A visit to Dún an Óir

Your name: _____

Age: _____ **Today's date:** _____

Visit Músaem Chorca Dhuibhne

In November 1580, Papal troops who were mainly from Italy and Spain, but some of whom were Irish, were in Dún an Óir to help the Irish Catholic Earl of Desmond. English troops arrived and besieged the soldiers. The earl was in rebellion against the Protestant Queen of England, Elizabeth I. The Papal army surrendered and most were put to death, many by beheading. It is a sad incident in the history of the area.

① Do you understand the following words?

Siege   massacre   garrison   promontory   ransom   rebellion

② Find the panel in the museum which talks about Dún an Óir. Then find the case which has some artefacts from that area.

③ In what year did the Dún an Óir massacre take place?   1580 ❑   1590 ❑   1600 ❑

④ How many years ago was that?   _____

⑤ In what century was it?   15th century ❑   16th century ❑   17th century ❑

⑥ There is a buckle on display that was found on the site. On what part of a person's clothing might it have been used?
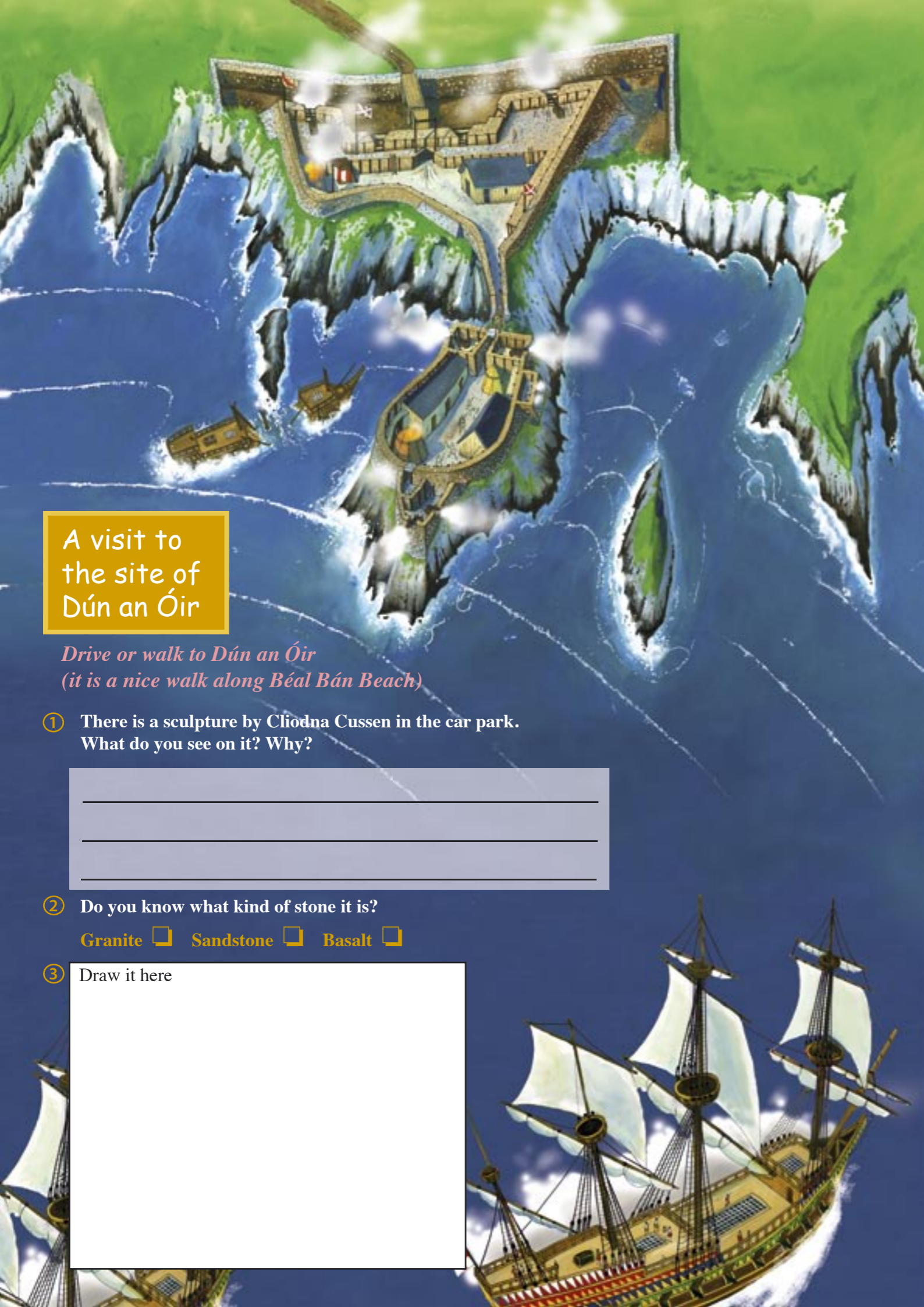
_____

⑦ What does the name Dún an Óir mean? There is something in one of the cases that might explain how the name came about. What is it?

_____

⑧ You can see some 'Frobisher's Gold' in the case. Can you colour-in Frobisher's ship. (right)

⑨ How many ships can you see in the old map of the siege at Dún an Óir?   11 ❑   12 ❑   13 ❑
What is that number in Irish?

_____

A visit to the site of Dún an Óir

*Drive or walk to Dún an Óir
(it is a nice walk along Béal Bán Beach)*

① **There is a sculpture by Clíodna Cussen in the car park.
What do you see on it? Why?**

_____

_____

_____

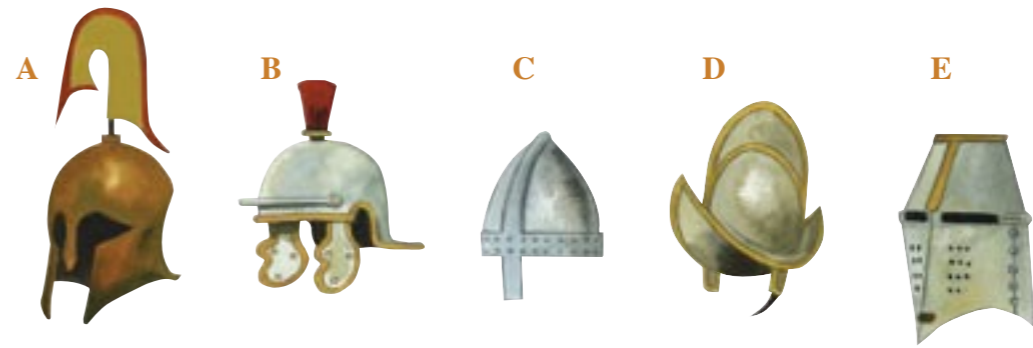② **Do you know what kind of stone it is?**

Granite ☐   **Sandstone** ☐   **Basalt** ☐

③ Draw it here

④ The word 'Dún' usually means some kind of fortification. This site is a 'promontory fort', that is, a piece of land jutting into the sea which has been fortified with banks or walls. Walk along the fortifications.

⑤ Chose and then draw the helmet that the Spanish soldier (right) at Dún an Óir would have worn.
(For answer see picture of soldier on next page)

A   B   C   D   E

⑥ Do you think it would be easier to attack the fort by land or by sea? Why?

_____

_____

⑦ There are two fields near here called "Gort a' Ghearradh" (the field of the cutting) and "Gort na gCeann" (the field of the heads). Can you think why?

_____

⑧ Dún an Óir juts out into a harbour. Do you know the name of the harbour (in Irish/English)?

_____   _____

⑨ Across the harbour, if it is a fine day, you can see Mount Brandon, the 2nd highest mountain in Ireland. Do you know the name of the highest mountain? (Hint, it is also in Kerry).

_____

⑩ There are other promontory forts on the Dingle Peninsula, many whose names begin with 'Dún'.

Can you think of any?

_____

Some suggestions for drawing

This is a good place to see wild flowers. Have a look around but don't pick.

Things to do at home

① Spain is part of the Iberian Peninsula. Do you know what other
country is part of that Peninsula?

France ❑   Italy ❑   Portugal ❑

② The king of Spain in 1580 was Phillip II. He was related by marriage to Queen Elizabeth I of England
– do you know how?   Married to her ❑   Married to her sister ❑

③ Do you know what the following Spanish words mean?

Buenos días   **Adíos**   **Mañana**   **Al Fuerte del Oro**

_____   _____   _____   _____

④ Do you know what the following Italian words mean?

Arrivederci   **Ciao**   **Buono**   **Grazie**

_____   _____   _____   _____
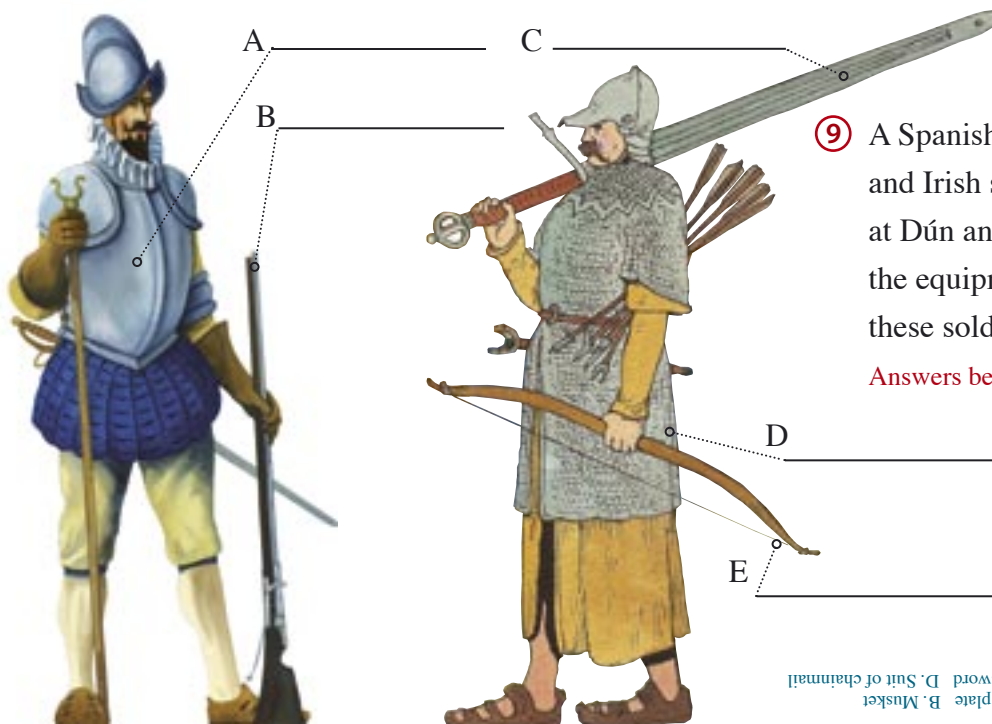
⑤ Corca Dhuibhe has a long connection with Spain, and Dingle town was a place from where pilgrims
set out to visit Santiago de Compostela. What can you find out about that city, and the famous person
buried in the cathedral there?

⑥ An agreement known as 'The Treaty of Dingle' was made in 1529, giving many Irish people a special
status if they wanted to go to live in Spain and other areas ruled by the Spanish Crown. What can you
find out about this?

⑦ A siege took place at Dún an Óir, but there is also a dance called after a siege. The place is in County
Clare. Do you know the name of this dance? Try and find the music to it and maybe learn the dance
(you will need quite a few people to do this!)

⑧ Famous sieges took place in other parts of Ireland, can you think of any (think of a county town in
Northern Ireland, and another city near the mouth of the River Shannon)?

A_____ C_____

B_____

⑨ A Spanish soldier (left)
and Irish soldier (right)
at Dún an Óir. Name
the equipment of
these soldiers.
Answers below.

D_____

E_____

Smerwick

Spain

A. Breast plate B. Musket
C. Broadsword D. Suit of chainmail
E. Bow