

## Third Class – Magical Irish Landscape Activities

### Oral Language Activities

- Sequence the pictures in whatever way you like
- Talk about and reflect upon why a thatched cottage is a symbol of Ireland
- Identify some of the characteristics of a thatched cottage eg roof, half door, cottage windows, porch, lime wash, hearth etc
- Why do you think this form of housing was so popular in Ireland long ago?
- Why do you think there are much fewer thatched cottages to be seen in Ireland today?
- Draw a picture of a thatched cottage and label its different parts. If you feel like it you can draw both the exterior and the interior

### Reading Activities

- Find a story about someone who lives in a thatched cottage in Ireland today (ask adults, use books and/or your computer)
- Find out what sort of materials are used to build a thatched cottage. Why do you think these materials are suitable? (ask adults, use books and/or your computer)
- Think about and discuss the sections of a library in which you might expect to find books about Ireland and Irish culture. From which section would you choose to select a book?
- Can you find and read some advertisements promoting different holiday experiences for tourists who come to visit our Magical Irish Landscape? Don't forget to think about billboards, magazines, television and newspapers

### Make and Do

- Create a Word Search template using a ruler to make the word search boxes. Alternatively use a Word Search Maker eg <http://thewordsearch.com>
- Decide on ten words linked to the Magical Irish landscape to include in your word search
- Use your dictionary to make sure you have spelt each word correctly
- Make a copy of your word search and invite a member of your family or a friend to complete the search
- Use a timer to make the word search extra challenging

### Writing Activities

- Make a list of all the nouns you can find in the Magical Irish Landscape. Can you make a list of all those nouns in their plural form eg fox-foxes; sky-skies; hoof-hooves. How many use a special rule to make their plural?
- Identify ten animals in the landscape – Make a list of the young of each of those animals eg hare, leveret; swan, cygnet; cow, calf etc
- Drawing on your knowledge of direct and indirect speech, create a short dialogue between two characters who meet for the first time at the bridge in the Magical Irish Landscape. Don't forget to use inverted commas when your characters are speaking!
- Drawing on your knowledge of persuasive writing, write a short piece persuading the local people of the reasons why we need to preserve our natural landscape

### Science/Geography Exploration

- Look at the river in the Magical Irish Landscape. Identify a river near where you live and name it. Do you know what wildlife lives in that river – Frogs? Otters? Fish?
- Use the internet to find out about the lifecycle of one of the animals you have identified
- Ask an adult to take you to the river. Discuss what you need to know to keep safe before you go (Ref Primary School (PAWS) <https://watersafety.ie>)

- What insects do you think you might find near or under the rocks or in the water? Can you spot any Skaters, Mayfly, Dragonfly, Beetles, Spiders or Butterflies?
- Identify the directions of 'upstream' and 'downstream' towards the 'source' and the 'mouth' of the river? If you have a pooter, use it! If you don't, try making one (<http://www.discoverwildlife.com>)
- Make a paper boat and see if it will float. Will your paper boat travel upstream or downstream? Why do you think this?
- Draw a map of the river from source to mouth and identify the parts of the river including the river bank, the river bed, the upper course, middle course and lower course

### **Math Activities**

- Can you think of a way to find out the length, or the width or the depth of the river near you?
- Is it possible for you to measure the length of the river? Think of different ways you might do that
- If you walked half the length of the river, how far would you have walked?
- If you walked one quarter of the length of the river, how far would you have walked?
- If you walked three quarters of the length of the river, how far would you have walked?

### **Nature Walk**

- Identify the ways in which the river can provide food and shelter for animals. Why do you think an animal might choose to live in the river near you?

### **Music**

- Look at the musicians outside the thatched cottage. If you were to compose a piece of music to accompany the telling of a story about the Magical Irish Landscape what musical instruments would you choose? Describe the sounds you might like your audience to hear and what effects those sounds might have on the story you tell