

# DISCOVER THE HOSPITAL IN THE ROCK

Museum pedagogical  
exercise book

*For 12-14 year olds*

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**HOSPITAL IN THE ROCK  
NUCLEAR BUNKER**  
MUSEUM BUDAPEST



Discover the museum  
For 12-14 year olds

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## What is the Hospital in the Rock?



### Question

How can an underground hospital be created?  
Why was it necessary?  
What happened here during the war?  
And in 1956? How did the wounded get here?  
How was a hospital transformed into a bunker?

You can get all the answers in the Hospital in the Rock, and with this book you can already start discovering it from home.

Read through it and find out interesting facts about war, revolution, healing and lifesaving!

We are going to test your creativity and knowledge, do you accept the challenge?



## How to use this discovery book?

**This is a 3 in 1 booklet:** it helps to get in the mood, when you are only planning the visit, and there are activities to complete during and after the visit at home.

The colors help you to know what to do when:

Getting in the mood

During the visit

At home

Everything around you will help you to solve the puzzles during the visit:

- the scenes,
- the exhibited equipment,
- and the stories you hear during the tour.

So even if your attention is distracted by the tasks, don't ever lose your tour guide from sight.

Have an exciting discovery!



## What you should know about the Hospital in the Rock



**The Hospital in the Rock** was built inside the caves of the Castle Hill. It was opened in February 1944. During the spring of that year, bombings were becoming more and more frequent, and many of the wounded were treated here. During the winter of 1944 and 1945 the Soviet army encircled the city, and many people got injured in the fights.

Because of its underground location, the Hospital in the Rock was the safest hospital, as the bombings could not destroy it. However, circumstances were terrible: they ran out of food, bandages and medicine. There was not enough space inside the wards, so corridors were also filled with patients lying on the ground. The siege of Budapest ended in February 1945, and the fights were over by April. The Hospital in the Rock was closed in June.

### Did you know?

#### World War II:

It took place between 1939 and 1945. Hungary entered the war in 1941. as an ally of Germany.

Fights reached the country in 1944, and the siege of Budapest took place during the winter of 1944 and 1945.

### Did you know?

#### The 1956 revolution:

In the 1950s, dictatorship was created in Hungary with the direction of Soviet and Hungarian politicians. This is what people revolted against in the autumn of 1956. The revolution started with a demonstration on October 23, 1956, but bullets were already fired that night. Fights lasted until November, and the attack launched by the Soviet army November 4, 1956, broke down the revolution.

In the next three years following the war (1945–1948) a **Virus Vaccine Production Institute** functioned here. It was transformed into a hospital again in the 1950s, it was expanded and reequipped. By this time, it was a secret hospital, in theory no one could know about its existence (apart from the authorities). It was reopened in 1956, which was the second and last time it functioned as a hospital.

Between 1958 and 1962, it was expanded again, and transformed into a **nuclear bunker**. It was a top secret institution until 2004.

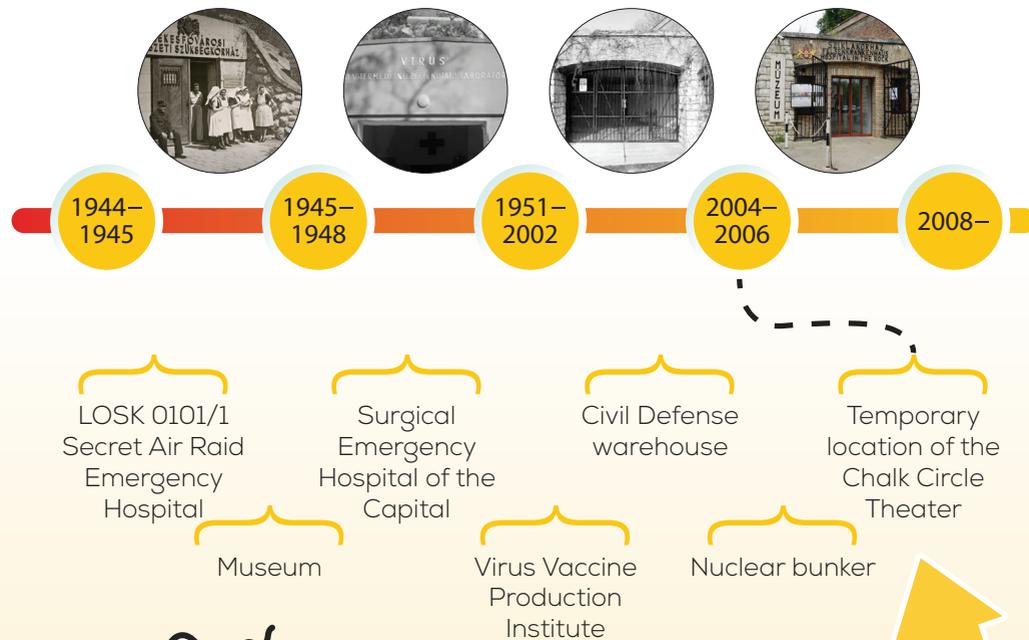
Since 2007, it functions as a **museum**.





## WHAT CAN BE UNDER THE GROUND?

The Hospital in the Rock is not only a Hospital: throughout the times it had many different functions.



Did you know?

Guess what it was used for and when by connecting the bubbles to the timeline!

The Hospital in the Rock was under the protection of the International Red Cross during World War II.



**Henry Dunant**  
Swiss banker, he founded the International Red Cross in 1864.

Did you know?



The red cross was originally used as a symbol by the Camillian order. Its members have vowed to help patients even at the risk of their lives. The symbol of the International Red Cross was inspired by the cross of the monks.

However, for religious and cultural reasons, nowadays the cross is not in use everywhere to denote the organization.





### Alert!!!

The oldest part of the museum is the Air Raid Alarm Control Center. It was established in 1937.



Plans of the alarm center and the emergency room from 1941



Did you know?

**The Alarm Center was expanded in 1941 with an emergency room.**

At that time it was possible to get here through the old town hall of Buda (Szentháromság utca 2).

Lesson

What do you think, why did they move this unit underground?

.....  
.....  
.....

### A bunker from a hospital



The mechanical part of the nuclear bunker was also connected to the surface at several points. Since these were also secret objects, they had to be disguised. The exhaust pipe, for example, was hidden behind the gutter of a house on Úri utca.

The receptacles of the oil tanks were hidden in flower boxes.



Lesson

Do you recognize from the picture on which street they came up to the surface?

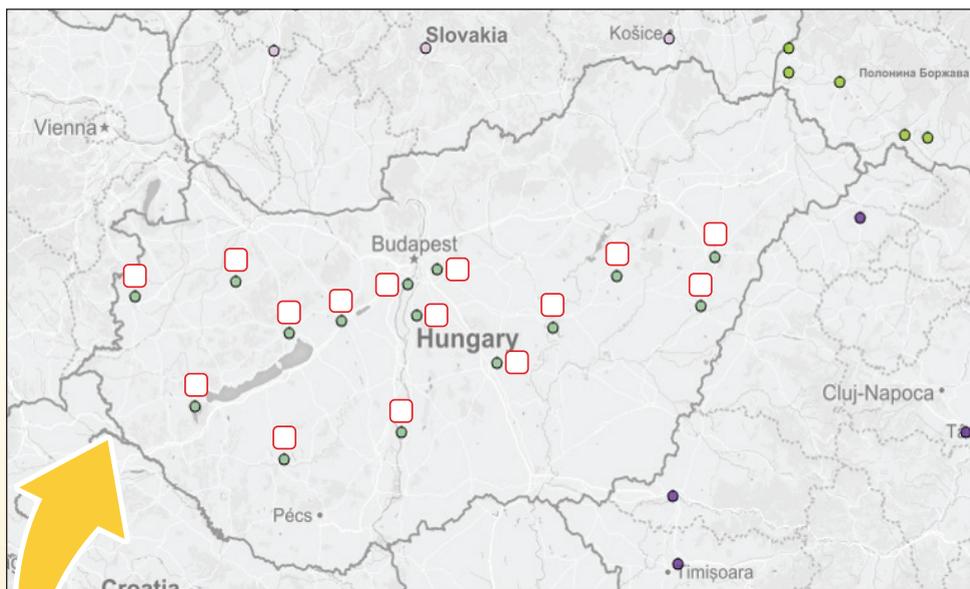
- A, Szentháromság utca
- B, Úri utca
- C, Tóth Árpád sétány



## Nuclear catastrophe – real danger?

Perhaps the fear of the Cold War in the past seems absurd today, but it was not unrealistic at all.

Although Hungary seems insignificant to the US, it was nonetheless a target within the Soviet bloc.



- |                           |                          |                           |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>A</b> , Szombathely    | <b>F</b> , Kiskunlacháza | <b>K</b> , Kecskemét      |
| <b>B</b> , Hévíz          | <b>G</b> , Tököl         | <b>L</b> , Szolnok        |
| <b>C</b> , Veszprém       | <b>H</b> , Budapest      | <b>M</b> , Kunmadaras     |
| <b>D</b> , Székesfehérvár | <b>I</b> , Taszár        | <b>N</b> , Debrecen       |
| <b>E</b> , Pápa           | <b>J</b> , Kalocsa       | <b>O</b> , Berettyóújfalu |



Lesson

What could be the target?

Why exactly these very locations were singled out?

What is in each of them?

- A, Uranium Mine
- B, Weapons Factory
- C, Airport



Lesson

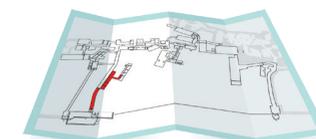
The map marks the targets of a possible attack planned in the 1950s.

Which locations can you identify?  
(With or without online map)



### Where are we?

This is the map of the Hospital in the Rock. **The rooms that you can currently see are marked with red.** You will find this map in each topic within this chapter.



INTRODUCTORY CORRIDOR,  
KITCHEN



### Lesson

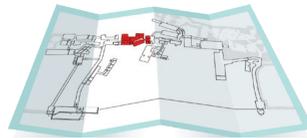
Why is this inscription important?  
How did the Red Cross help the hospital?

.....  
.....  
.....

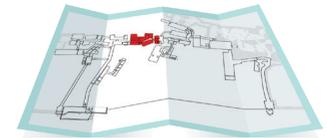
### Lesson

What's in the box?  
Find this box in the kitchen! What might be in it?  
Ask your tour guide!

.....  
.....



EMERGENCY AREA,  
OPERATING THEATRE



EMERGENCY AREA,  
OPERATING THEATRE

### Lets heal people! But with what?



What are the tools shown in the pictures used for?

- 1. ....
- .....
- 2. ....
- .....
- 3. ....
- .....
- 4. ....
- .....



What is this?  
Find the answer in the exhibition area following the operating theatre!

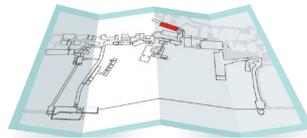
.....  
.....  
.....

Did you notice the staircase?  
Where can it lead to?

Your guide knows it for sure.

.....  
.....  
.....





WARD III.

### Medical care during war



This is what the ward looked like in 1944, on the day of the opening ceremony. **Compare the picture with the exhibition area!**

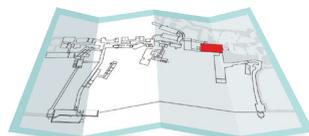
What were the circumstances like during the siege of Budapest?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....



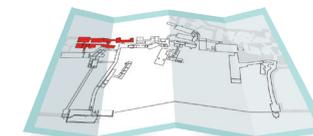
*(...) when I couldn't eat the bread, one of my neighbors approached me – You don't want the bread? Will you give it to me? – It's there in the basket. There was a chain with a basket at the foot of each bed, this is where they put it. (Reminiscence of a wounded, Zoltán Enyedí)*





GLASS DOOR,  
AFTER WARD V.

### Secret constructions



MACHINERY

### Régi pincék

#### Lesson

Look through the glass door – or examine this picture! What parts are natural formations, and what are man-made constructions?

.....  
.....

People discovered the caves of the Castle Hill centuries ago. What do you think they were used for in the past?

.....  
.....



#### Lesson

In order to create a nuclear bunker, you need special machines.

The parts of which systems can you see in the pictures?

What was their purpose?

1. ....

.....

2. ....

.....

3. ....

.....

.....

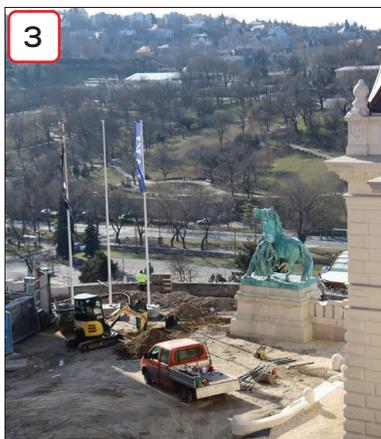
.....







## The siege of Budapest



**Lesson**

The black and white pictures (A, B, C, D) were taken in 1945 – you could see them in the exhibition.

**Do you remember in which room?**

.....

.....

.....

The colored pictures (1, 2, 3, 4) show the same sights in present days.

**Match the old and new pictures!**

1	2	3	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## The hospital in the rock and the siege of Budapest

Get to know a few eye-witnesses, who lived through the horrors of war!

1. „...this hospital saved my father, because otherwise he would have had to go to the front and he would have died there and he saved hundreds here in the hospital as a doctor.”

2. „...we were playing there as children, we were kicking around, because there were different boxes. (...) And, well, one of the boxes was not empty, but there was a grenade in it, which had not exploded, (...) and I kicked the box and well it exploded.”

3. „She did not know much about nursing, but she could make herself useful, although there were hardly any clean bandages in the hospital, neither iodine or penicillin, not a single pain killer.”



Anna Boom, voluntary nurse



Károly Högerl, patient



Dr. Endre Mester, doctor

## Revolutionary hospital



What kind of injuries were treated in the hospital during the revolution?

.....  
.....  
.....

What do you think could cause health problems among the civilian population?

.....  
.....  
.....

What can you remember from the exhibition?

.....  
.....  
.....

„I remember they brought the injured on a city bus. The bus was full. They brought a little boy, he was 12, and his own Molotov cocktail tore off both of his legs. The poor thing wanted to blow up a tank.”  
(Zsuzsanna Zsindely, voluntary nurse)



Read the citations – who are they connected to?

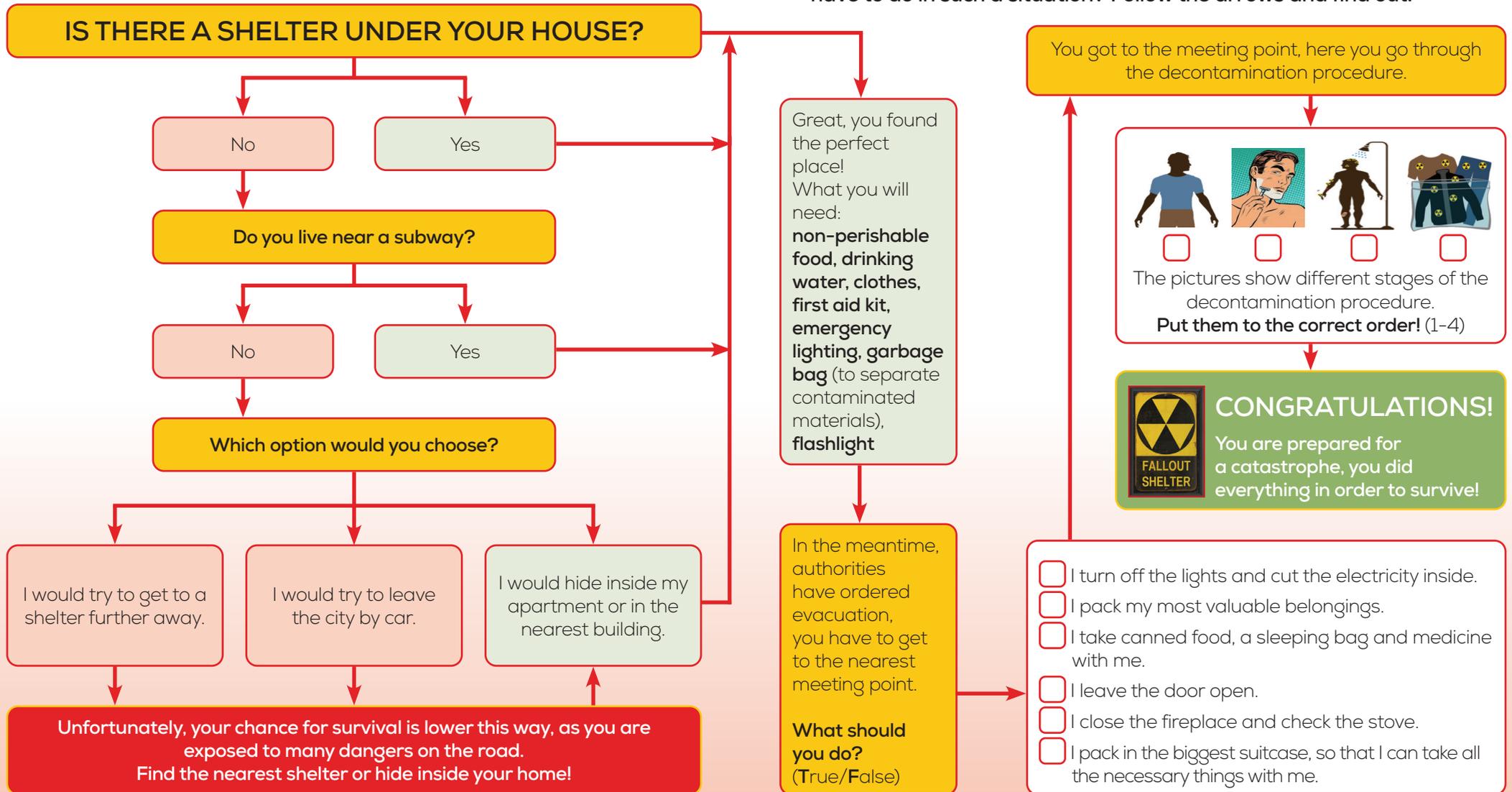
Find the pairs! (A, B, C)

1  2  3



## What would you do in case of an emergency?

Nuclear catastrophes can not only be caused by bombings, but they can also happen because of an accident (this is what happened in the nuclear power plant of Chernobyl in 1986.) **Do you know what you would have to do in such a situation? Follow the arrows and find out!**





**Page 7:**

**1944-1945** Surgical Emergency Hospital of the Capital

**1945-1948** Virus Vaccine Production Institute

**1951-2002** LOSK 0101/1 Secret Air Raid Emergency Hospital,  
Nuclear Bunker, Civil Defense Warehouse

**2004-2006** Temporary location of the Chalk Circle Theater

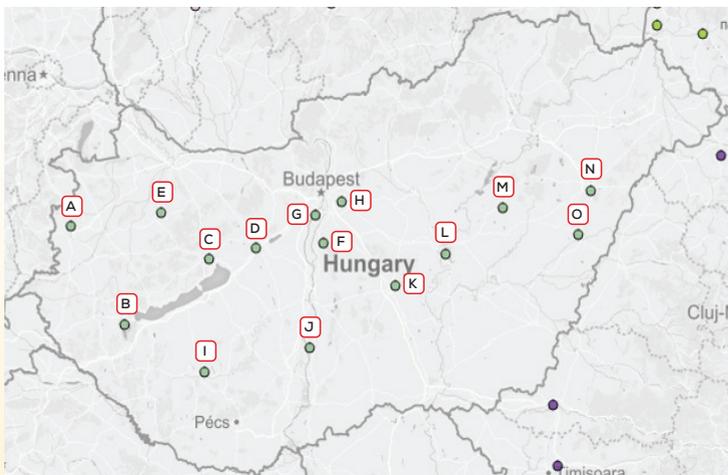
**2008-** to present days: Museum

**Page 10:** Because it stays safe underground even in the event of bombings.

**Page 11:** **C** Tóth Árpád sétány

**Page 12:**

- A** Szombathely
- B** Hévíz
- C** Veszprém
- D** Székesfehérvár
- E** Pápa
- F** Kiskunlacháza
- G** Tököl
- H** Budapest
- I** Taszár
- J** Kalocsa
- K** Kecskemét
- L** Szolnok
- M** Kunmadaras
- N** Debrecen
- O** Berettyóújfalú



**Page 13:** **C** Airport

**Page 14:** The Red Cross sign prevented any violent action against patients of the hospital.

**Page 15:** Milk powder, arrived in 1956 as food aid from the American Red Cross.

**Page 16:** **1** Blood pressure measurement, **2** Anesthesia, **3** Sterilization,

**4** Replacing broken bones

**Page 17:** X-ray tube. The staircase leads to the office of Chief Physician Dr. András Kovács.

**Page 19:** 3-4 patients were laid on each pair of beds, and there were patients lying on the ground. In the overcrowded rooms, air and hygienic conditions were also terrible.

**Page 20:** The ceiling and the walls on the two sides are mostly natural formations, the dividing arches and wells are man-made constructions.

What were they used for?: In case of fire or war, they provided shelter, the wells were used for water supply until the 15th century, until the 19th century the caves were used as wine cellars, but they were also suitable for storing food.

**Page 21:** Air supply center, filters. Water supply center, tanks. Machinery, aggregators.

**22-23. oldal:** Friedrich Born Memorial Room, Red Cross Protection Pass: During the Holocaust, attempts were made to save the persecuted, with such documents, among other things. It's a picture of Friedrich born, he was the one who declared the institution an official Red Cross Hospital - this is why the cross was painted on the wall.

**Page 24-25:** **1** - **C**, **2** - **D**, **3** - **A**, **4** - **B**

**Page 26:** **1** Dr. Endre Mester, **2** Károly Högerl, **3** Anna Boom

**Page 27:** Mostly shot wounds, because civilians could be hit by accident, they could be the victims of volleys, and the debris of collapsing houses could also cause injuries. Because of the fights and the curfew, it was difficult to get to a hospital, which is why those who lived nearby, came to the Hospital in the Rock with their health problems as well. Thus, babies were also born here.

**Page 28-29:**

**T** I turn off the lights and cut the electricity inside.

**F** I pack my most valuable belongings - take the most important ones!

**T** I take canned food, a sleeping bag and medicine with me.

**F** I leave the door open.

**T** I close the fireplace and check the stove.

**F** I pack in the biggest suitcase, so that I can take all the necessary things with me.  
(Try to pack in the smallest bag, so that it will be easier to carry.)

**Stages of the decontamination procedure:**

**1** Separating contaminated clothes

**2** Shaving hair and body hair

**3** Decontaminating shower

**4** Dressing up in clean clothes



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