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San Telmo Museoa

CITY TOUR 1

FROM THE BOULEVARD TO SAN TELMO
STUDENTS' WORKBOOK
THEMATIC TOUR

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SAN TELMO MUSEOA

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IGELDO

SANTA CLARA

URGULL

This is what our city would look like if the walls hadn't been knocked down; the area now occupied by houses used to be surrounded by water.

IGELDO
CITY HALL

SANTA CLARA

LA BRECHA

URGULL

BOULEVARD

After demolishing the walls and channelling the water, a large area of land was recovered for building. La Brecha market was constructed, along with the houses which line Aldamar Street.

1 La Brecha

In 1813, after breaching the wall here (the Spanish word *brecha* literally means “breach” or “opening”), the English and Portuguese soldiers entered the city. Underneath the modern-day building, in the underground car park, you can still see some of the remains of the old city walls.

- 1.- What is inside this building today?

- 2.- What was the building originally designed to house?
(The words on the building itself should give you a clue.)

- 3.- When did building work start?

- 4.- Do you think the building is old or has it been restored?

- 5.- Do you know why it is called “la Brecha”?

- 6.- What type of decoration has been used?

- 7.- What does the coat of arms on the wall represent?

- 8.- What’s at the top of the building?

- 9.- What do you think it was used for?

- 10.- Decorate the building in any way you like.

Right, let’s walk down the Boulevard towards the sea. We’ll stop at point 2.

2 City Hall

This elegant building was constructed in 1887, when San Sebastián, a spa resort, began to emerge as a popular tourist destination. It was originally a casino, and remained a thriving gaming centre until gambling was prohibited by law.

1.- What do you think of this building? Would you say it was beautiful? Or ugly? Why?

2.- What is it today?

(Read what it says on the wall.)

3.- Where is the entrance?

4. What is in the basement, on the side nearest Alderdi Eder?

(Go down the steps and read the plaque.)

5. What can you see in the picture located under the clock?

6.- Why do you think it is there?

7.- Why do you think those columns are there?

8.- Do you like them, or would you have chosen different ones?

(Move round to the other side of the building.)

9.- When was the building constructed?

10.- What colour is the crown depicted on the coat of arms?

11: The building is a different colour. Why are they different?

Now let's walk down the Calle Mayor (High Street), until we reach point 3.

3 Santa María

This church is one of the oldest in the city, although it has been restored a number of times due to fire. It is one of the few buildings that survived the last fire. In fact, the buildings on this street are the oldest in the city.

1.- How old is the church?

(You will find the answer written on a plaque on the church's outer wall.)

2.- Where is the coat of arms from?

3.- Does it look new or old?

4. Who do you think this is?

5. In your opinion, what is the building's most beautiful decorative element?

6.- What don't you like about it.

7.- Do you think the building is in a good state of repair, or does it need to be restored?

8.- Where is this decorative element?

9.- What does it represent?

(We will now walk up 31 de Agosto Street.)

This house is one of those which survived the fire in 1813. The troops stayed in it until they managed to take the castle – that is why they didn't burn it.

10. What is the street number of this doorway?

Find the plaque which commemorates the fire and move on to point 4, down San Jerónimo Street.

4 Library and Constitution Square

Originally, when the new square was built, the City Hall was located here. Later on, when the old casino was converted into the new City Hall, the building located in this square became a library. It is currently the headquarters of the Municipal Board of Culture. Bullfights used to be held in the square, with spectators watching from the balconies.

- 1.- Why was this building originally constructed?
- 2.- What is it today?
- 3.- How is the coat of arms held up?
4. What does the coat of arms represent?
5. What is depicted on it?
- 6.- Is the building new or old? What do you think?
- 7.- When was the square built?
- 8.- Which of these clocks is the one you can see in this square?
- 9.- Draw another clock that you like.
- 10.- Why do you think those numbers are there?
(If you don't know the answer, ask someone.)
- 11.- Do you like the colours of the houses?
- 12.- What colour would you paint them?
- 13.- There are some decorative elements underneath the balconies. Do you like them?

Let's go now to point 5, following the map.

5 San Vicente

Here is another old building. It is one of the oldest in the city, although it has been restored a number of times due to fire.

1.- When was this church built?

(You can find this information on the plaque, ask someone or just observe the building.)

2.- Where do you think the stones that are on the ground outside the entrance came from?

3.- I took this photo myself. I bet you can't guess where from!

4.- Do you think this sculpture is old or modern?

5.- What do you think it is made of?

6.- What do you think this is for?

7. Draw any gargoyle you like here beside it.

(Now, stand opposite the door and find the one shown in the photo.)

8. Earlier, when we were looking at the City Hall, we saw some columns. How are these ones different?

9.- What's at the top of the columns?

10.- Why do you think these were added?

(If you don't know the answer, ask someone.)

Now, turn left to arrive at point 6: Kanoieta and Santa Corda

6 Kanoieta and Santa Corda

This door is the entrance to San Telmo Church. Although the church itself dates from the 16th century, during the 19th century it was used as an artillery barracks, and the canons were left here, next to the door.

(Look up and you'll see that you are, in fact, standing in front of another church.)

- 1.- What is this church called?

- 2.- What colour is the stone the fountain is made from?

- 3.- Are the surrounding houses the same colour?

- 4.- Why do you think the fountain is called "Kanoieta" ("of the canons")?

- 5.- Who is the person depicted on the door?

- 6.- He has something in his hand. What is it?

7. What is this church currently used for?
(If you don't know the answer to this last question, ask someone later when you get to the museum.)

This street is the only one which shows us what the old city would have been like. During medieval times, when the city was surrounded by protective walls, all the streets would have been this narrow.

We will now walk down this narrow street to reach Zuloaga Square. From there, we can enter the museum. This is point 7, the last one on our route.

7 San Telmo

The building's façade was built in 1932, but the cloisters, tower and church date from the 16th century. Logically, this means that they survived the fire. The church currently houses the San Telmo Museum.

- 1.- San Telmo is a museum spread between two buildings: which one is the new one and which the old?
2. The new building has an aluminium façade. Did you know that aluminium is 100% recyclable?
- 3.- What made the holes you can see on the façade?
Gun shots The wind and water. They were drilled on purpose.
4. Look at the plants on the façade. Have you seen them anywhere else?
- 5.- Some plants were sown on purpose while other seeds were brought by the wind; but you can find all of them on Mount Urgull.
- 6.- Why do you think the new building was constructed?
 - To exhibit more objects.
 - To protect the old building from the damp.
 - To make room for a library, reception area, café, workshops, offices, etc.

SANDSTONE

As the name itself indicates, sandstone is formed by sand which has been compressed for millions of years.

- **Advantages:** it is found in the immediate vicinity and is very easy to work.
- **Disadvantages:** it is so delicate that even touching or rubbing it wears it away; for example, kicking a football against a sandstone wall will eventually ruin it.

It is up to all of us to make sure it is properly preserved.

8 San Telmo

The building's façade was built in 1932, but the cloisters, tower and church date from the 16th century. Logically, this means that they survived the fire. This is where the museum is.

1.- If it is a museum, why is it named after a saint? ("San Telmo" means "Saint Elmo")

In the 16th century, San Telmo was a monastery. In the 19th century, the monks were expelled and the monastery became a barracks. At the beginning of the 20th century, the building was declared an historic-artistic monument and was turned into a museum.

2.- When does each of the following date from? Link the use to the date.

1542

museum

1932

barracks

1836

monastery

3.- The purpose of the museum is to:

- Collect objects that tell us about the past and the present.
- Conserve objects that tell us about the past and the present.
- Display objects that tell us about the past and the present.

4.- Inside the cloister, choose a stone object that does not form part of the building itself. Draw it.

5.- What is it?

6.- Why did you choose it?

- Because of its shape.
- Because of its patterns.
- For another reason. What?

1

2

3

4

5

San Vicente

San Telmo

City Hall

La Brecha

Santa María

Constitution Square

Santa Corda

6

7

Use the map to work out where you are.

Write the names from the list in their correct boxes.