

Sixth Class – Magical Irish Landscape Activities

Oral Language Activities

- Sequence the pictures in whatever way you like
- A number of local and national festivals are held throughout Ireland each year (eg walking, food, film, opera, storytelling). Which festival would you most like to attend and why?

Reading Activities

- Identify the Megalithic Passage Tomb at Newgrange on the Magical Irish Landscape
- Newgrange has been designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. What is UNESCO an acronym for and what is UNESCO's mission?
- Describe what is meant by a World Heritage Site. Are there any other World Heritage Sites in Ireland? If so, where are they and what do you think they have in common?

Make and Do

- Imagine you are an early cave dweller. Create a series of pictures showing a message which you left on the cave wall for your family just before you set off on a hunt
- Find and collect a variety of stones, some pieces of wood and some colourful leaves in your environment and use them to make an interesting piece of Rock Art or Land Art
- Collect some large stones or pebbles. Use chinks, pastels or the juice of some berries to draw spirals, swirls or circles such as those seen on the curb stone at the entrance to the inner chamber at Newgrange. Can you design and make a stone structure using your stones?

Writing Activities

- Imagine you receive a letter in the post saying that you are one of the lucky 60 people to be granted entry to the chamber at Newgrange to watch the Winter Solstice Sunrise. Write your feelings on hearing the good news and describe your experience of the solstice on the day you travelled there
- "Famous singers should be allowed to give concerts at all World Heritage Sites in Ireland" Write a strong argument in favour of or against the debate topic. How well can you persuade your friends and family of your viewpoint?

Science/Geography Exploration

- Use your atlas, a map of Ireland or Google Maps to locate the County in which Newgrange is located
- Archaeology can tell us so much about human activity through the ages. Excavation of sites and retrieval of artefacts can tell us much about human art, religion, economics, pastimes and way of life. Stone circles, Tombs, Dolmens, Friaries and Monastic settlements all tell us about our ancient ancestors. Are there any archaeological sites near where you live and have you visited them? Think of ways in which you can be a good steward of the past while living in the present!

Math Activities

- If 479,001, 600 different landscapes can be made using 12 MYRIORAMA picture cards, how many different landscapes do you think you can make using your 6 Magical Irish Landscape cards?

Nature Walk

- Trees were a very important part of Celtic Irish Culture. Take time to admire the many beautiful trees which surround us. The Oak, Ash, Hazel, Birch, Rowan, Willow, Holly and Hawthorn are native species and were well respected by our Celtic ancestors. Use the

images on [http:// www.treecouncil.ie](http://www.treecouncil.ie) or <http://www.treecentre.ie> to help you identify these Celtic Greats

- Trunks, twigs, leaves, buds, flowers, seeds and fruits can help you to identify exactly what species of tree (native or non-native) you are looking at. Take a photograph of what you see for reference purposes
- Look carefully at different leaf shapes – sometimes Latin adjectives tell you about the shape of the leaf - for example the word ‘Spatulate’ means the leaf is shaped like a spoon, ‘Hastate’ means it is shaped like a spear and ‘Cordate’ means it is shaped like a heart. What other leaf shapes can you find? Can you find other Latin leaf shaped adjectives to match?
- Earth Day is celebrated around the world on 22nd April each year. Consider the important role trees play in our lives and think of ways to celebrate and protect tree life in Ireland. Could you plan a special tree activity for Earth Day?
- Make sketches of the species of trees which you find in your environment. Consider how these trees might look in different seasons – Spring? Summer? Autumn? Winter?

Music

- Listen to natural sound sources – the wind, animals, water flowing, bird song. Use stones and wood and other things you find in nature to explore and create the many different sounds you hear. What sort of nature sounds can you make? Don’t forget to think of the sounds you hear when near an ocean, a river, a forest . . . and other magical places where you like to spend time
- Irish Dancing has always been an important part of Irish heritage and culture. Jigs, Reels, and Hornpipes are very popular forms of traditional Irish dance. Watch a clip of the world famous “Riverdance” stage show and see if you can identify these different dance forms. Think of ways you could learn some Irish dance steps . . . Happy dancing!