

Fourth Class – Magical Irish Landscape Activities

Oral Language Activities

- Sequence the pictures in whatever way you like
- Make an alphabetical list of as many jobs and occupations linked to the Magical Irish Landscape as you can eg A =Artist, B= Botanist- C=Carpenter, D=Driver etc
- Talk about and reflect upon the many ways people make a living which is linked to food, farming, fisheries and forestry

Reading Activities

- Identify Blarney Castle on the Magical Irish Landscape
- There are many myths and legends about Blarney Castle, home of the Blarney Stone. Find and read a number of these and select one which you find believable. Identify the main characters, the setting and the plot of the myth. Which parts of the myth or legend do you believe to be true?

Make and Do

- Choose a theme suggested by the Magical Irish Landscape eg Ancient buildings, Seasons, Fauna, Flora, Transport and create a Magical Irish Landscape Crossword using a Crossword Maker eg <http://www.puzzle-maker.com>
- Gather up some household junk eg toilet rolls, cardboard boxes, old buttons etc and create your own medieval stronghold

Writing Activities

- It is said that if you kiss the Blarney Stone you will receive the “gift of the gab”. Would you like to receive this gift? Write a story about the day you kissed the Blarney Stone. Tell what happened and of the many ways you used the gift. Are you still using it?
- Many famous people have visited Blarney Castle since it was first built. Identify one of these visitors and write an account of what happened when they stumbled into the poison garden in the castle grounds. . .
- A prehistoric stone circle consisting of seven standing stones and two fallen ones is located within the grounds of Blarney Castle. Why do you think two of the stones have fallen over? Write a story which is set at this ancient druid site.
- The Muskerry Light Railway was built in 1887 to promote tourism in and around the Blarney area. Imagine you were travelling on the train the day the railway line opened. Write a letter to a friend describing the atmosphere on the train as you travelled from Cork city to Blarney

Science/Geography Exploration

- Use your atlas, a map of Ireland or Google Maps to locate the county and townland in which Blarney castle is located

Math Activities

- The Muskerry Light Railway was opened in 1887 and closed in 1934. Calculate how long the railway line was opened for?
- Imagine your teacher asks you to help plan a school tour to Blarney Castle and Gardens using public transport. Use the Bus Eireann (<http://www.buseireann.ie>) and Iarnrod Eireann (<http://www.irishrail.ie>) websites to create a workable timetable to get you there and back in one day

Nature Walk

- Ferns are prehistoric plants which were around when dinosaurs roamed upon the earth. Ireland is home to many different species of fern such as Bracken fern, Killarney fern, Hart's-tongue and Maidenhead fern. Using the Images A-Z function on <http://www.irishwildflowers.ie> see how many ferns in your environment you can identify
- Make sketches of the species of fern which you find

Music

- Download and listen to the songs "Blarney Roses" and "Where the Blarney Roses Grow" on You Tube
- Make a list of all the counties and towns mentioned in both songs. How many of these counties and towns have you visited?
- Identify the musical instruments you hear. Are they traditional Irish instruments?