

BUILDING EXPLORERS



READY TO EXPLORE

Exhibitions at BALTIC change three times a year so every now and again a gallery floor is closed to visitors whilst the next exhibition is installed. Loris, BALTIC's family mascot, knows BALTIC really well and has found out some interesting things to share with you...

Are you ready to Explore?

You will need:

- Colour Paddles
- Torch
- Magnifying Glass
- Gel Pad
- Binoculars
- Compass



 When you see this symbol turn to the back for some facts

Remember, if you need any help or to check your answers, ask a member of BALTIC Crew. BALTIC Crew can be found on each floor, wearing a t-shirt that says BALTIC Crew.

BALTIC IN THE PAST

Baltic Flour Mill opened in 1950, although the building was designed in the 30s on the site of Gateshead Iron Works. Baltic Flour Mill supplied flour for Rank Hovis bread. The mill employed around 300 people and was built by Joseph Rank who named all the mills he built after oceans and seas.

- Can you imagine what the names of Joseph Rank's other buildings were?
- In 1994 Gateshead Council invited architects to put forward ideas to convert Baltic Flour Mills into a centre for contemporary art. The winning design was by architect Dominic Williams.
- BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art opened at 1 minute past midnight on Saturday 13 July 2002.



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GROUND FLOOR

When you entered the building you may have noticed brown rusty coloured metal at either side of the entrance. This is CorTen steel which starts off looking shiny and grey but when it weathers goes a rusty orange colour. It still stays just as strong. Why not take a closer look with your magnifying glass?

CorTen steel is the same metal used to make the Angel of the North.

What material would you have built the Angel from? Loris would have built it from chocolate although it wouldn't last very long.

- **When was the Angel of the North built?** ①

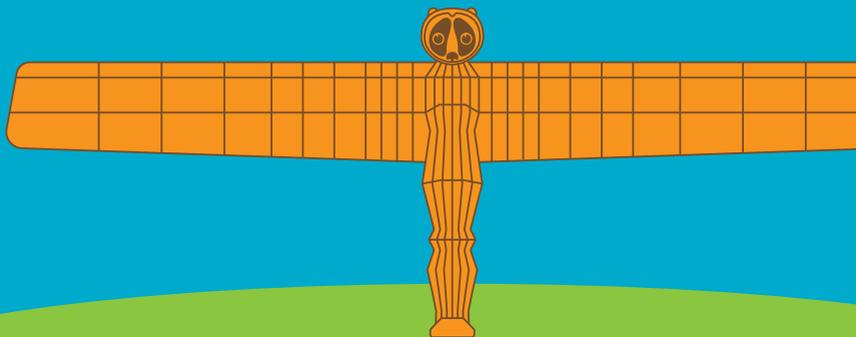
- **What does it make you think of?**

Stand in front of the Information Desk and look towards the River Tyne... can you see the artwork *Blake in Gateshead* by Jaume Plensa? The

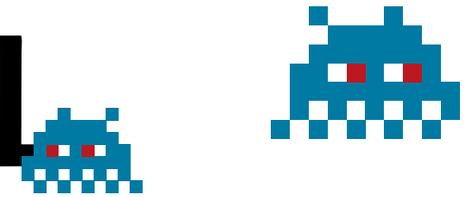
artist wanted to create a vertical bridge of light bringing us closer to the landscape by linking the ground and the sky. In the centre there is a powerful light beam that reaches 2 kilometres into the sky, so high that we have to notify air traffic control at Newcastle Airport before we turn it on.

The words around the base are from a poem by William Blake *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*. 'No Bird Soars too High if he Soars with his own Wings'.

- **Why do you think Jaume Plensa might have chosen these words?**



STAIRWELL



There are 203 stairs from the ground to Level 5!

Look up and down the stairwell. Can you see the artwork created by Mark Wallinger called *Heaven and Hell*? By placing a mirror at the top and bottom of the stairwell the artist creates an illusion ② of a never ending staircase. When you walk up or down the stairs and look into the mirrors your journey feels like it is infinite and might go on forever.

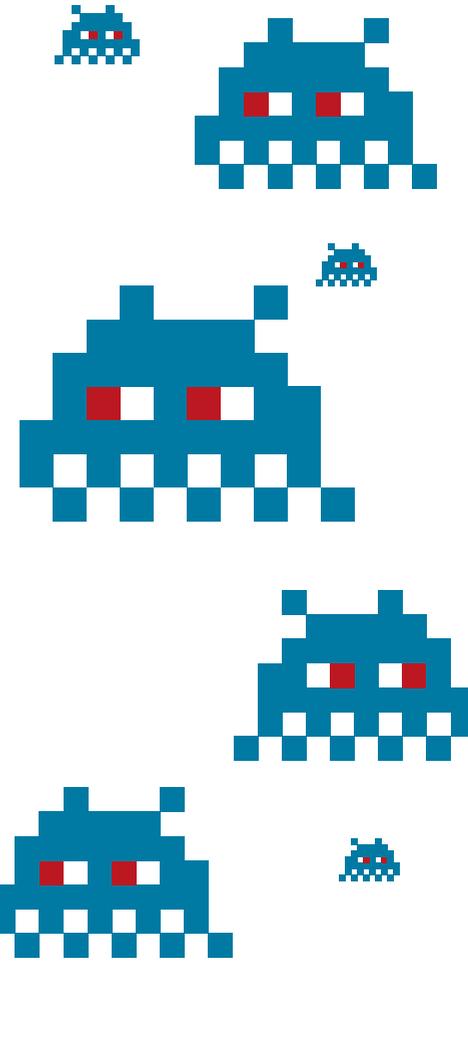
The Space Invader artwork was left behind by the artist Invader. He has left these tile mosaics ③ all over the world creating a worldwide 'Space Invader Treasure Hunt'. ④

Space Invader is made up of little squares. Why not make your own version of a Space Invader out of coloured squares in our Quay space on Level 2.

- **Can you find the Space Invader hidden on the stairs?** ⑤

- **What else can you create using just squares?**

If you're in the lift between Level 1 and 2 you might be able to see the BALTIC Staff room on 1a. Always remember to wave! You will have to be quick though as our lifts travel at 2 metres per second.



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LEVEL 2 / QUAY

Right at the back of Quay is a huge vinyl  of a girl by artist, Yoshitomo Nara. This piece was installed when Quay first opened in 2007. If you use your coloured paddles you can change the colour of her dress and boots.

Look at the girl's face and the way she is standing. What kind of mood is she in? If this was a vinyl picture of you, how would you be standing? What mood would you be in? Do your own line drawing like the giant vinyl character.

In the middle of the floor you can see a spiral staircase. This leads up to the main staff office where there are lots of people that are busy working, doing all sorts of jobs from looking after our building to deciding what artwork we show at BALTIC.

- **What other jobs do you think there are at BALTIC?**

- **If you worked here what job would you like to do?**

As soon as you walk into Quay you might see some people making things in our studio. There are all sorts of fun workshops you can get involved with, why not pick up a leaflet and see what's going on or speak to one of our Crew.

Also in Quay is our Library which has lots of information about every single exhibition that has been at BALTIC and it's free to use. Pop in and have a look around.



LEVEL 5

Looking out from Level 5 you can see views of Newcastle and Gateshead. Use your binoculars, how many bridges can you see? 🔍

BALTIC has been designed so that visitors can see as much of the workings of the gallery as possible. This is why the lifts are glass and there is a viewing area, looking down on the Level 4 gallery to see the installation of new exhibitions.

In February 2003 artist Antony Gormley turned Level 4 into a workshop for his exhibition *Domain Field* where volunteers from Newcastle and Gateshead between the ages of 2 to 85 were moulded in plaster.

The Level 4 gallery is BALTIC's biggest art space. It can be seen from Level 5. It fills 540 square metres, which is enough for 21 double-decker buses. Loris would like to fill the space with balloons.

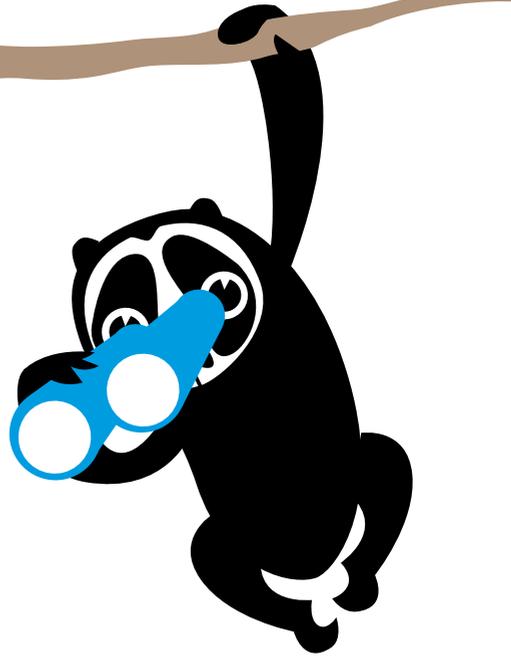
- What would you fill this huge space with?



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FACTS

- ① The Angel of the north was built in 1998 and has a wingspan of 54 metres which is almost the same as a jumbo jet!
- ② An illusion is something many people believe is real but it is really false
- ③ Mosaic is when you create a picture using smaller blocks of colour
- ④ There is also one in the main staff office space, you can see this on a *Behind the Scenes Tour* on Sundays at 11.00 (FREE)
- ⑤ The Space Invader in the stairwell is on Level 2
- ⑥ Vinyl is a type of self sticking plastic. It is used a lot in galleries to put writing on walls and artwork onto windows
- ⑦ There are seven bridges, Redheugh Bridge, King Edward VII Bridge, Queen Elizabeth II Metro Bridge, The High Level Bridge, The Swing Bridge, The Tyne Bridge & Gateshead Millennium Bridge.



We hope you have enjoyed exploring BALTIC today. Please return your pack and this activity sheet to the Information Desk on the Ground Floor for other people to enjoy.

If you want to find out more about events and activities at BALTIC for families and children please join the BALTIC mailing list. You can find mailing list cards at the Information Desk and the Information Point on Level 2.