Race through Time - ANSWER SHEETS



AIM OF THE RACE

The aim of the *Race through Time* is to move around the Port Arthur Historic Site in a team visiting as many of the six checkpoints as possible. A finishing time is given; each team must decide on which checkpoints it will visit to gather information in order to gain maximum points within the time frame. Ten bonus points will be given to the team that works out the 'link' that ties the convict characters in their group together. The winner will be the team with the maximum points in the minimum time.

RULES

- All teams start at the same time and a finish time is decided on
- Ideally at least one hour is required for completion. Allow 15 minutes more for scoring and debrief
- Each group should plan the direction that they will take around the checkpoints
- Teams MUST stay together when moving around the site but CAN SPLIT UP to look around each checkpoint.
- The Race through Time finishes when the agreed time has elapsed
- Teams must answer each question correctly on Sheet 1 to be awarded points
- Each question on sheets 2-6 is worth 5 points
- Sheets will be checked at the finish and points will be awarded
- Teams lose 1 point for every minute they arrive late at the finish line
- **10 bonus points** are given to each team that works out the 'link' between the convict characters that their team has been given
- The winner will be the team with the maximum points in the minimum time

BOUNDARIES

- All checkpoints in the *Race through Time* are in the main part of the site and can be accessed from paths and roads.
- The buildings/areas covered in this activity at the Port Arthur Historic Site are:
 - 1. The Interpretation Gallery (10 points)
 - 2. The Church (20 points)
 - 3. The Hospital (20 points)

- 4. The Guard Tower (10 points)
- 5. The Separate Prison (20 points)
- 6. The Commandant's House (20 points)

TIPS FOR ORGANISERS

Before the visit:

• Print off a set of question sheets, a copy of the List of Convict Characters and a Port Arthur Historic Site map per team

On the day of visit:

- Give each team a clipboard and pen/pencil
- Make sure that at least one person per group has a watch.
- Explain the rules and tell them to write the finish time on sheet 1
- Double check that they know they will be penalised for a late finish

List of Convict Characters



And most were unsuccessful Frame Stealing a handkerchief Stealing 7 spades Thomas Davis Stealing 7 shillings and 6pence from a shop Stealing 2 shillings and 6pence from a shop Stealing a warch McColligan Stealing a handkerchief McColligan Stealing a handkerchief Stealing 2 shillings Stealings	CARD	SUIT	Name	Sentenced to transportation for
7 hearts George Hunt Stealing a handkerchief 7 spades Thomas Davis Stealing 7 shillings and 6pence from a shop 4 diamonds John Hare Breaking and entering a warehouse 7 clubs Stephen Ashton Burglary Team 2 These men arrived at Port Arthur as boys and were sent to Point Puer 2 hearts William McColligan Stealing a handkerchief 3 hearts Walter Paisley Burglary 3 clubs James Gavagan Stealing a watch 4 These men worked in the blacksmith's shop at some point Stealing a watch 5 Spades Daniel Nightingale Stealing quantity of iron 6 King Spades Stealing silver spoons 6 King Henry Fewens Stealing silver watch, gold chain and 2 seals 6 Glubs John Jones Stealing pair of boots 7 These men worked in boat crews at some point 9 Spades John Thomas Stealing 50 yards of silk & 50 handkerchiefs from shop 10	Team 1			These men made frequent escape attempts
7 spades Thomas Davis Stealing 7 shillings and 6pence from a shop 4 diamonds John Hare clubs Stephen Ashton Burglary Team 2 Team 2 These men arrived at Port Arthur as boys and were sent to Point Puer Stealing a handkerchief William McColligan Stealing a handkerchief William Bickle Stealing a watch Stealing a watch Team 3 Spades William Bickle Stealing a watch Team 3 Stealing a watch These men worked in the blacksmith's shop at some point King spades Daniel Nightingale Stealing a guantity of iron King hearts William Moore Stealing a silver watch, gold chain and 2 seals King clubs Henry Fewens Stealing pair of boots Team 4 Stealing a silver watch, gold chain and 2 seals King diamonds William Collins Stealing pair of boots Team 4 Stealing 50 yards of silk & 50 handkerchiefs from shop 10 clubs John Jones Stealing a handkerchief and a good deal of money 10 clubs John Thomas Stealing a tablecloth and spoons 5 clubs Daniel Fraser House breaking Team 5 These men were convicts but were allowed to work in a trade or job and to earn money Ace clubs Thomas Dickenson 6 clubs William Saxton Stealing from a dwelling house 9 spades Charles Constantini 8 spades Charles Stealing Desertion and abusing the adjudant 6 diamonds Henry Laing Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house Team 6 Thomas Day For theft Queen clubs Abraham Hood Stealing a horse				and most were unsuccessful
diamonds John Hare Breaking and entering a warehouse	7	hearts	George Hunt	Stealing a handkerchief
Team 2 Page 2 Pearts Pe	7	spades	Thomas Davis	Stealing 7 shillings and 6pence from a shop
Team 2 hearts William McColligan hearts Walter Paisley Burglary stealing a handkerchief Stealing a handkerchief Stealing a handkerchief Stealing a handkerchief Stealing a watch Team 3 Daniel Nightingale Stealing quantity of iron King spades Daniel Nightingale Stealing a silver spoons King clubs Henry Fewens Stealing a silver watch, gold chain and 2 seals King diamonds William Collins Stealing pair of boots Team 4 Jack spades John Jones Stealing 50 yards of silk & 50 handkerchiefs from shop 10 diamonds Thomas Walker Stealing a handkerchief and a good deal of money 10 clubs John Thomas Stealing a tablecloth and spoons 5 clubs Daniel Fraser House breaking Theam 5 These men were convicts but were allowed to work in a trade or job and to earn money Ace clubs William Saxton Stealing from a dwelling house 9 spades Charles Constantini 8 spades Charles Wellings Desertion and abusing the adjudant These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point Stealing a horse		diamonds	John Hare	Breaking and entering a warehouse
A	7	clubs	Stephen Ashton	Burglary
Part	Team 2		-	These men arrived at Port Arthur as boys
McColligan McColligan				and were sent to Point Puer
Second	2	hearts		Stealing a handkerchief
3 clubs James Gavagan Stealing 21 umbrellas 3 spades William Bickle Stealing a watch Team 3 These men worked in the blacksmith's shop at some point King spades Daniel Nightingale Stealing quantity of iron King hearts William Moore Stealing a silver spoons King clubs Henry Fewens Stealing a silver watch, gold chain and 2 seals King diamonds William Collins Stealing pair of boots Team 4 These men worked in boat crews at some point Jack spades John Jones Stealing 50 yards of silk & 50 handkerchiefs from shop 10 clubs John Thomas Stealing a handkerchief and a good deal of money 10 clubs John Thomas Stealing a tablecloth and spoons 5 clubs Daniel Fraser House breaking Team 5 These men were convicts but were allowed to work in a trade or job and to earn money Ace clubs William Saxton Stealing from a dwelling house 9 spades Charles Wellings Desertion and abusing the adjudant 6 diamonds Henry Laing Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point Queen clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen hearts Abraham Hood Stealing a horse	3	hearts		Burglary
Spades William Bickle Stealing a watch These men worked in the blacksmith's shop at some point King spades William Moore Stealing quantity of iron King hearts William Moore Stealing silver spoons King clubs Henry Fewens Stealing a silver watch, gold chain and 2 seals King diamonds William Collins Stealing pair of boots Team 4 These men worked in boat crews at some point Jack spades John Jones Stealing 50 yards of silk & 50 handkerchiefs from shop 10 diamonds Thomas Walker Stealing a handkerchief and a good deal of money 10 clubs John Thomas Stealing a tablecloth and spoons 5 clubs Daniel Fraser House breaking Team 5 These men were convicts but were allowed to work in a trade or job and to earn money Ace clubs Thomas Stealing £130 from a warehouse 6 clubs William Saxton Stealing from a dwelling house Spades Charles Constantini 8 spades Charles Wellings Desertion and abusing the adjudant 6 diamonds Henry Laing Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point Queen clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen hearts Abraham Hood Stealing a horse				
Team 3 King spades Daniel Nightingale Stealing quantity of iron King hearts William Moore Stealing a silver spoons King clubs Henry Fewens Stealing a silver watch, gold chain and 2 seals King diamonds William Collins Stealing pair of boots Team 4 Spades John Jones Stealing 50 yards of silk & 50 handkerchiefs from shop 10 diamonds Thomas Walker Stealing a handkerchief and a good deal of money 10 clubs John Thomas Stealing a tablecloth and spoons 5 clubs Daniel Fraser House breaking These men were convicts but were allowed to work in a trade or job and to earn money Ace clubs Thomas Stealing £130 from a warehouse Charles Constantini 8 spades Charles Wellings Desertion and abusing the adjudant 6 diamonds Henry Laing Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point Queen clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen learts Abraham Hood Stealing a horse				·
King spades Daniel Nightingale Stealing quantity of iron King hearts William Moore Stealing silver spoons King clubs Henry Fewens Stealing a silver watch, gold chain and 2 seals King diamonds William Collins Stealing pair of boots Team 4 These men worked in boat crews at some point Jack spades John Jones Stealing 50 yards of silk & 50 handkerchiefs from shop 10 diamonds Thomas Walker Stealing a handkerchief and a good deal of money 10 clubs John Thomas Stealing a tablecloth and spoons 5 clubs Daniel Fraser House breaking Team 5 These men were convicts but were allowed to work in a trade or job and to earn money Ace Clubs William Saxton Stealing from a warehouse Dickenson 6 clubs William Saxton Stealing from a dwelling house 9 spades Charles Constantini 8 spades Charles Wellings Desertion and abusing the adjudant 6 diamonds Henry Laing Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point Queen clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen hearts Abraham Hood Stealing a horse	_	Spaacs	TTIMAM DIONG	
King spades Daniel Nightingale Stealing quantity of iron King clubs Henry Fewens Stealing silver spoons King clubs Henry Fewens Stealing a silver watch, gold chain and 2 seals King diamonds William Collins Stealing pair of boots Team 4 These men worked in boat crews at some point Jack spades John Jones Stealing 50 yards of silk & 50 handkerchiefs from shop 10 diamonds Thomas Walker Stealing a handkerchief and a good deal of money 10 clubs John Thomas Stealing a tablecloth and spoons 5 clubs Daniel Fraser House breaking Team 5 These men were convicts but were allowed to work in a trade or job and to earn money Ace clubs Thomas Stealing £130 from a warehouse 6 clubs William Saxton Stealing from a dwelling house 9 spades Charles Stealing two £5 notes 6 diamonds Charles Wellings Desertion and abusing the adjudant 8 spades Charles Wellings Desertion and abusing the adjudant 6	ream 5			
King hearts William Moore Stealing silver spoons King clubs Henry Fewens Stealing a silver watch, gold chain and 2 seals King diamonds William Collins Stealing pair of boots Team 4 These men worked in boat crews at some point Jack spades John Jones Stealing 50 yards of silk & 50 handkerchiefs from shop 10 diamonds Thomas Walker Stealing a handkerchief and a good deal of money 10 clubs John Thomas Stealing a tablecloth and spoons 5 clubs Daniel Fraser House breaking Team 5 These men were convicts but were allowed to work in a trade or job and to earn money Ace clubs Thomas Stealing £130 from a warehouse 6 clubs William Saxton Stealing from a dwelling house 9 spades Charles Constantini 8 spades Charles Wellings Desertion and abusing the adjudant 6 diamonds Henry Laing Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point Queen clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen Clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen Clubs Abraham Hood Stealing a horse	King	snades	Daniel Nightingale	
King clubs Henry Fewens Stealing a silver watch, gold chain and 2 seals King diamonds William Collins Stealing pair of boots Team 4 These men worked in boat crews at some point Jack spades John Jones Stealing 50 yards of silk & 50 handkerchiefs from shop 10 diamonds Thomas Walker Stealing a handkerchief and a good deal of money 10 clubs John Thomas Stealing a tablecloth and spoons 5 clubs Daniel Fraser House breaking Team 5 Thomas Stealing £130 from a warehouse 6 clubs William Saxton Stealing from a dwelling house 9 spades Charles Constantini 8 spades Charles Wellings Desertion and abusing the adjudant 6 diamonds Henry Laing Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point Queen clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen clubs Abraham Hood Stealing a horse				
King diamonds William Collins Stealing pair of boots Team 4 These men worked in boat crews at some point Jack spades John Jones Stealing 50 yards of silk & 50 handkerchiefs from shop 10 diamonds Thomas Walker Stealing a handkerchief and a good deal of money 10 clubs John Thomas Stealing a tablecloth and spoons 5 clubs Daniel Fraser House breaking Team 5 Thomas Stealing a tablecloth and spoons 5 clubs Daniel Fraser House breaking These men were convicts but were allowed to work in a trade or job and to earn money Stealing £130 from a warehouse 6 clubs William Saxton Stealing from a dwelling house 9 spades Charles Stealing two £5 notes Constantini 8 spades Charles Wellings Desertion and abusing the adjudant 6 diamonds Henry Laing Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point Queen clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen learts Abraham Hood Stealing a horse				
Team 4 Jack spades John Jones Stealing 50 yards of silk & 50 handkerchiefs from shop 10 diamonds Thomas Walker Stealing a handkerchief and a good deal of money 10 clubs John Thomas Stealing a tablecloth and spoons 5 clubs Daniel Fraser House breaking Team 5 These men were convicts but were allowed to work in a trade or job and to earn money Ace clubs Thomas Dickenson 6 clubs William Saxton Stealing from a dwelling house 9 spades Charles Constantini 8 spades Charles Wellings Desertion and abusing the adjudant 6 diamonds Henry Laing Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point Queen clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen learts Abraham Hood Stealing a horse			-	seals
Jack spades John Jones Stealing 50 yards of silk & 50 handkerchiefs from shop 10 diamonds Thomas Walker Stealing a handkerchief and a good deal of money 10 clubs John Thomas Stealing a tablecloth and spoons 5 clubs Daniel Fraser House breaking Team 5 Thomas Stealing a tablecloth and spoons 6 clubs Thomas Stealing a tablecloth and spoons These men were convicts but were allowed to work in a trade or job and to earn money Stealing £130 from a warehouse Gulubs William Saxton Stealing from a dwelling house Stealing two £5 notes Constantini Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point Queen clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen hearts Abraham Hood Stealing a horse		diamonds	William Collins	J.
from shop diamonds Thomas Walker Clubs John Thomas Stealing a tablecloth and spoons Clubs Daniel Fraser House breaking Team 5 Clubs Thomas Stealing £130 from a warehouse Clubs William Saxton Stealing from a dwelling house Clubs Charles Constantini Spades Charles Wellings Desertion and abusing the adjudant diamonds Henry Laing Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point Queen Clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen hearts Abraham Hood Stealing a horse	Team 4			
money	Jack	spades	John Jones	
Team 5 Clubs Daniel Fraser These men were convicts but were allowed to work in a trade or job and to earn money Ace Clubs Thomas Dickenson Clubs William Saxton Stealing £130 from a warehouse Stealing from a dwelling house Stealing two £5 notes Charles Constantini Spades Charles Wellings Charles Wellings Besertion and abusing the adjudant Charles Wellings Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house Team 6 These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point Queen Clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen Clubs Abraham Hood Stealing a horse	10	diamonds	Thomas Walker	1
Team 5 Clubs Thomas Dickenson Clubs William Saxton Stealing £130 from a warehouse Charles Constantini Spades Charles Wellings Constantini Spades Charles Wellings Charles Wellings Constantini Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house Team 6 These men were convicts but were allowed to work in a trade or job and to earn money Stealing £130 from a warehouse Stealing house Stealing two £5 notes Constantini Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point Queen Clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen Abraham Hood Stealing a horse	10	clubs	John Thomas	Stealing a tablecloth and spoons
to work in a trade or job and to earn money Ace clubs Thomas Dickenson 6 clubs William Saxton Stealing from a dwelling house 9 spades Charles Constantini 8 spades Charles Wellings Desertion and abusing the adjudant 6 diamonds Henry Laing Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house Team 6 These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point Queen clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen hearts Abraham Hood Stealing a horse	5	clubs	Daniel Fraser	House breaking
Ace clubs Thomas Dickenson 6 clubs William Saxton Stealing from a dwelling house 9 spades Charles Constantini 8 spades Charles Wellings Desertion and abusing the adjudant 6 diamonds Henry Laing Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house Team 6 Thomas Day For theft Queen clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen hearts Abraham Hood Stealing a horse	Team 5			These men were convicts but were allowed
Ace clubs Thomas Dickenson 6 clubs William Saxton Stealing from a dwelling house 9 spades Charles Constantini 8 spades Charles Wellings Desertion and abusing the adjudant 6 diamonds Henry Laing Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house Team 6 Thomas Day For theft Queen clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen hearts Abraham Hood Stealing a horse				to work in a trade or job and to earn money
6 clubs William Saxton Stealing from a dwelling house 9 spades Charles Constantini 8 spades Charles Wellings Desertion and abusing the adjudant 6 diamonds Henry Laing Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house Team 6 These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point Queen clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen hearts Abraham Hood Stealing a horse	Ace	clubs		
9 spades Charles Constantini 8 spades Charles Wellings Desertion and abusing the adjudant 6 diamonds Henry Laing Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house Team 6 These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point Queen clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen hearts Abraham Hood Stealing a horse	6	clubs	William Saxton	Stealing from a dwelling house
6 diamonds Henry Laing Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house Team 6 These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point Queen clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen hearts Abraham Hood Stealing a horse		spades	Charles	
6 diamonds Henry Laing Stealing goods worth £5 from a drug house Team 6 These men all worked in a cookhouse at some point Queen clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen hearts Abraham Hood Stealing a horse	8	spades	Charles Wellings	Desertion and abusing the adjudant
Team 6 Queen clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen hearts Abraham Hood Stealing a horse		•	Ţ	
Queen clubs Thomas Day For theft Queen hearts Abraham Hood Stealing a horse			, ,	
QueenclubsThomas DayFor theftQueenheartsAbraham HoodStealing a horse				
Queen hearts Abraham Hood Stealing a horse	Queen	clubs	Thomas Day	•
	5	hearts	Joseph Johnson	Unknown crime (Vagrant from cookhouse)

Sheet 1- Interpretation Gallery

Name of Team	



The Lottery of Life Interpretation Gallery

PORT ARTHUR HISTORIC SITES

As you move through the gallery, your task is to discover clues about the identity and life story of your convict character.

Look around the Interpretation Gallery to complete these activities....

List the name of each of your team's convicts and state the crime for which he was sentenced to transportation. It doesn't matter which convict character in your group is given which number. Remember to think about the 'link' between the men on your cards so that you can gain 10 BONUS points (see below)

•	ou can gain 10 BONUS points (see below)	between the men on your
Convict 1	Name:	
	Crime:	
Convict 2	Name:	
	Crime:	
Convict 3	Name:	
	Crime:	
Convict 4	Name:	
	Crime:	
Convict 5	Name:	
	Crime:	/ 10 points

BONUS question.... for 10 points

What is the 'link' between the convict characters in your team? Think about where they came from or what they did while at Port Arthur.....

Sheet 2- The Church

Name of Team_____





The Church

Attendance at church was compulsory for everyone. It was thought that the word of God would help to reform the convicts. Up to 1100 people worshipped here on Sundays. Convicts were under armed guard even in the church.

Find the date plaque on the church above the entrance near the bell tower.

1. Draw the date plaque in the box>>>

1836

2. What happened at the church in that year?

The building of the Church began

- 4. Circle two reasons from the list below to explain why this church no longer has a roof or a steeple.
 - A. It/they blew away in a big storm
 - **B.** It fell down over time
 - C. The timber shingles (tiles) were recycled for use on another building
 - D. It burnt in a fire
 - E. It never had a roof



Find the bells in the display case at bottom of the bell tower.

5. Draw the symbol that can be seen on the bells that tells us that they were made at Port Arthur.

PA

PORT ARTHUR HISTORIC

Sheet 3 Hospital

Name of Team



Hospital

Look up the hill above the Penitentiary to find the place where sick people went for help from a doctor.

Find the interpretive panels on the lawn in front and inside to answer these questions.

1. What was the maximum number of patients who could be looked after at the one time?

A. 20

B. 40

C. 70

D. 90

2. Look above an entrance to the hospital to see this object >>>>

What IS it?

- **A.** A place to hang a sign
- **B.** A basketball hoop
- C. A frame to hold a lantern
- **D.** A hook to tie a rope to lift heavy objects



3. Only soldiers and their family members and convicts were treated at the hospital.

Where were officers, civil servants and their families treated by the penal settlement's doctors?

In their own home

4. Port Arthur's surgeon managed the hospital with the assistance of convict orderlies.

Do you think that anaesthetic was used during surgery back then?

A. Definitely NO

B. Maybe

C. Definitely YES

PORT ARTHUR HISTORIC SITES

Sheet 4 Guard Tower

Name of Team_____



Military area

The soldiers who worked here were in charge of security at Port Arthur.

Walk around the area and inside the building in this photo and read the interpretive panels to complete the crossword.

1 across

One of the things that used to be stored inside the tower (9)

2 across

What the soldiers did from the tower (5,8)

3 across

A name for a group of soldiers (8)

4 across

A type of weapon used by soldiers to guard convicts (5)

1 G	U	N	P	O	W	D	E *	R				
2 W	A*	T	C	H	C**	0	N	V	Ι	C	T	S*
3 R	E	G	Ι	M	E	N	T *					
4 R	Ι	F	L*	E				-				

The Guard Tower sits on the high ground with good views of the settlement. Starting with the letter marked ** un-jumble the letters marked * to make a word to describe the style of building the military area looked like during the convict era...

**C	A	S	T	L	E



Sheet 5 Separate Prison

Name of Team



Separate Prison

This photograph is taken inside the building where convicts were often kept for long periods of time in separate cells and often in complete silence.

1. Port Arthur's Separate Prison was modelled on one in England. What was <u>that</u> prison's name?

Pentonville

2. What were two things that convicts <u>had</u> to do when they were brought out of their cells?

Put on their cell number badges, wear a cap and pull mask down. If any other prisoner was being walked in the corridor they had to stop and face the wall.

3. Convicts were required to work in their cells. What were two types of work they did?

Broom making, sewing/mending clothes, shoe-making, picking oakum



<<< 4. This was the one place in the Separate Prison where convicts were allowed to use their voices.

What is the name of this place?

The Chapel

Sheet 6 Commandant's House

Name of Team





The Commandant's House

This house was reserved for the Commandant of Port Arthur and his family. The Commandant was in charge of running the prison

Visit the Drawing Room.

2. In here you will find clues which tell you what this room was used for. Can you name four activities which would have taken place here?

Sewing, playing cards, reading, listening to music, playing the piano, entertaining guests

After the closure of the convict settlement, this house became a hotel.

1. Can you discover the name of the hotel?

The Carnaryon Hotel

Visit the Land Lady's Bedroom.

3. There is an unusual step leading up into this room. Can you name one theory for how the step got this way?

It was used as a knife sharpening stone

Find this strange object >>>

4. Can you guess what it is used for?

Trapping small insects

