

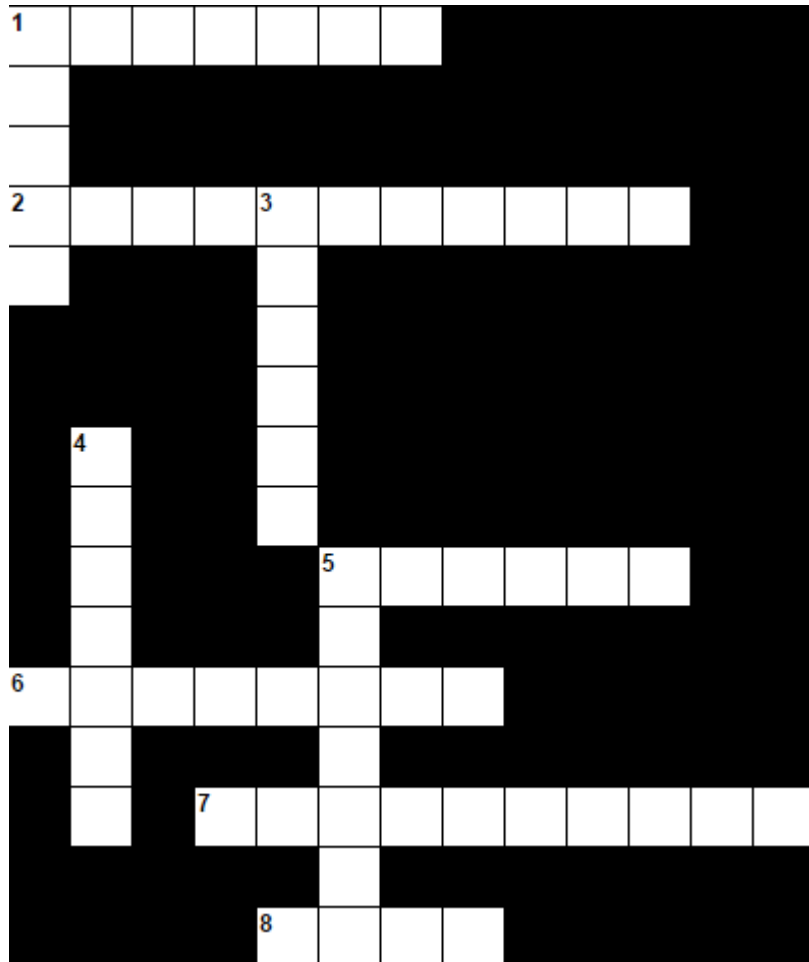


LIFE IN THE COUNTRY



Country houses in Sicilian language (bagghiu) derives from the arab word (bahah) were built by Arabs. The country houses are old buildings in the country. During the rule of the Arab agricultural activity had important technical innovations. The owners of the country house lived in the rooms above, however the workers lived in the rooms below. They introduced new crops such as citrus fruits, cotton, carob, but the main driving force of progress were the irrigation techniques and ladling water from wells. Even today, observing the country and the surroundings of the old beams, you can find a good number of qubbe - the tanks where the water was collected. An example of Country house is S. Elia 3 km far form Mazara. Before their gradual abandonment, which begins at the end of 800, the country houses were life and daily work of hundreds of farmers who cultivated wheat fields , vineyards and olive groves that were the lands of the great ecclesial and baronial estates, in which it was divided land ownership in Sicily, with the advent of the Norman reconquest of the island, from the twelfth century. Gazzera country house is typical for his strategic position compared to the surrounding area. Before arriving to Salemi, there is a big, great wood, the Poggioallegro country house, has a valuable wine farm. Also the church had his countryhouse and The Baglio Sulana is an example. Unfortunately it was abandoned, it is accessed from the tree-lined square from the small church of St. Joseph. Some of the country house had even a tower to prevent attack from the enemy. People use country houses to celebrate weddings or they use as bed and breakfast.

Complete the crossword



ACROSS:

- 1) The name of country house in Sicilian language
- 2) What was the most important innovation activity during the rule of Arabs?
- 5) Who was the owner of Baglio Sulana?
- 6) What do people use the country house for, today?
- 7) What was the main driving force of progress?
- 8) Which country house is at 3 km. far from Mazara?

DOWN:

- 1) How does the Arab says country house?
- 3) What agricultural products did the Arabs introduce ?
- 4) Which country house is famous for his strategic position?

5) Why the country house had towers?