PISA IS FOR KIDS

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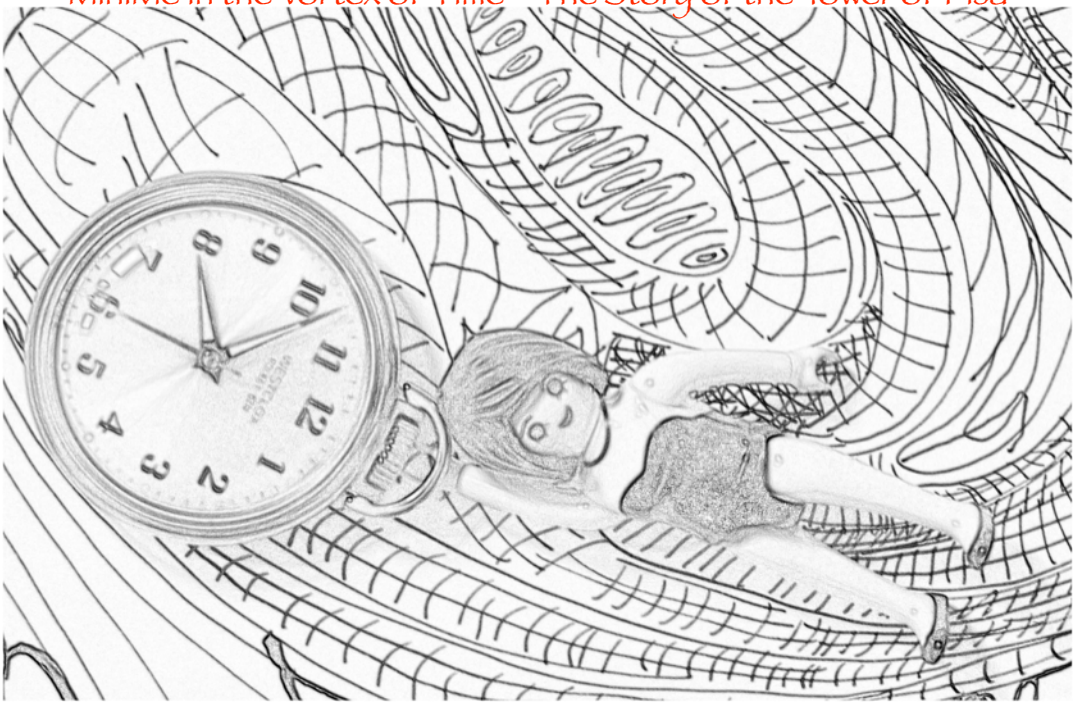
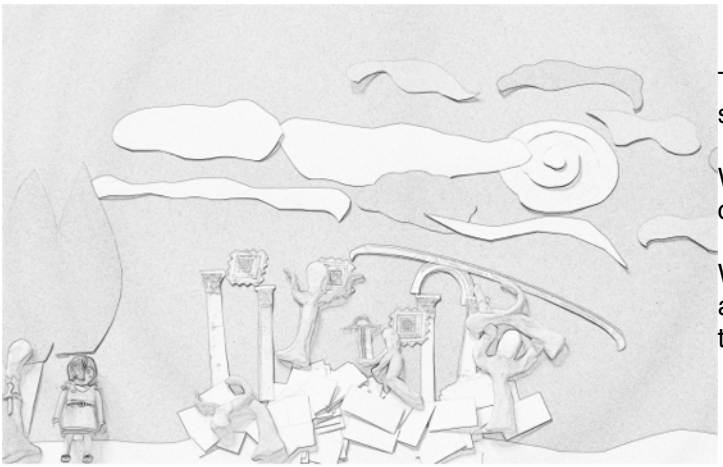
MiniMe in the Vortex of Time - The Story of the Tower of Pisa



On January 5, 1172 Donna Berta di Bernardo gave money to buy the first stones to form the base of the bell tower. Who is the original architect? No one knows for sure, but maybe was "Diotisalvi" that in English means "Godsavesyou" What at last-name for an architect! Don't you think?

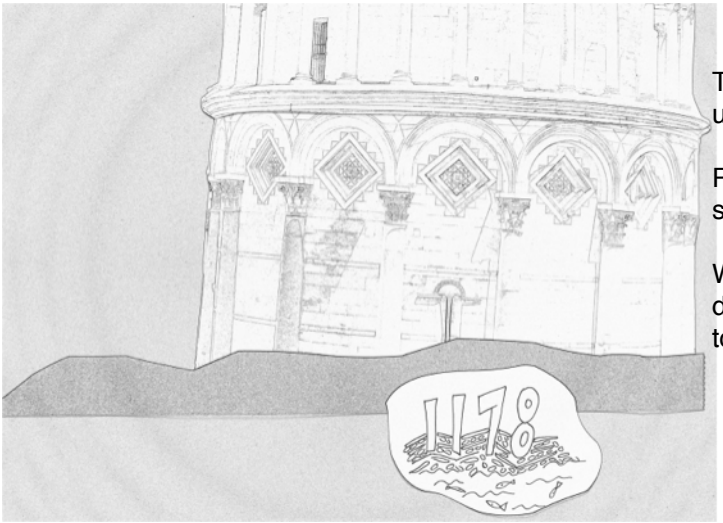
Draw over the the lines of the images and then color them as you please!



The Tower is Romanesque style up to the 7th floor.

White Marble, Corinthian capitals, and blind arcades.

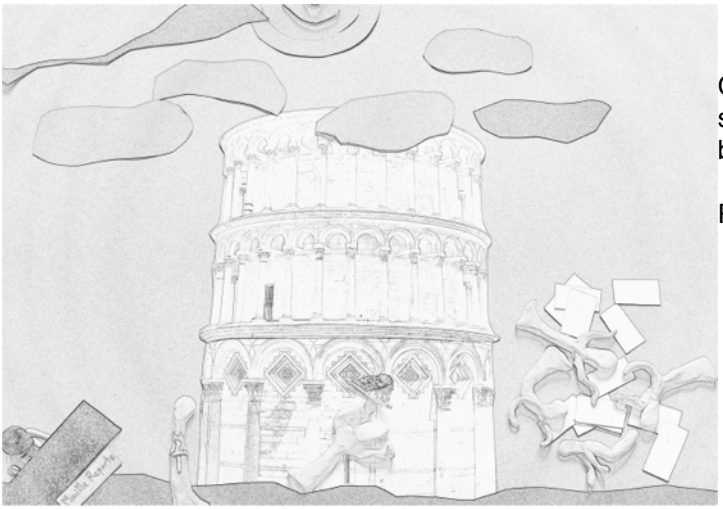
When you visit the tower look at the design elements of the tower



The tower was built in unstable soil.

Pisa is close to the Tirrenean sea!!!!

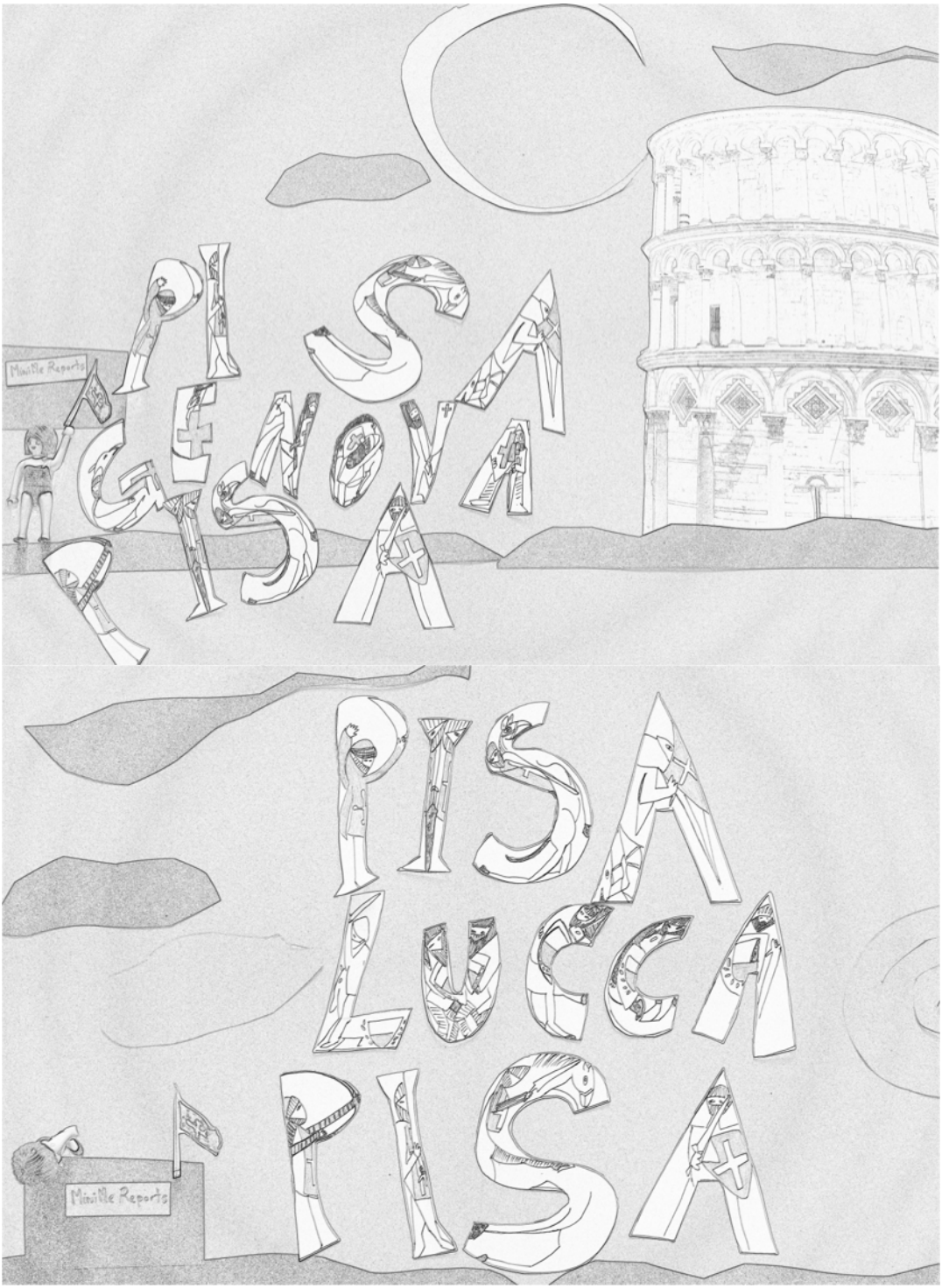
When the second floor was done, the tower started to sink!



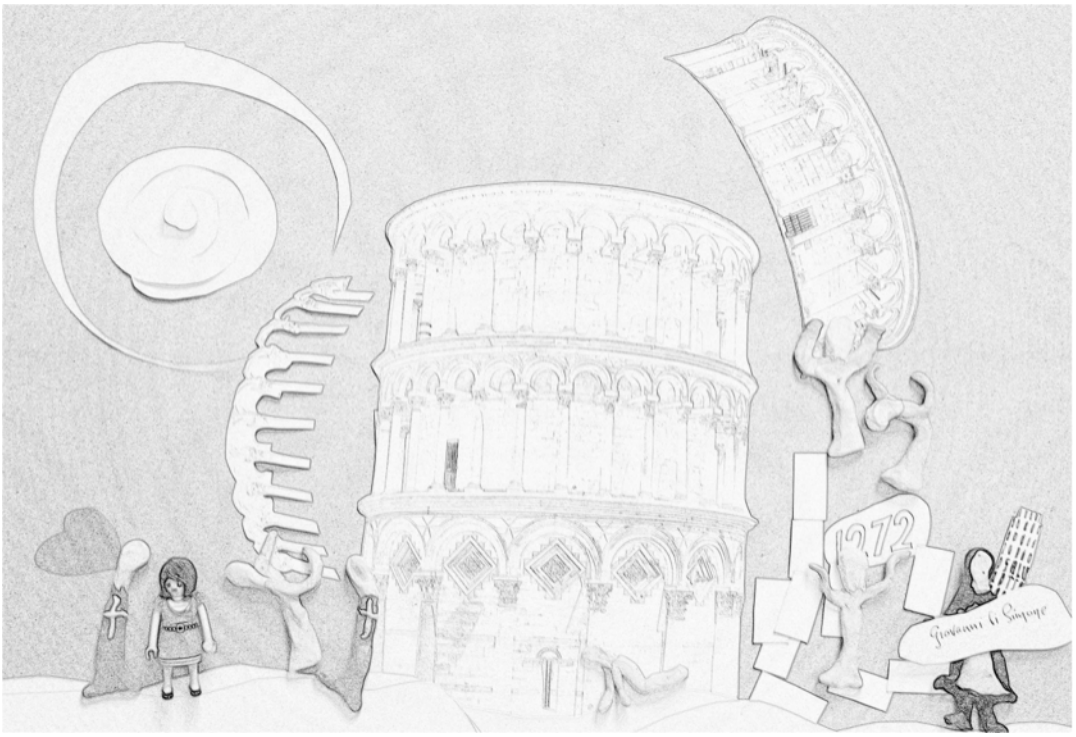
Construction of the tower was stopped due to the constant battles with other Republics.

Pisa was a Marine Republic!

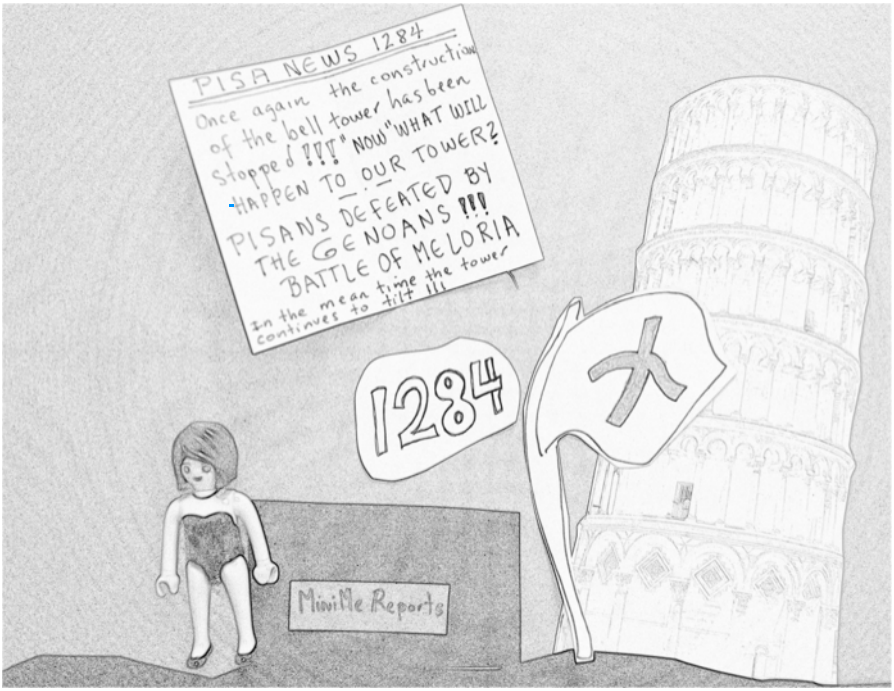
There were so many wars that luckily the bell tower had time to settled into the ground!



Almost 100 years of wars! And finally in 1272 construction resumed under Giovanni di Simone, he was the architect of Camposanto that translates to "Holy field".
But that's another story for MiniMe to tell you in future episodes of the "Vortex of Time"

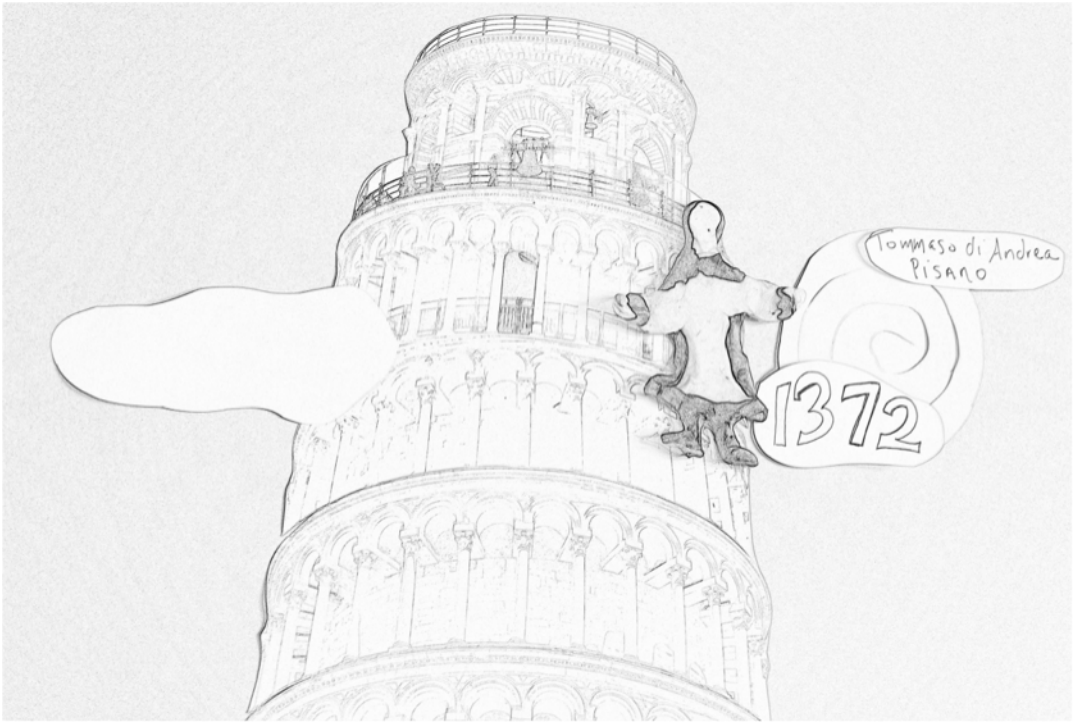


In 1284 the construction was stopped again because Pisa was defeated by Genova in the Battle of Meloria!



Finally in 1319 the 7th floor was done! Who was the architect? Not sure who took the task. I read in so many websites, and books but it was not clear as to whom was in charge!

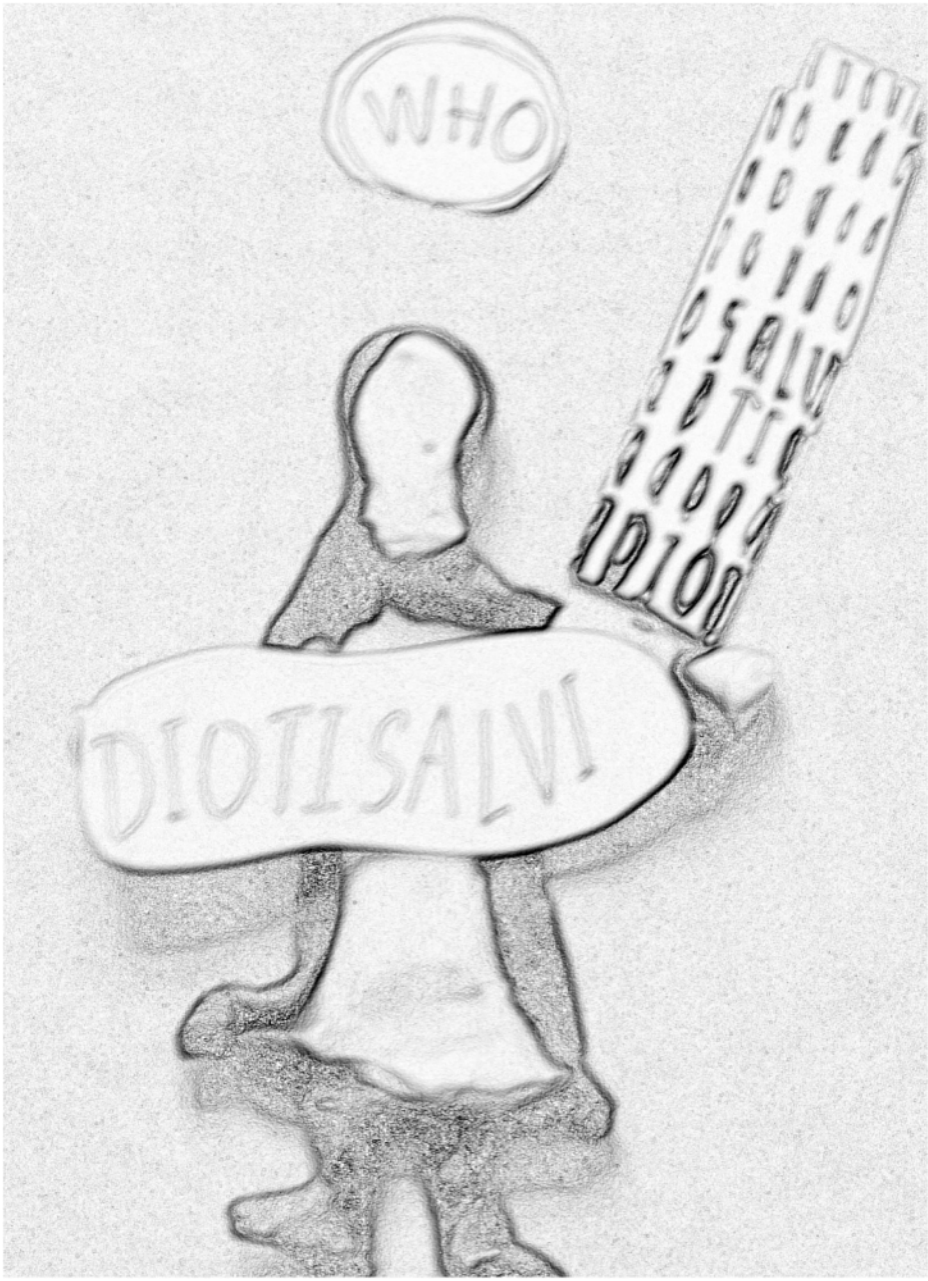
!n the years of 1350 - 1372 Tommaso di Andrea Pisano, took the job to finish the tower. He designed the belfry in Gothic style. He was able to mix two architectural styles harmoniously! In 1372 the Bell tower was finally finished!

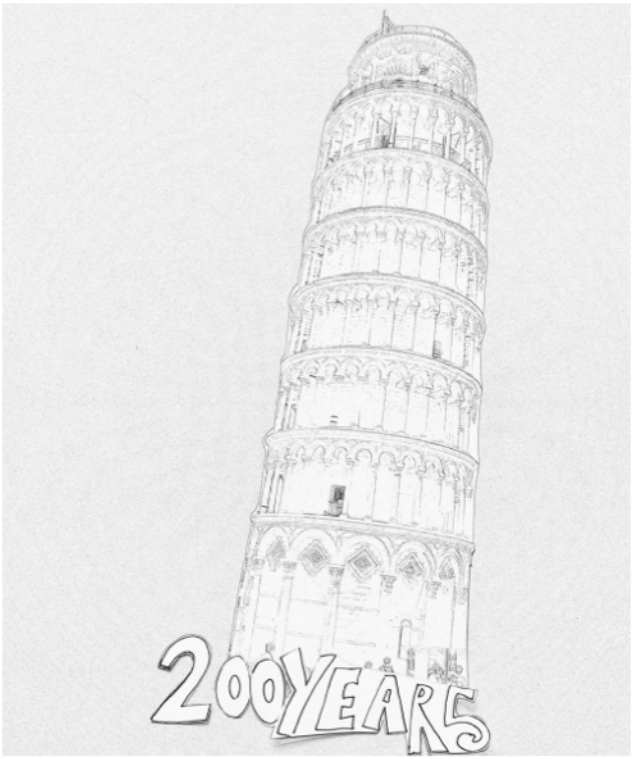


Can you imagine the people of Pisa at the time of the construction of the bell tower?

And you know, people loves to chat! Blah Blah Blah

There he goes… Diotisalvi !!!!! Yeah, Godsavesyou, if you ever set foot in that tower!!!!





It took about 200 years to complete the Bell Tower!

The whole time it continued to lean!

Did you know that at some point some engineers at the time of construction built some upper floors with one side taller than the other?

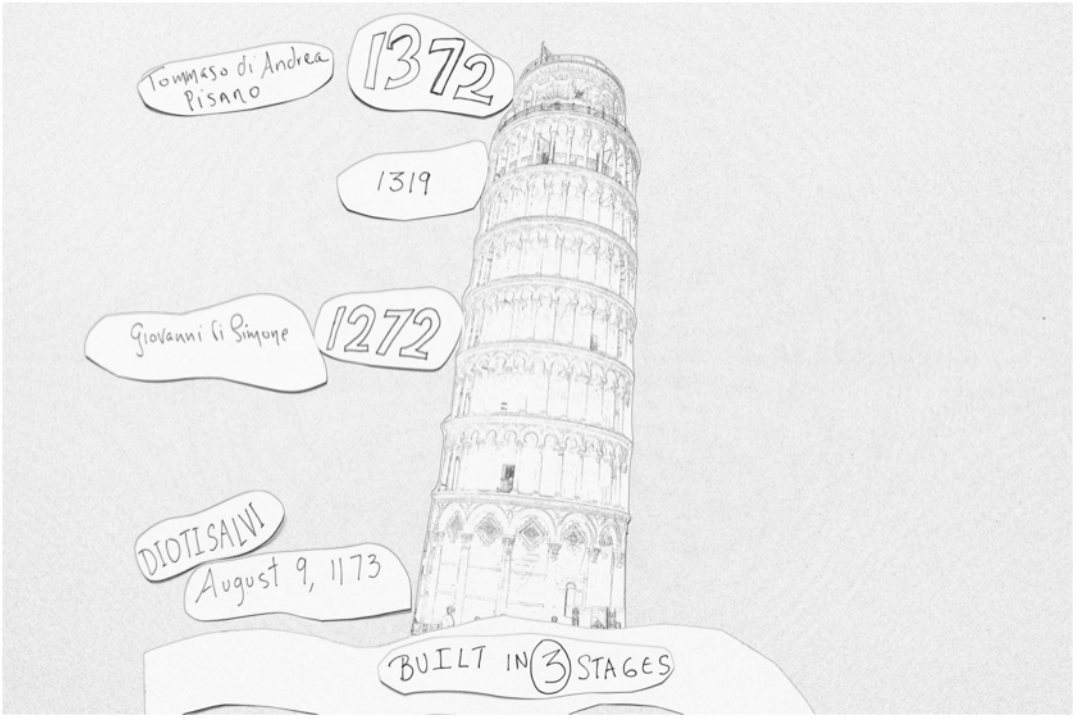
And because of this, the tower is curved like a banana?

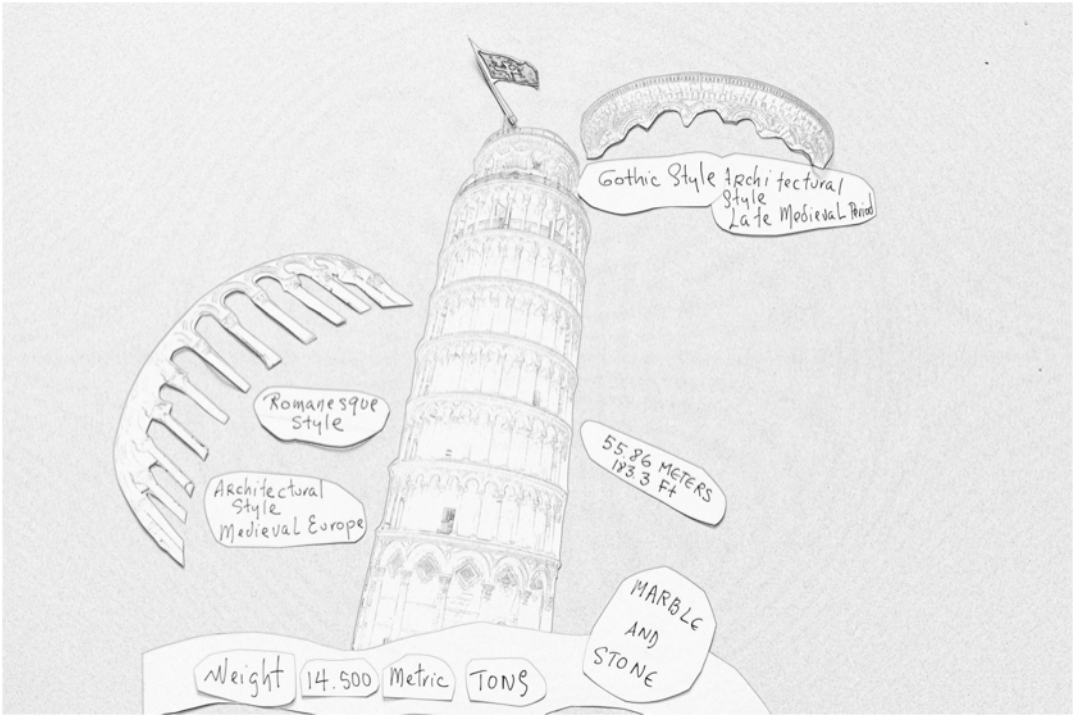
If the Tower was Yellow, then the King Kong movie might have been filmed here rather than in NYC?

Can you draw a picture of King Kong in the Bell Tower?

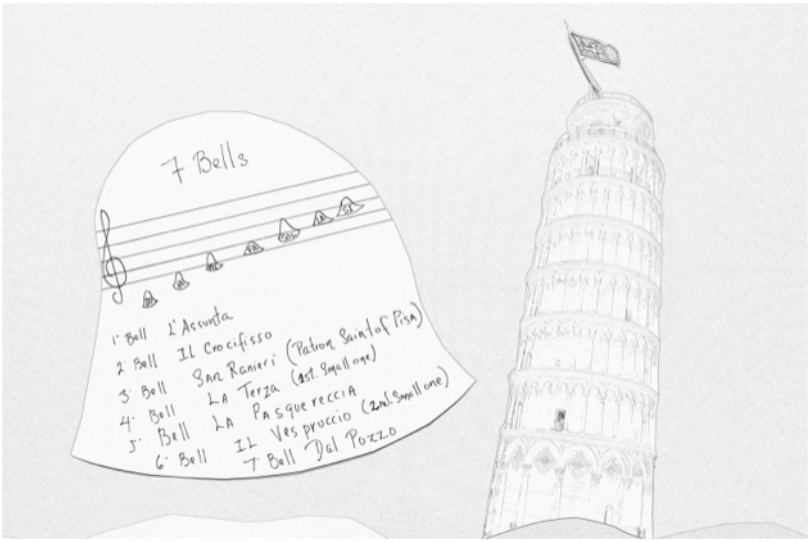
You can post it in the blog for kids!

Eventually I will print all your entries and exhibit them in the city!

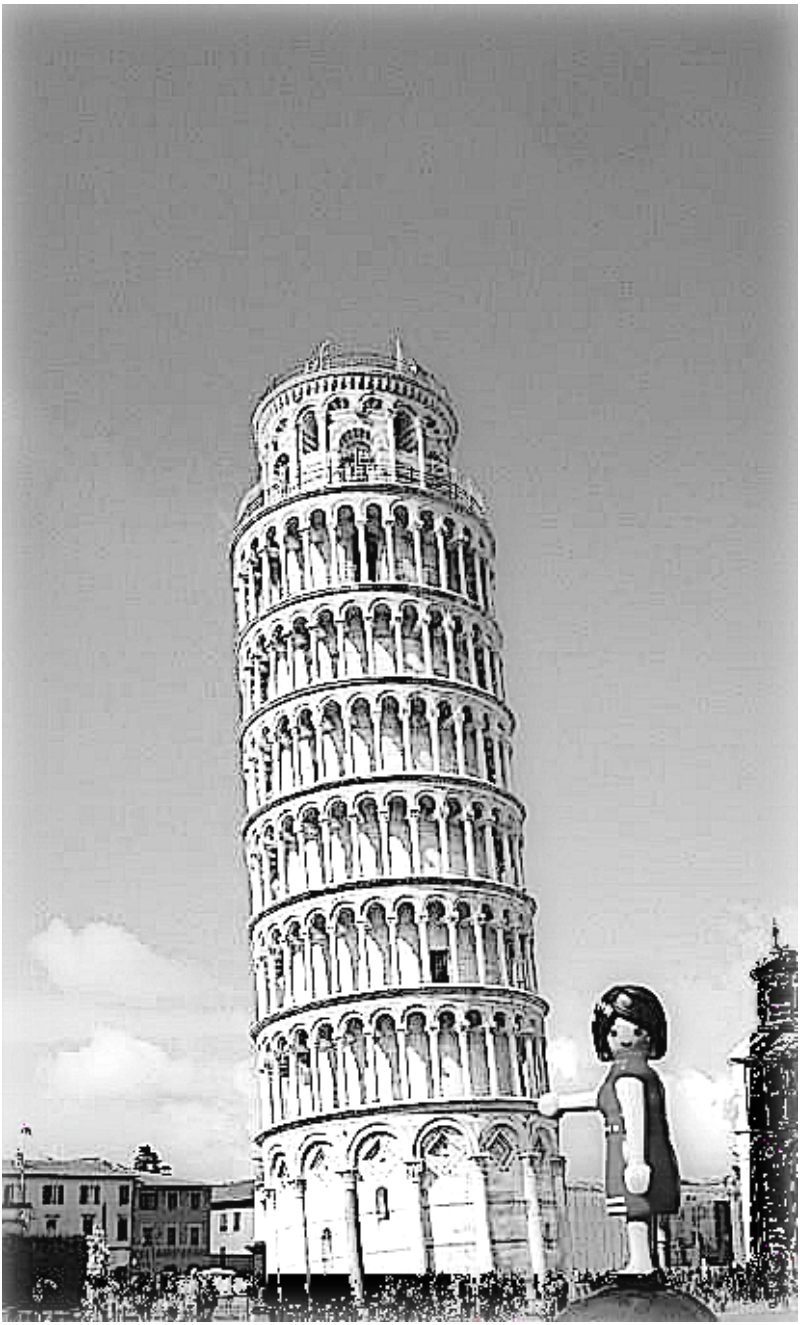




After a decade of corrective reconstruction and stabilization efforts, the tower was reopened to the public on December 15, 2001.



On May 2008, after the removal of another 70 metric tons of ground, engineers announced that the Tower had been stabilized such that it had stopped moving for the first time in its history. They said it would be stable for at least 200 years.



Two hundred years under construction! The tower has seen it all! Wars of all kinds! In particular WWII! The Germans were using the tower as an observation post. A US sergeant was sent to confirm if they were there, but when he saw the beauty of the Cathedral and the Bell tower, he refrained from ordering an artillery attack saving it from destruction. P.S. Thanks God for all the people that comes to Piazza del Duomo and place their hands, body or other remarkable ways to hold the tower. Their energy is keeping the tower up!!! Or so I say! -MiniMe Reports Quote

Rumors said that Galileo Galilei dropped two cannonballs of different masses from the tower to demostrate that their speed of descent was independent from their mass. However, it is thought to be just a tale because the only source was his secretary!
I can create a whole romance in just this rumor!

All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them.

Galileo Galilei was born on February 15, 1564 in Pisa!
He studied at the University of Pisa from 1581–1585.
I wonder what was his favorite dish!
Pisa has a yummy cuisine!

This is a postcard I created for Emma to send to her family and friends in the USA.

You can use the black and white image, trace the map of Italy, and create your own too! Add the places you have been!

Go wild!!!

The last pages is for you to make notes or use it as a diary of your visit in Pisa!