

## Fifth Class – Magical Irish Landscape Activities

### Oral Language Activities

- Sequence the pictures in whatever way you like
- *Seanchai* were the storytellers of Ireland who kept the tradition of Irish folklore alive for many centuries. They wandered from town to town telling stories to the people they met along the way. What sort of stories do you think they might have told and where?
- Long ago, small cottage industries enabled people who farmed the land to supplement their income by producing goods in their own homes. What sort of goods might have been produced from wool, cotton, wheat and other crops grown on the land? Think of as many other different cottage industries which sprung up in rural Ireland long ago

### Reading Activities:

- Brendan Keneally is a very famous Irish poet who wrote many wonderful poems inspired by the beauty of his native land. See if you can source some of his work and read it. You can also listen to Brendan Keneally reading his poetry on The Poetry Archive at <http://poetryarchive.org>
- The Children's Book Festival takes place in libraries around Ireland each October. Activities and events with writers, storytellers and illustrators help to keep our tradition of storytelling alive and well. Which library would you like to visit during the Festival? What are the chances you might meet your favourite author there . . . ?

### Make and Do

- The Magical Landscape is a modern day MYRIORAMA. It is a series of cards which can be laid out in any way and allows you to create a number of different imaginary landscapes. Have a look at other MYRIORAMAS. Why do you think that historically, they were a popular toy for adults and children alike?
- Choose a landscape theme eg "The Irish Coastline" or a topic of interest to you eg "Storytelling" and see if you can create your own MYRIORAMA. The printable tutorial on <http://www.mediainker.com> might help to get you started!
- A landform is a feature on the surface of the earth that is part of the terrain. Choose a landform suggested by the Magical Irish Landscape eg a cliff, lake, ocean, river, peninsula, isthmus, waterfall, gulf, bay and island and create a Magical Irish Landscape Crossword using a Crossword Maker eg <http://www.puzzle-maker.com> or a Wordsearch Maker eg <http://thewordsearch.com>
- Draw a series of colourful picture cards depicting each of these landforms and bodies of water. Make a set of definition cards to match. Invite your family and friends to pair each picture card with the correct definition card

### Writing Activities:

- Many people have developed wonderful bird stamp collections since birds first appeared on postage stamps in 1875. Imagine you have been looking for a particular bird stamp for years and have finally found it. Describe the stamp you had been looking for and the lengths you went to find it. Many stamp collectors find this a very helpful website <http://www.bird-stamps.org>
- Write a story about the wish you made as you crossed The Wishing Bridge at the Gap of Dunloe – they say all wishes made on the bridge come true!
- As you are taking a trip in a jaunting car around the Ring of Kerry, the Jarvey tells you of a very mysterious humming noise which the people of Killarney keep hearing. Imagine you are the person who helps the people of the town to discover the source of the mysterious sound

### **Science/Geography Exploration**

- Locate Killarney National Park on the Magical Irish Landscape
- Use your atlas, a map of Ireland or Google Maps to locate the County in which Killarney National Park is located
- Pinpoint the three lakes of Killarney – Lough Leane, Muckross Lake and Upper Lake - and identify which is the largest of the three
- Ireland's rivers, lakes and oceans have been a rich source of food for the people of Ireland since ancient times. Fisherman made boats like the Currach using wood and animal skins to help them fish the seas and inland waters. Why do you think traditional fishing boats like the Currach and the Galway Hooker are unique to the west coast of Ireland?

### **Math Activities**

- The McGillicuddy Reeks in County Kerry is the highest mountain range in Ireland. The mountain range includes Carrauntoohil, Mangerton Mountain, Purple Mountain and Torc Mountain. Arrange these four mountains in order according to height, starting with the highest mountain
- Calculate the distance from the centre of Killarney town to (i) Ross Castle (ii) Kate Kearney's Cottage (iii) Torc Waterfall (iv) Muckross Abbey (v) The Valentia Weather Station. Which landmark is furthest from the town?
- The Wild Atlantic Way is a magical tourist trail which runs along the west coast of Ireland, The route is 2500 km long and spans three provinces and nine counties. Calculate how much of the trail is found within each county

### **Nature Walk**

- There are over 450 species of birds in Ireland ranging from seabirds such as Gannets and Puffins to garden birds such as Goldfinch and Robins. Take time to observe bird activity near where you live and see how many birds you can identify in your environment. Use the images on <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie> to help you
- Make sketches of the species of bird which you find
- Identify different bird-watching sites in Ireland eg coastal areas, nature reserves, marshlands, woodland, meadows, rivers and lakes. Which species of bird do you think most likely inhabit these sites?
- Keep a log of bird sightings and bird activity near your home. You can use the BirdTrack online recording tool on <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie> to help you store your records and help with protecting bird species in Ireland
- It is very important for birds to be able to wash their feathers to enable them to fly freely. Make a birdbath in your garden using a flat lid or an old frying pan, a pot or bucket and some stones

### **Music**

- *Siamsa Tire* in Tralee, Co Kerry, celebrates Irish culture and is the home of the National Folk Theatre. Which sort of folk traditions are preserved by this cultural organisation and why? Which of these traditions are of interest to you?