul was built. Experts estimate that the current church's origins date back to the 11th century. Before that, there was probably already an older house of worship on this spot. Specialists found, under the church's choir, two stone tombs from the Merovingian dynasty (7th-8th century). Unfortunately, they didn't find any information about the dead. Behind the altar, there is a grid through which you can see a part of one of the stone tombs. The church is built in the romanesque style. Romanesque architecture is easy to recognise due to its typical feature, the Roman arch.

How many Roman arches can you spot inside the church?

The architecture of this church reminds us of the basilica of Echternach. Typical for romanesque basilicas is the high nave and the two lower side aisles. The side aisles are separated from the nave by arcades and arches. Also typical for the basilicas of Saeul and of Echternach is the alternation of pillars and columns.



The basilica of Saeul was renovated in the baroque style in the 18th century. Baroque is a style in art history from the 17th and 18th centuries. Baroque art is very ornate. Outside, in front of the church is a panel. You can see pictures here of the interior of the church at that time.

From 1963 to 1966 the church was renovated again, to find back its old charms. If you observe well on the inside you can see that the windows, which were enlarged during the baroque period, have been bricked up again to their original size. During these renovations, the workers found chipped away capitals from the romanesque period. A capital is a decoration on the topmost member of a column. The capital depicted a romanesque braiding pattern. Unfortunately, the capitals couldn't be restored, but the workers put the braiding pattern somewhere else in the church.

Can you find the romanesque braiding pattern?

Under eleven layers of gypsum lime, plaster and paint above the altar experts uncovered a valuable romanesque mural painting.

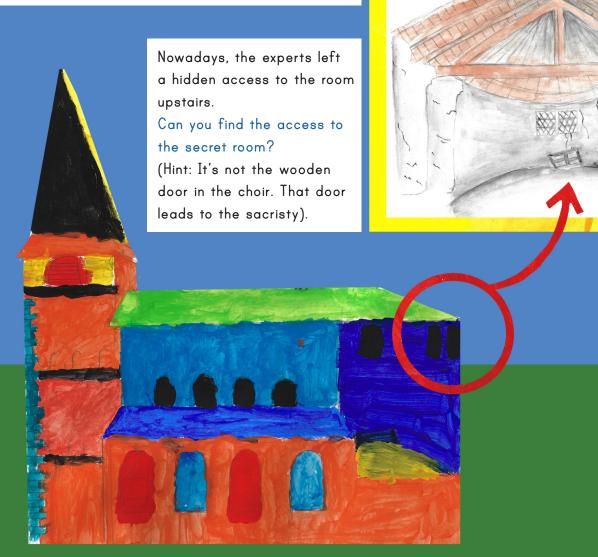
Can you discern something?



Outside, on the back wall of the church, you can see two little windows. Try to find these windows on the inside!

Indeed, you cannot see these windows from the inside. They belong to a little room above the choir. Nobody knows what that room was used for. Maybe for storing crops or maybe as a shelter?

During the renovations, the workers found a walled up door in the wall next to the baptistery. The entrance to the secret room was probably over a ladder behind that door.



For many centuries, this church did not have a tower. Above the door lintel, you can see a chronogram:

paroChIa saeVLL Deo et MarIae exstrVXIt

(The parish of Saeul built this house for God and Maria)

Info: A chronogram is a sentence in latin. The letters which are also roman numerals (I,V,X,L,C,D,M) are written in capitals. If you add up all the roman numerals, their sum tells you the year the text is about.

Try, with the help of the 12 capitals, to calculate the construction year of the church tower. You can use this chart to make it easier.

Roman numerals	Numbers nowadays	How often?	Sum
I	1		
V	5		+
X	10		+
L. L.	50		+
C	100	A STATE OF	+
D	500		+
M	1000	Mark Mark	+

Total = Year =

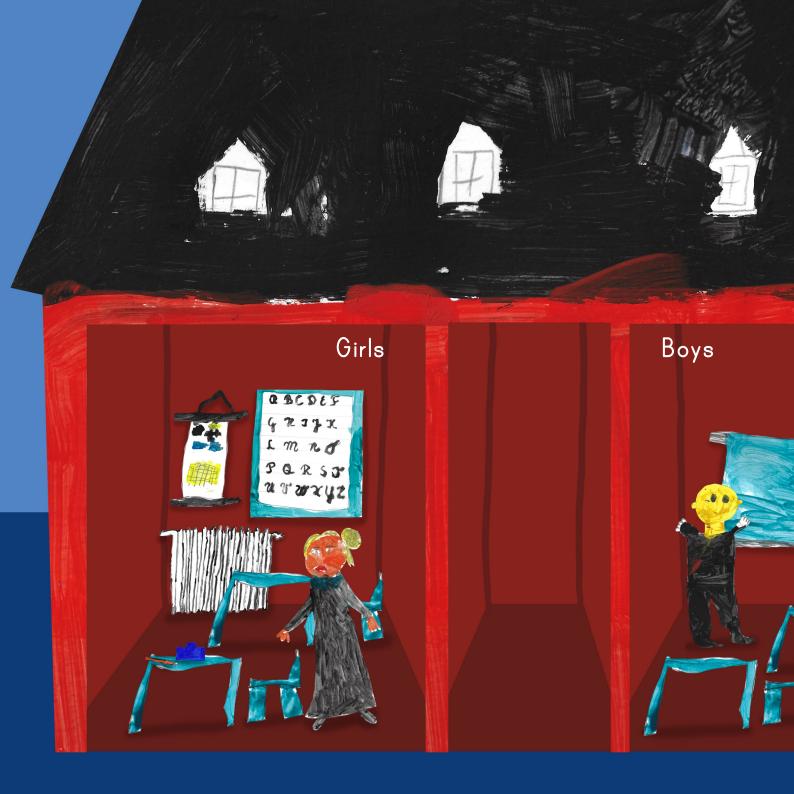


Schools have changed a lot over the years. In the past, a pupil's day started very early. The children needed to go to school on foot. For some of them, this walk took longer than an hour. There was only one school per parish, next to the church.

The boys and the girls were all dressed the same. They needed to wear a hat and an apron to go to school. Their shoes had nails on the soles to spare the leather. Every child had a wooden backpack, a slate board and a slate pencil. School supplies were very expensive, so the pupils needed to take good care of them.

Every morning, before first period, the children went to church. The schoolday did not start until after mass. All the pupils of the parish, from first to seventh grade, shared one classroom. The little ones sat in the front and the older ones in the back of the room. Boys and girls were in different classrooms.







The classrooms were heated by a wood stove. The children needed to collect and bring the wood to school themselves.

As soon as the priest or the teacher entered the classroom, the children needed to get up and stand up straight next to their benches. They then greeted their teacher or priest in unison. Discipline was very important. Everybody needed to obey and work hard.

When the pupils didn't behave, they had to sit on their knees in front of the blackboard. The teacher would hit them on their bare fingers with a wooden ruler. Sometimes, they also needed to sit on a bench in the back of the classroom. This bench was called the 'dunce's seat'. Here, the teacher ignored them and the other students made fun of them.

All the students learned how to read, write and calculate, the same as today. The girls also needed to learn how to sew and knit, whereas the boys learned how to carve wood.

After classes, the children walked back home on foot. At home, they still needed to help their parents, in the stables, the household or the workshop, until the sun went down.

Find the mistake in the image!





3. The geese of Saeul

Every year on St. Martin's day, the farmers from Saeul and Kapweiler needed to bring 6 of their fattest geese to the lord and the lady of Useldingen. This was written in an old book. Every year the farmers needed to grind their grain at the Brücher mill, owned by the lord and lady. This was also written in this old book.

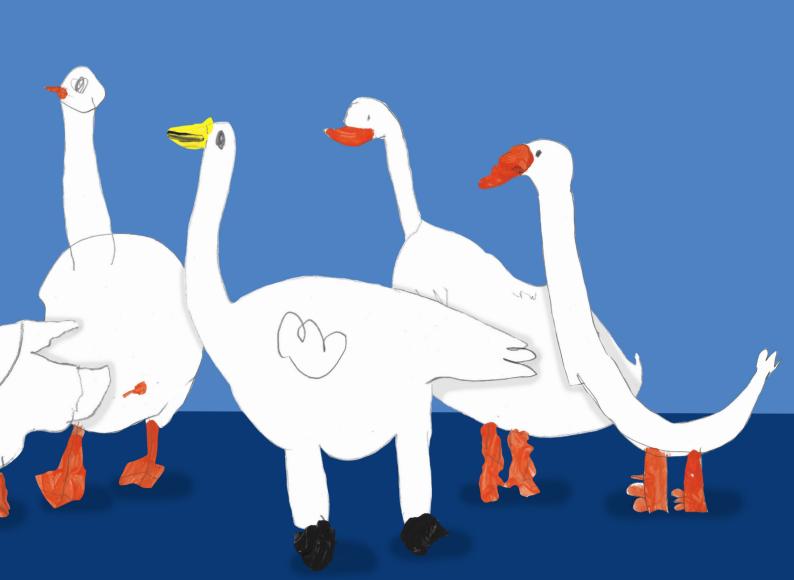
The year came, when the farmers refused to follow these old rules. They agreed to go to the castle in Useldingen and stand up for themselves. The farmers didn't want to give their best geese to the lord and lady anymore. They also didn't want to grind their grain at the Brücher mill any longer.

The farmers argued with the lord and the lady of Useldingen. The lord and lady then decided to ask the geese themselves what they would prefer, stay at the castle or go home with the farmers. The geese, however, stayed silent.

From then on, staying silent meant agreeing. The farmers needed to leave their geese with the lord and the lady at the castle.

The next year, on St. Martin's day, the farmers tried to revolt against their lord and lady again. This year, none of them would go and bring their geese to the castle. Furious, the lady of Useldingen rode, together with her dogs, to Saeul. The lady complained about the farmers to the tithe lord (pastor). The tithe lord however, defended the farmers. He apologised and told the lady about all the misfortune the farmers had endured this year with their harvest. He swore that the crops had all gone bad and that there was not one goose left in the whole



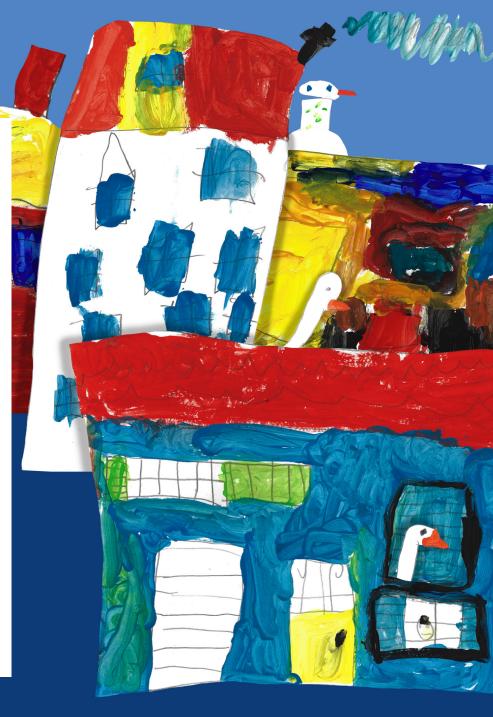




village. The lady angrily turned around and wanted to ride back to Useldingen. But her dogs started barking all of the sudden. She could hear quacking coming from the houses. It was as if there were geese locked in the houses all around her. And so it was. Instead of the 6 fat geese, from this time on, the farmers needed to bring 8 fat geese to the lord and the lady. This was also written in this old book, that no one ever got to see for real.

In the region around Saeul, people continued telling this story for a long time. This was the story of the geese, that stayed silent when they should have spoken up and that couldn't keep their mouth shut when it mattered.

How many geese can you find?



4. The farm of yesteryear

Life on a farm has changed a lot over the course of the years. If a long time ago, there were 33 farms in Saeul, today there are only 3 left. In the past, the farms were situated in the village. The farmhouses and the barns were in the same location. Many generations lived together on the farm. Wealthy farmers had farm hands and maids living with them. Back then, a variety of animals lived on the farm: cows, pigs, sheep, goats, geese, chickens... The farmers provided for themselves. They slaughtered and processed the animals themselves on their farm.

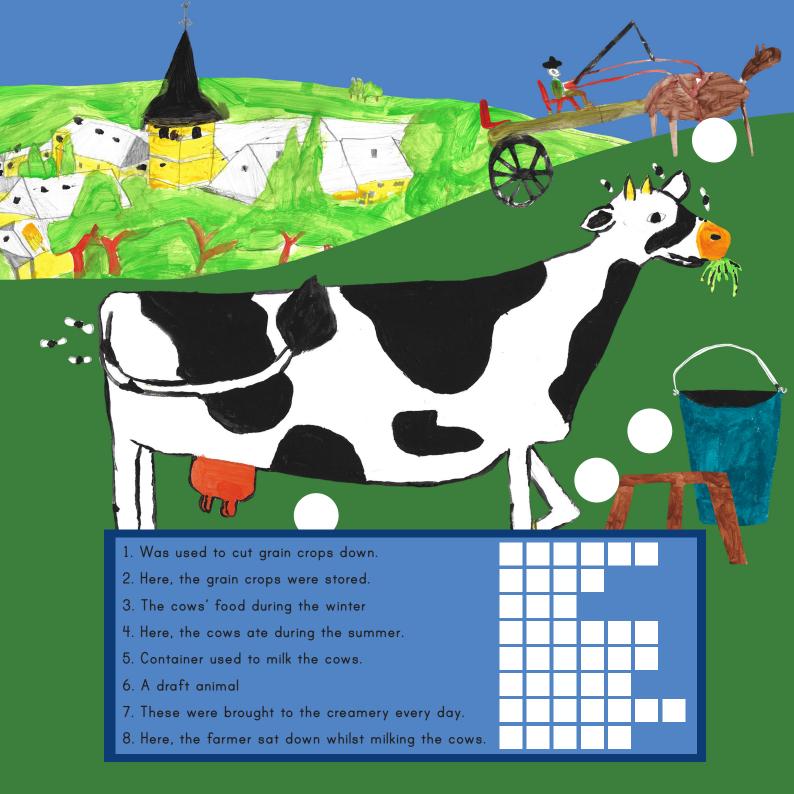
The farmers needed to get up very early because they went by foot to their fields and meadows. Their work was tiresome and hard. Plows and carts were pulled by animals such as oxen and horses. Unfortunately, poor farmers without draft animals needed to pull their plows themselves.

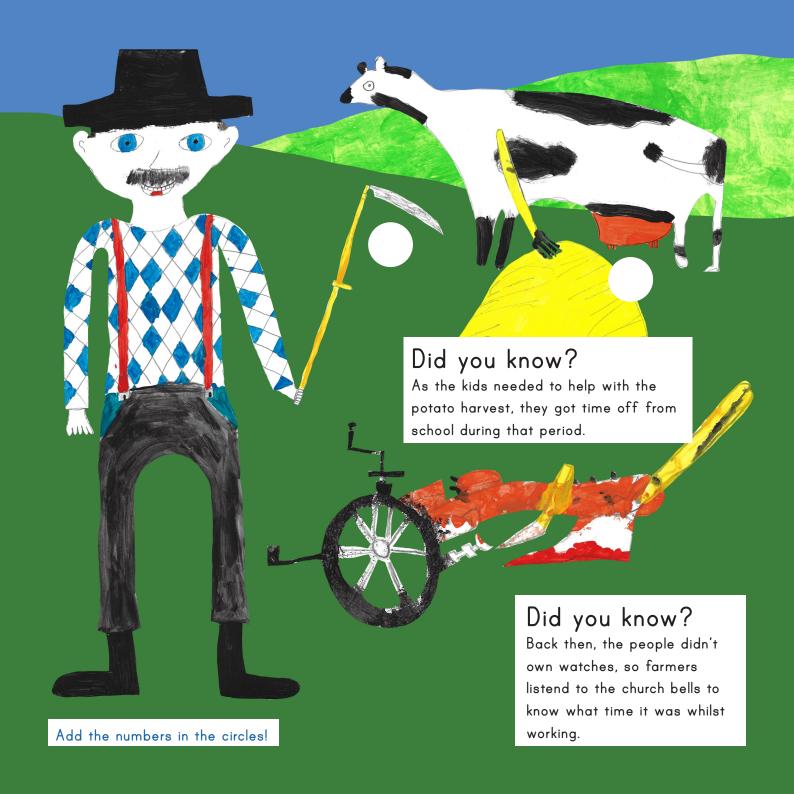
Back in the day, the fields and their yields were small and humble. The farmers grew grains, beets and potatoes. The potatoes were one of the most important crops. They were harvested by hand. Back then, farmers didn't grow corn yet. The grain crops grew taller than nowadays, as they were cut down with scythes. After harvesting, the crops were loaded into bags and stored in the attic of the barn. The grain hulls were used to fill the farmers' mattresses.

In the past, the cows grazed in the meadows. During the summer, the livestock was grass-fed, in the winter it was hay. Every morning and every evening, the cows were milked by hand. The farmer used a bucket and a stool. Next, the milk was poured into 15 liter (roughly 30 pints) milk cans. The farmers brought these cans to the creamery in Saeul every day. Back then, they didn't have fridges yet. They stored their food, such as beets, potatoes, jams, carrots, sauerkraut and salt meats, in the basement. Other foods, such as apples and grains, were kept in the attic.











2. Converting into a mash

After the harvest, the fruit is washed, pitted and cut in pieces. The fruit then is placed together with yeast in a barrel to ferment.

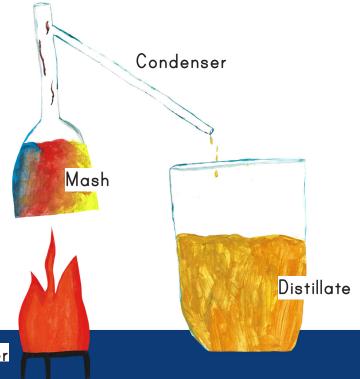
3. Fermentation

During the fermentation process, the fructose (natural sugar of the fruit) is transformed into alcohol.



4. Distillation of the mash

After fermentation, the mash is heated to boiling point in a kettle. The evaporation forms vapors. These vapors pass through the condenser and are cooled down. This is called the distillate. The water and the solid bits of the mash stay in the kettle.



Bunsen Burner

5. Bottling the distillate

The high alcohol content of the pure distillate is lowered to 40 percent by adding pure water. Now, the spirits are ready to be bottled.



6. The cat witch of Saeul

Once upon a time, there lived a young man in Saeul. He owned a farm with a lot of horses. Every evening, he would bring his horses to the meadow to spend the night.

At the edge of the village, he would ride past a stone cross. Every time, he would stop and make the sign of the cross. All the time, a black cat would sit on this stone cross. The cat would constantly stare at the man with its yellow piercing eyes.

One time, the man wanted to chase the annoying cat. He lashed with his whip at the cat. You will not believe what happened then!

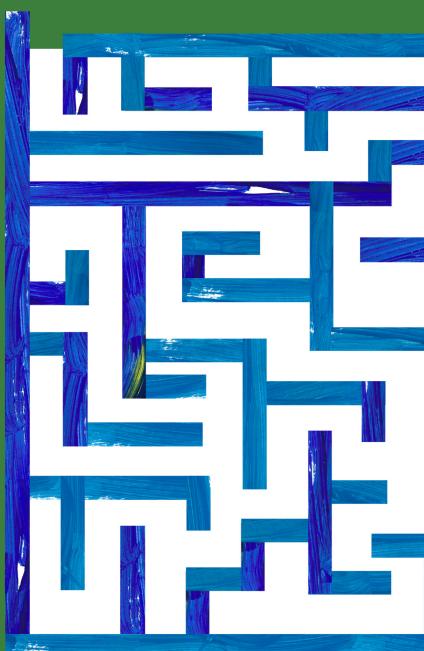
There was a loud bang and the cat transformed into an old lady. The young man recognised the old lady from the village. This lady was not a normal woman, she was a real witch. She was feared in the whole village, because she enchanted everything and everyone.

She revealed to the young man: "I observed you every evening, as you were making the sign of the cross here. Had you, even once, forgotten to do so, I would have enchanted you forever!"













Now you are standing in front of a very, very, very old oak tree. This tree is much older than your great-great-great-grandparents. By activating the QR code, the tree will tell you a story about himself and his past.



Stretch your fingers from thumb to middle finger (+/-15cm) and "step" with your fingers around the trunk of the tree. Count your "finger-steps". Now you need to calculate:

_____ "finger-steps" x 15 = ____ centimeters.

The circumference of the tree is around ____ centimeters.

= ___ meters and ____ centimeters.



8. The cats of Kalmus

Once upon a time, two old men, mister Pesch and mister Ries, lived in an old house in Kalmus. They always locked their bedroom at night. Every night, the two men woke up because cats were yelling in their bedroom:

The men tried to chase the cats, without success. They needed to sleep despite the noisy meowing. The next night, the men would wake up again, because of the cats:

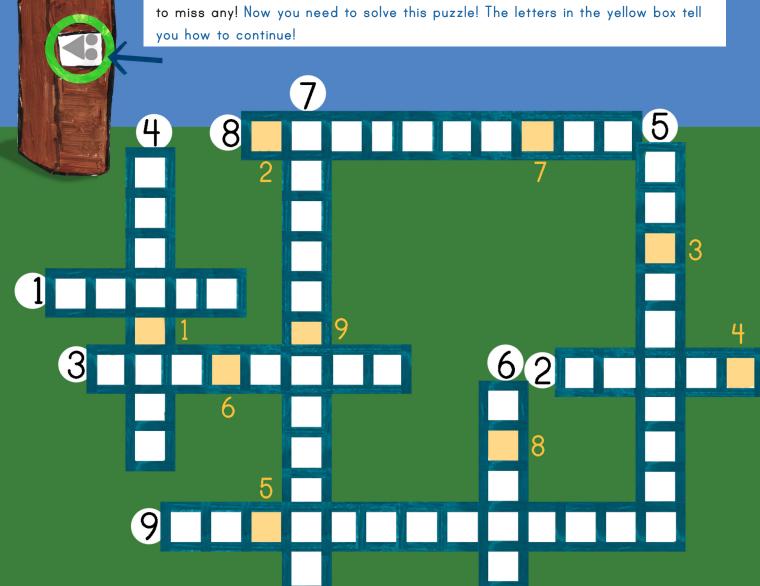
The men tried again to chase the cats, again unsuccessfully. Many nights passed, and every night the same thing happened. The cats just wouldn't stop bothering the men at night. The two men were really tired of the sleepless nights and the noisy cats.

The night came, when mister Ries lost his patience and threw his shoe, with all his force, at the cats. Suddenly it was all quiet in the bedroom. The cats abruptly disappeared. They were never seen again. But you know what also disappeared? The shoe. They never found it back.

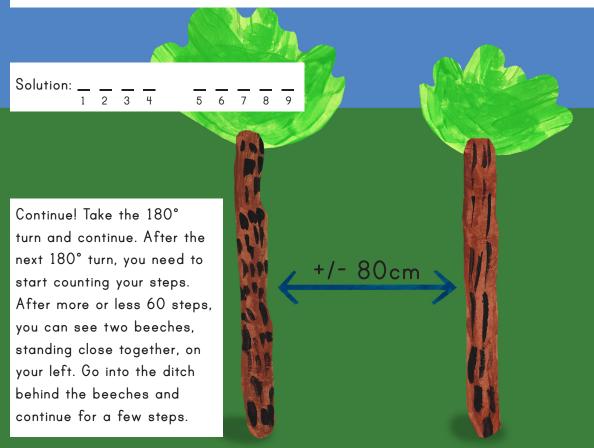


9. The refuge fort

Hidden in the woods around the little town of Saeul lies a secret place, that you can only find if you search for traces. You want to go there? Follow the turn-by-turn directions! You start at the old washhouse "Hëlzent" and follow this arrow. Stop at the fifth arrow. Count all the arrows you come across and be careful not to miss any! Now you need to solve this puzzle! The letters in the yellow box tell you how to continue!



1. What did the children have under their shoes to go to school? 2. What is the fruit of the tree of Saeul called? 3. What sort of church is the Saeuler church? 4. What are the decorations on the columns and pillars called, which have unfortunately been destroyed in the Saeuler church? 5. What is the name of the Latin sentence that reveals, with the help of roman numerals, a year? 6. How many farms are left in Saeul nowadays? 7. On what day did the farmers of Saeul need to deliver their fat geese? 8. Where did the lord and lady, who received the geese, live? 9. Name a fruit that is used to distill alcohol.



Congratulations! You have arrived. Unfortunately, you didn't find what you were looking for yet!

Now we continue in your imagination.

Try to picture that, 2500 years ago, you would have been standing in the middle of a refuge fort here. Knowing how long ago this fort was here, you can imagine why there is nothing left nowadays. The refuge fort was no classical fortress, like the ones inhabited by the nobles. No, this was a very special fortress, a sort of ringfort, made out of earthen walls, stones and wood palisades. The fort had no towers but had very thick walls.

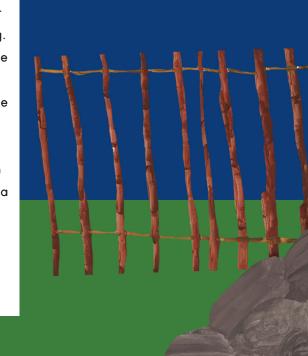
We put a display board opposite the two beeches. If you stand behind that board, you can see what, more or less, this mysterious place looked like before.

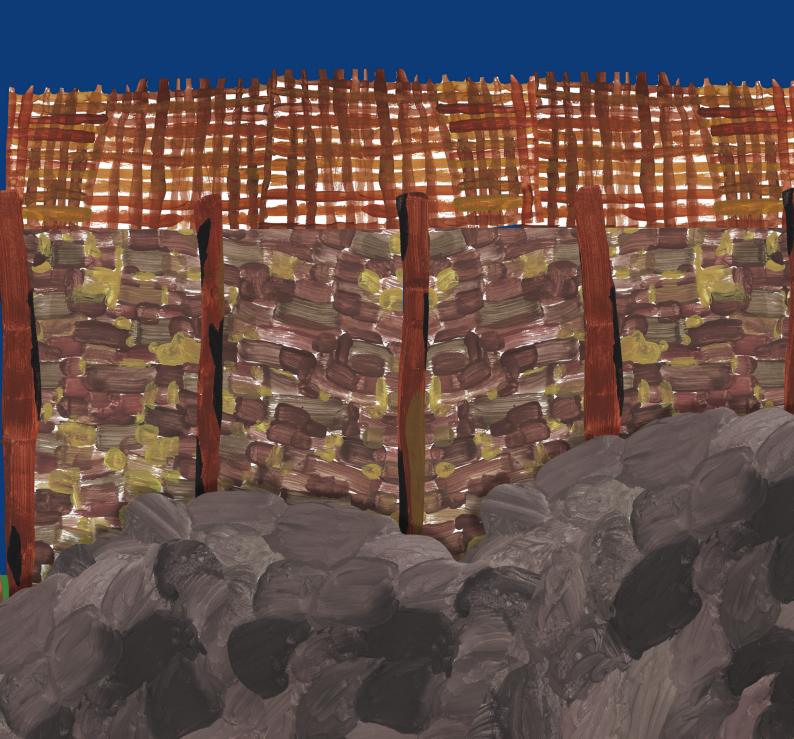
Why was this mysterious fort here?

500 years before our calendar system, this region was inhabited by the Celts. In war times, when the village was under attack, the people would flee to come here, in the refuge fort. They took shelter in this fort. Often, they would also bring their cattle, to hide it from the pillagers. This refuge fort gave shelter to the inhabitants of the surrounding villages. But how could people survive in the

refuge fort for a few days? They needed to flee so abruptly, they probably didn't have the time to pack a lot of food. Don't worry, the builders of the refuge fort thought about everything. They built storage inside the thick protective walls. Here, people stored food, like water and grains. This spot up here in the forest was strategically chosen. The people hiding in the refuge fort had a good view and could see the enemy arriving from afar. To reach the refuge fort, the attackers needed to face an exhausting climb and once up the hill, they were standing in front of a defence facility. Storming the refuge fort was thus a hard undertaking.

Go back down and continue on the paved way back to the village. Stop at the washhouse "Kaschelt"!





10. The laundresses

In the past, washing laundry was a very hard and laborious task. It took a lot of time. The women washed the clothes once a month. They transported their laundry with a cart to the wash-house early in the morning. The evening before, they had already sorted the laundry by colors and degree of dirtiness. At the wash-house, the women started by soaping the laundry. Then they pretreat the dirty soapy laundry by rubbing, brushing and beating it thoroughly. This technique was especially widespread in poorer households. Wealthier families could afford to pretreat their laundry by boiling it in soap suds in a big kettle over the fireplace. To wash and rinse the laundry, the laundresses met up at the wash-house. Here, the women not only washed their laundry, they also took this time to gossip and chatter.

You can learn what else happened at the wash-house by scanning the QR code.





11. The "John Marsch" house

The "John Marsch" house changed owners seven times, until now. Every house owner changed the building a little bit, on the inside and the outside. Therefore, you can discover traces of 200 years of architectural history here.

When it was built in 1807, the house was a farmhouse with 3 window axes. The entrance door was in the middle of the house. Above the door, the mason chiseled the first letters of the owners'



names and the construction year. The right-hand part of the building was a stable and a barn. Over 100 years, the house stayed a farmhouse with an outbuilding.

One of the most famous inhabitants was Jean-Pierre Mersch. He was born in 1869 in Saeul and attended the local primary school. When he was 19 years old, he left for America. There, he worked in flower and vegetable cultivation. He was very unhappy in his job and went to work for a railway

company. He got promoted quickly to foreman and later even to manager of the railway company.

After a few years of hard work, he bought the railway company and made it into the best railway company in United States of America. He built a lot of railway lines in America and became quite famous. "John Marsch", as he was called in the USA, also liked horses. He owned one of the best racing stables of America.

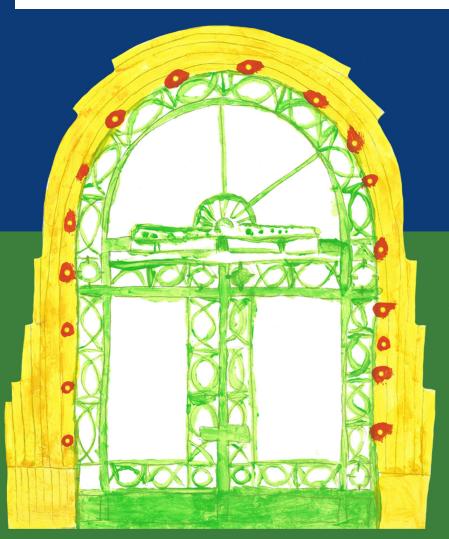
In 1907 he inherited the farmhouse in Saeul. Ten years later, he renovated the facade of the house. He added beautiful decorations around the window axes. They are made out of mortar and fixed directly onto the plaster. These decorations are of the neo-baroque style, back then very popular with wealthy people.





Around 1935, John Marsch transformed the house into a beautiful residential house with a glass winter garden in the back.

By adding more decorated windows in the outbuildings, additional living space was added. John Marsch lived a few weeks a year in this house, when he visited from America. Around the house, he created a big park and a wall around his property. Both barn doors, in the front and the back, were renovated in the art deco style. Art deco is an art style from between 1920 and 1940. Typical for art deco are clear, smooth, elegant and streamlined shapes. Symmetry is very important in art deco.



Shortly before his death in 1954, John Marsch gifted the house and the beautiful gardens to his birth town Saeul. Unfortunately, it was all sold later on.

In 1960, the municipality of Saeul sold the house to Colonel Robert Nicolas Winter. Colonel Winter lived in the house until 2005. He also renovated and rebuilt a lot on the property.

We drew you one of the barn doors, but there are some mistakes in it. Compare with the real door and find the mistakes!



As you <u>cannot</u> see inside the house, we drew two beautiful details from the inside. The first pillar of the bannister, from the 1920's.

If you connect the underlined letters throughout the text in the correct order, you can find out which animal the carpenter of Saeul chiseled in the pillar.





A part of the decorative bathroom window, from the back of the house, over the glass winter garden. This window is a lead glassvitrification from the 1960's.

12. Sawmill and carpentry

Before, working in a sawmill was a physically exhausting job. Horses pulled the heavy tree trunks from the forest to the sawmill. The trunks then were stacked on carts and wheeled inside, where they were sawed into planks. In the early days the saws were powered either by water or steam. Later, the saws became electric.

Before the planks were transformed into furniture, doors or windows, they were dried for a long time. The carpenter then cut the planks in his workshop into the pieces he needed for his furniture. Then followed the tedious manual work: assembling, glueing and sanding all the pieces. After that, the furniture was either oiled, waxed or lacquered.

Number the different work steps to the finished furniture!













- 1. The carpenter's workbench is his most important tool. It serves as a support and to clamp pieces of wood onto, so that the carpenter can handle them better.
- 2. The hand plane: the wood plane is used to smooth the surface of the wood.
- 3. The brace: Before, the brace and bit was powered by hand, later it became mechanical.
- 4. The lathe: A typical step in the work of a carpenter is to turn wood on a lathe. Here, the wood is rotated while being cut, sanded or drilled into. This way, the carpenter can make round poles and pillars, for example for table and chair legs or bannisters.

- 5. The circular saw, band saw and different hand saws: used to cut planks and pieces of wood.
- 6. The chisel: By hitting the chisel with a hammer, the carpenter makes round slots.
- 7. Measuring tools (compass, measuring tape, ruler, angle): used to make sure that the different furniture pieces fit together perfectly in the end.



Conception: Paule Majeres and Joé Wolff

Art workshop and layout: Lys Differding, illustrator M.A.

Texts, audio files and illustrations: The pupils of the primary school in Saeul, C1-C4 school year

2018-2019

Cycle 1

(The geese of Saeul, the cat witch of Saeul, the cats of Kalmus)
Calderoni Filipe, Carvalho Da Silva Sara, Frederes Louis, Fridrici Kyra Natalia, Fridrici Sarah Monique,
Fridrici William Claude, Hilgert Maurice, Iammarino Milena, Martinez Ella, Meis Jo, Palm Mathias,
Persico Pawlikowski Amy, Raffaelli Mia, Thein Max

Cycle 2

(The school of yesteryear, the tree of Saeul)

Abega Ndongo Gabriel Jordan, Abega Ndongo Prince Michel, Brachmann Nils, Camaioni Hary Luca, Carvalho Da Silva Pedro, Donven Pol Yuma, Duarte Pinto Evandro, Gonçalves Sarah, Marage Cathia Annelise Jeanne, Martinez Pit, Olivier Lena, Szeliga Lena Katarzyna, Thein Léa

Cylce 3

(Sawmill and carpentry, the laundresses, the distillery, the farm of yesteryear)
Abega Ndongo Grace Kelly, Bleser Lynn, Donven Emil Jean Fynn, Gonçalves Adam, Marage Kim
Simone France, Meis Liz, Muller Julie, Muratovic Hana, Nikitin Richard, Pisters Mats, Sinanovic Alina,
Vitali Rafael, Vrösch Lisa Marie, Wirth Charles Thomas, Zaika Sophie Luna

Cycle 4

(The "John Marsch" house, the refuge fort, the basilica of Saeul)

Boden Tanja, Cizeron Baya Ines, Clausse Lili, Conter Anja, Duarte Pinto Valérie, Gonçalves Mendes Alexandra, Gonçalves Mendes Diego, Hajder Meris, Hilger Alexandra, Iammarino Lorenzo, Lhuillier Sam Neo, Mcginty Ellie Jean, Muller Anne, Ouanko Noah Orlane Richelle, Raffaelli Luca, Schmitz Nina Catherine, Sinanovic Nermin, Vrösch Mitchell Neo, Weiten Marie, Wies Maxim Pierre Paul, Winandy Lena, Wirth Felix Mathieu

Solutions:

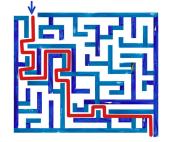
in the windows; the mural painting depicts Christ and a starlit sky. the ceiling and get back down on a ladder in the hidden room; chronogram: 1/33; the braiding pattern is represented 1. The basilica of Saeul: 33 Roman arches; a hatch in the ceiling at the entrance, then climb on a ladder, walk over

2<u>. The school:</u> mistake: heater – connect: oven with heater, slate board with booklet, slate pencil with pencil, wooden

3. The geese of Saeul: there are 15 hidden geese. backpack with backpack, penholder and pen with pencil, apron with normal clothes...

4. The farm: 1. scythe 2. barn 3. hay 4. meadow 5. bucket 6. horse 7. milk can 8. stool

6. The cat witch of Saeul:



 $\frac{7}{100}$ The tree of Saeul: circumference 56 cm = 5m und 6 cm.

This is what an oak leaf looks like. The tree is around 280 years old.



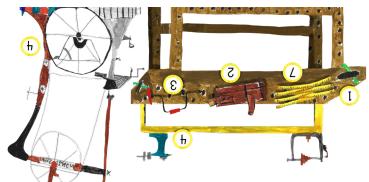
9. Mirabelle plum. Solution: turn right 9. The refuge fort: 1. nails 2. acorn 3. basilica 4. capitals 5. chronogram 6. three 7. 5t.Martin's day 8. Useldingen

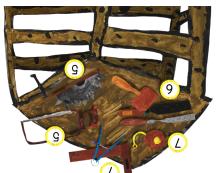
10. The laundresses: washing machine

11. The "John Marsch" house: 10 mistakes, Animal: pelican

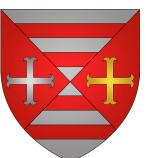
12. The sawmill and the carpenter: 4, 6, 2, 5, 1, 3

:slooT















LE GOUVERNEMENT DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Viticulture et du Développement rural

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas

