

Duration: 1 hour

THE LITTLE  DETECTIVE'S  
INVESTIGATION BOOK



*Brantôme en Périgord*

AND THE MYSTERIOUS

*Caves of the Abbey*

*ANSWERS*




## Purpose of the game:

Discover the history of the Abbey on your own by answering the **questions**.

Difficult words are listed in the **lexicon**, at the end of the diary.

You will find clues on the 34 explanatory signs placed at each stage of the visit.

The number of each signpost is written on the top right of the question. 

*When you have answered all the questions, go to the Tourist Office for correction or download the answers on our website: [www.perigord-dronne-belle.fr](http://www.perigord-dronne-belle.fr)*

## Security:

**For your security, barriers and wire fences have been placed all along the way.**

**It is very important to respect this secure area.**

We are here in a **Troglodytic Abbey\*** founded in the Middle Ages.

**1/ But the monks\* were not the first ones to live here and we can see remains of the first inhabitants. Who were these inhabitants? What have they left?** 

*The dolmen is a testimony of Prehistoric men's occupation and the marble columns of the bell-tower could be Gallo Roman...*

For building the abbey, the monks used the raw materials on hand.

**2/ Link the following raw materials to their use:**

Wood from forest



Stone from caves



Water, sand and clay from river



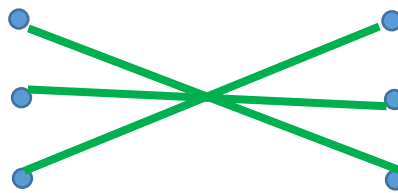
Roof tiles and floor tiles



Walls of buildings



Frames and scaffolds




According to the legend, the Abbey has been founded in 769 by **Charlemagne**, the famous King of the Franks and Holy Roman Emperor. According to the legend, Charlemagne has also offered **relics.\*** The relics are bones of a child, victim of a very bad king.

**3/ To discover the name of this guilty king, decipher the rebus below:**



The name of this king is *Hérode*

His name appears on the explanatory sign n° 

Then the **Benedictine monks\*** settled in the caves.

4/ Watch around you and, thanks to the signs number 10 and 22, look for the remains and proofs that monks used to live in the caves.

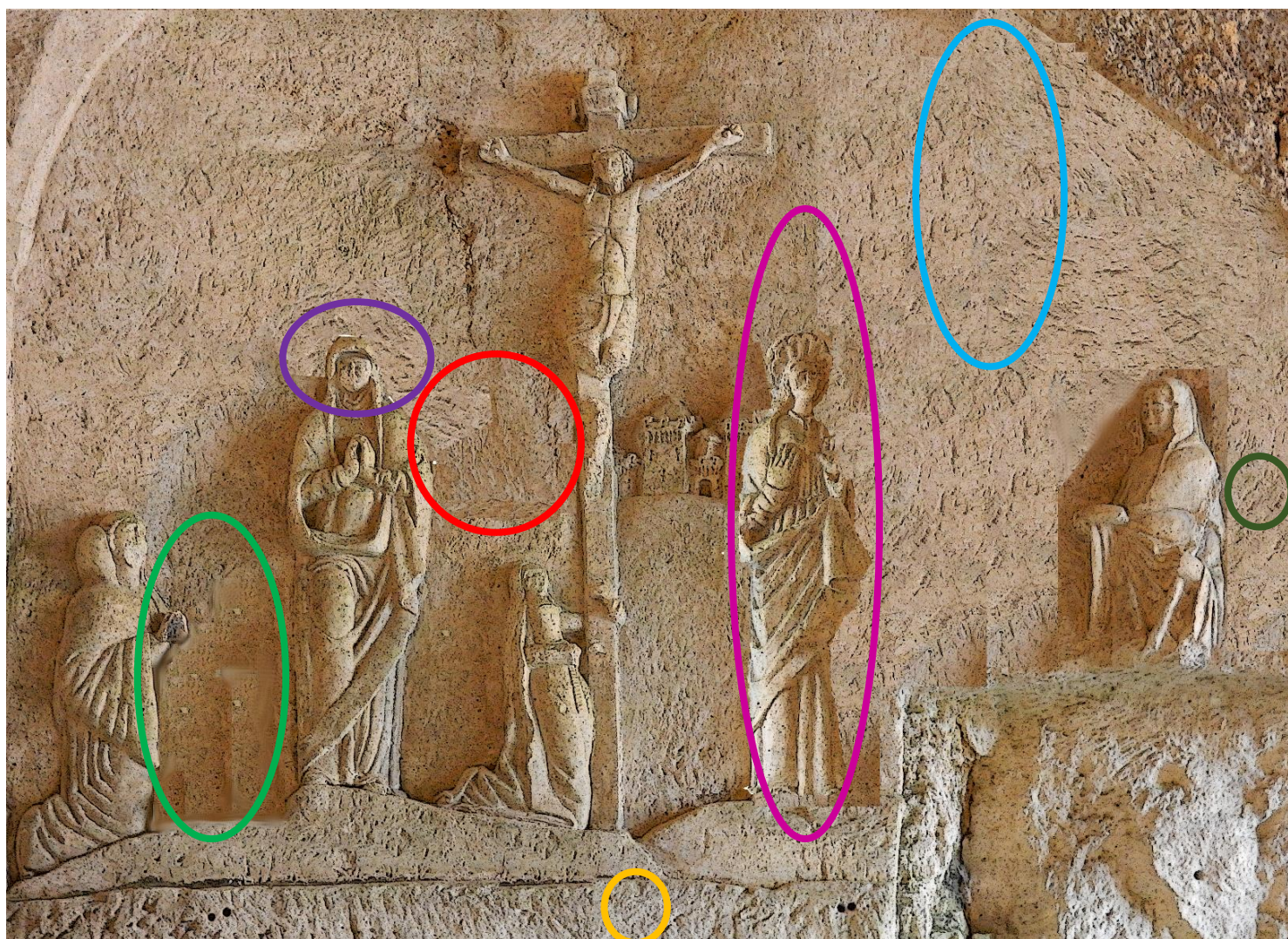
Note here the elements that you found.

*The vault of an oven, remains of a floor, shelves, cave-dwelling chimney...*

The prayer was very important for the monks and meanwhile the building of the church outside, a cave could have been used as the first church. This cave is named the **Cave of the Last Judgment**. This cave may have been used as a praying space as we can see two **bas-reliefs\*** carved into the rock.

5/ Look closely at this picture of the carving which depicts the Crucifixion, and find 7 mistakes.

13



*The monk's priory, the Virgin Maria's halo, the left-side of Jerusalem, Marie Madelaine's balm, St John is returned, a loophole, the cross of the abbot.*

6/ Look closely at this picture of the Last Judgement carving and put back the names of the characters :

15

*The divine figure, the monks, the heads with headwear, the crowned head, Death, the skeletons, kneeling persons and angels.*



1 The divine figure

2 Kneeling person

3 Death

4 Angels

5 The crowned head

6 The skeletons

7 The heads with headwear

8 The monks

7/ Assuming that monks used to pray in the caves, we know for sure that the caves were used for something else. What was it used for?

17

*Extra chapel and wine-cellar.*

8/ Here you are in front of the fountain which is well-known for its miracles. Its power would stem from the **relics\*** offered by Charlemagne. What powers does it have?

18

*It is supposed to bring fertility and to cure children's illness.*

9/ Decrypt this charade to discover the name of the **relics\***.

18

My first is when you are feeling poorly and need the help of a doctor  
My second is the invisible substance that we breathe  
And my whole is the name given to the relics.

The relic is called SAINT - **SICAIRE**

The first men settled in Brantôme because they found here a very valuable element, source of life.

20

10/ Listen carefully. What do you hear?

*I can hear the sound of the water (spring)*

11/ This spring was also used to supply a pool and the excess water was used to turn a machine used to produce flour. Which one?

*A mill*

*Clue: later, this machine will be moved to the river, where you can still see it.*

The archaeologists have excavated some remains of ancient buildings.

21

12/ What were these buildings?

*The abbatial castle and the former sacristy of the abbey.*

The monks had to get organised to live independently and raised animals in the caves.

25

13/ Which ones and for what reasons?

*Pigeons were raised as meat (monks used to eat pigeons) and their droplets were used as fertilizer*

14/ True or false: everyone may breed these animals.

4

25

An abbey is run by an **abbot\***. The monks must come to an agreement to elect him. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the monks quarrelled over who should be the new abbot. So, a new kind of abbots appeared. These abbots were not elected by monks.

15/ How are these abbots called?

27

*The commendatory abbot*

16/ Who chose them?

27

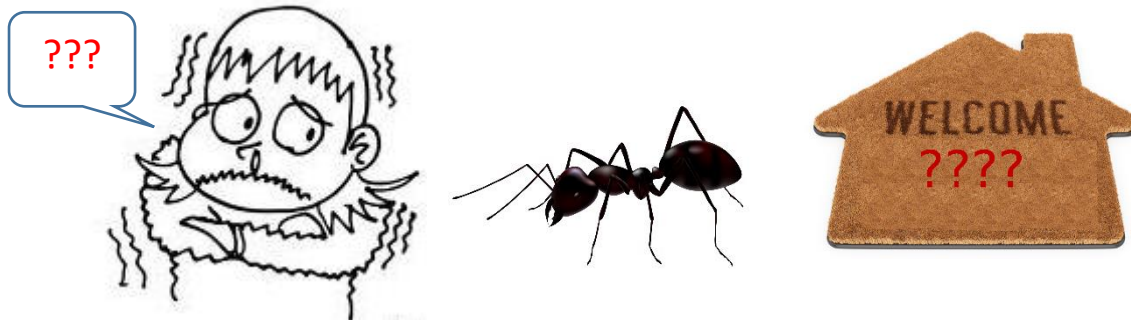
*The king*

17/ True or false: the monks and the abbot used to live together.

28

A few years later, Pierre de Bourdeille had been chosen to become the abbot. His family was one of the most powerful family in the area. He has been given a nickname after his death.

18/ Decipher the rebus to discover his pseudonym.



*Brantôme*

Find the answer on sign number

29

19/ Pierre de Bourdeille had several jobs. Which ones?

29

*Courtier, suitor, writer or chronicler.*

A castle has been built for the abbot, but also a garden that is called today « the Monks' Garden ».

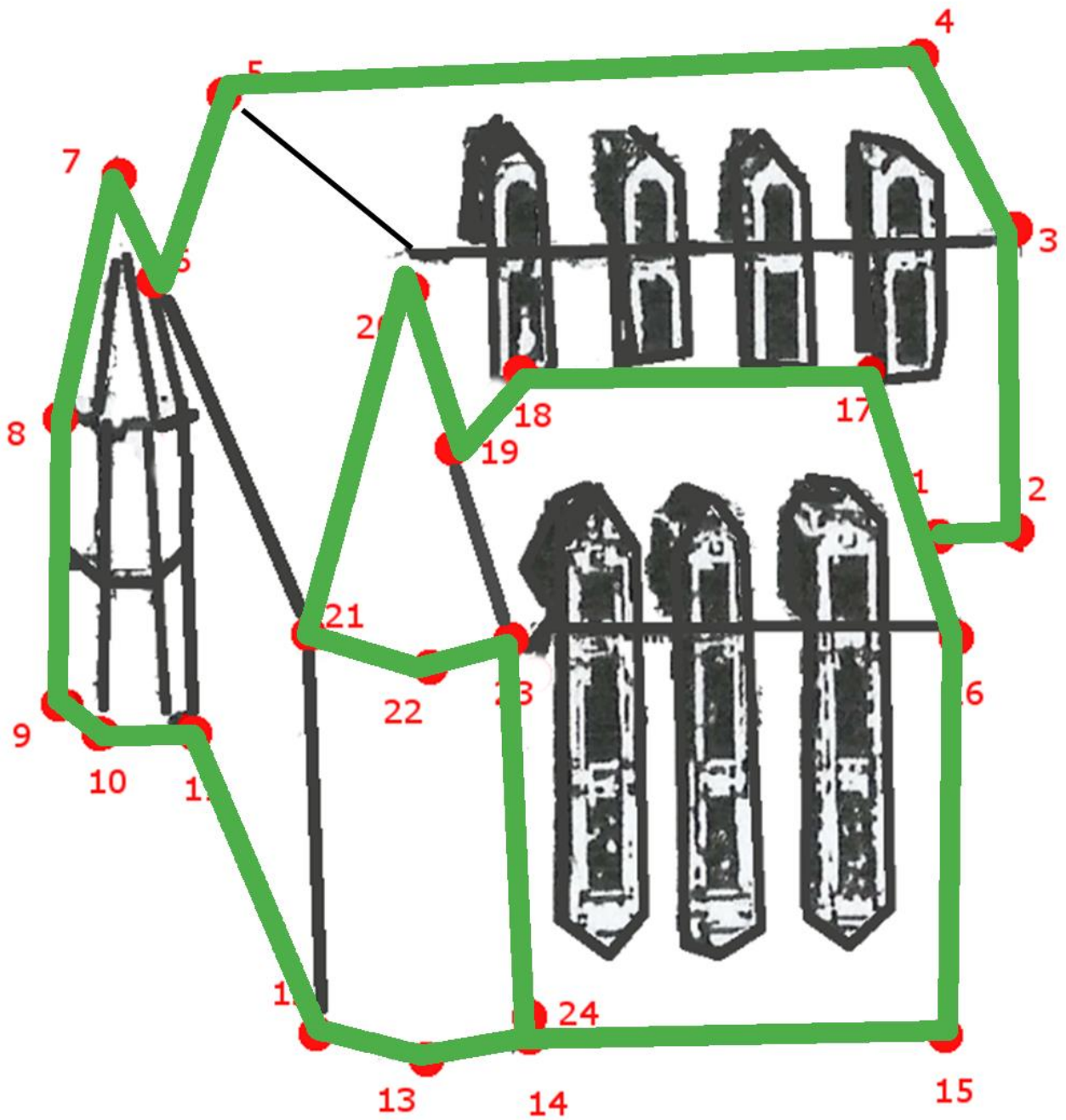
20/ Was this garden really for the monks?

31

*No, it was the garden for the abbot.*



23/ Link the dots to discover the building dedicated to the abbots.

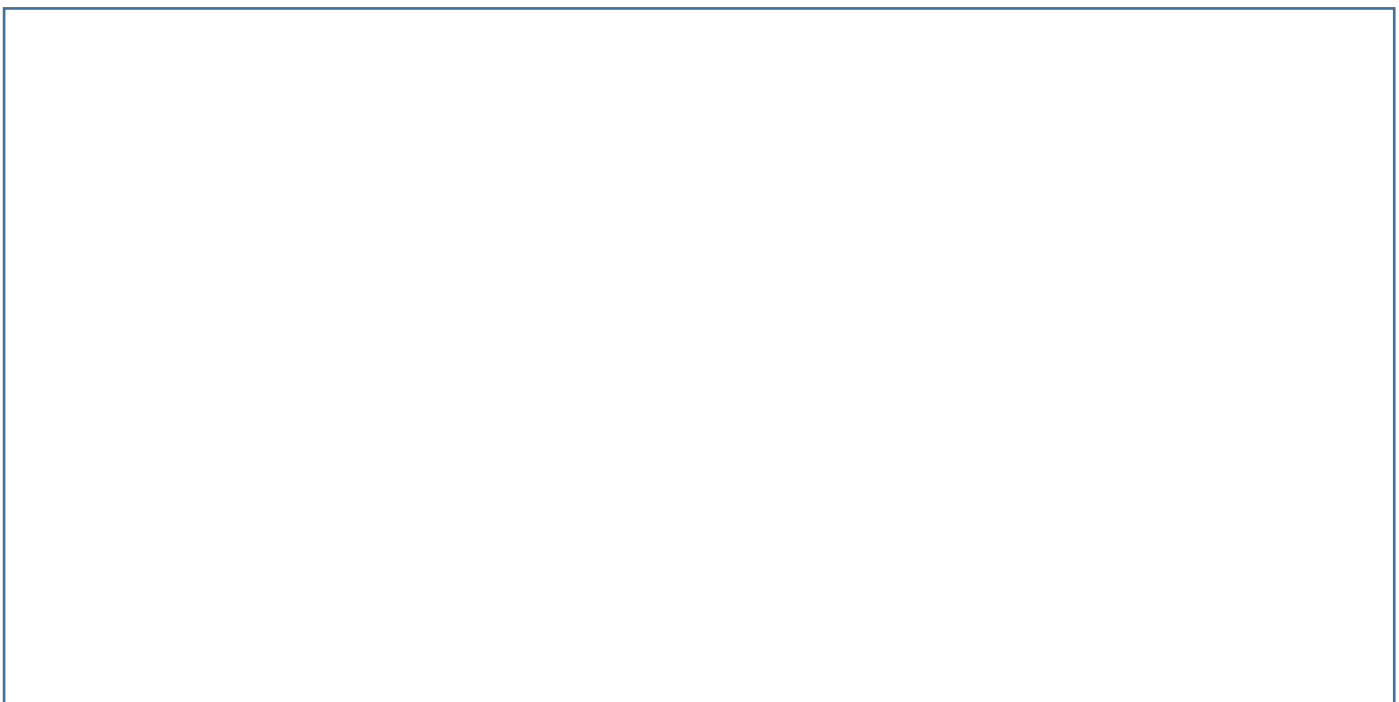




24/ Use the words you have just learnt to fill in the following grid and discover the name of the chief of the army who came to Brantôme with 5000 soldiers in 1569.

The monks' wine cellar was one				C	A	V	E					
Saint Sicaire's name was given to it			F	O	U	N	T	A	I	N		
This was the present from Charlemagne to the abbey		R	E	L	I	C						
				C	L	I	F	F	The abbey was carved into it			
C	H	A	R	L	E	M	A	G	N	E	The legendary founder of the abbey	
Name of the man who created the Benedictine rule				B	E	N	E	D	I	C	T	
Qualifying adjective synonym of sacred		H	O	L	Y							

25/ Draw what you want in this area





## LEXICON

**Abbey** : it is the place where monks live. The abbey is run by an **abbot\***.

**Abbot** : this word derives from “**abba** “ which means “dad” in Aramaic language. The abbot is a powerful man: he manages the abbey, he is the spiritual leader of the monks and manages the goods of the abbey.

**Troglodytic** : adjective used to describe underground or rock-hewn dwellings.

**Monk** : in Christian tradition, a monk is a person who retired from the world to devote himself to God, meditation and prayer. The word **monk** comes from Greek adjective **monos**, “alone”. However, the monks gather in **abbey**.

**Relics** : remain of a Saint. Relics are bones or something which belong to a holy person. Relics are often the subject of a **pilgrimage\*** because of the miracles which are attributed to them, just like the power to cure people.

**Pilgrimage**: it is a long trip leading a believer to an important place for his religion. One of the most famous pilgrimages is the one to Saint James of Compostella. The believer on a **pilgrimage** is called a **pilgrim**.

**Benedictine**: this word come from the Latin **Benedictus**, which is the Latin name of Saint Benedict. It is the name given to the monks following **the Rule of Saint Benedict**, that is their law. To respect the rule, the monks have to make promises called **vows**. **Benedictines monks** must take vows of **poverty, obedience and chastity**. According to the rule, the monks have to live in **silence** and **isolation**.

**Bas-relief**: a kind of sculpture in which the shapes are carved so that they are slightly higher than the background.

**Commendatory abbot**: abbot with no spiritual or religious power and who draws the revenues of an abbey without fulfilling the duties of an abbot. An abbey so held is said to be held *in commendam*.

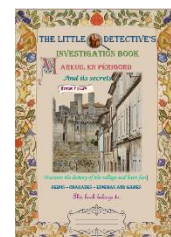
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**G**aves of the **A**bbey



**D**IPLOMA

*The little detective of the Middle Ages*

*This diploma is awarded to*



*To have bravely discovered  
The history of the caves of the Abbey,  
And unveiled the mystery's  
Of are hidden monastery.*

**B**rantôme en **P**érigord

