

1

ACTIVITY BOOK

THE TREASURY TRAIL

FOR EXPLORING THE TREASURY – CELTIC AND EARLY
CHRISTIAN IRELAND, EXHIBITION

2



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7

Challenge yourself to discover all the artefacts on the trail, and record and sketch their details like an Archaeologist!

DID YOU KNOW?

A TREASURY IS THE NAME OF A PLACE, WHERE VALUABLE AND RARE THINGS ARE SAFELY STORED. MANY CHURCHES HAD TREASURIES, WHERE IMPORTANT AND HOLY OBJECTS WERE KEPT.

8

museum

National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

Archaeology

**ENTER THE TREASURY EXHIBITION.
GO THROUGH THE ARCHWAY AND
HUNT FOR A LONG BRONZE HORN.**



BRONZE HORN, LOUGHNASHADE, CO ARMAGH

1

This is a musical instrument, a horn, which was played by people who lived in Ireland during the Iron Age, over 2200 years ago. It had a very very loud sound. In Europe similar horns were played by people called Celts, during battles, to frighten their enemies.

**WHICH MUSICAL INSTRUMENT
WOULD YOU PLAY LOUDLY
TO FRIGHTEN PEOPLE?
WRITE THE NAME HERE**

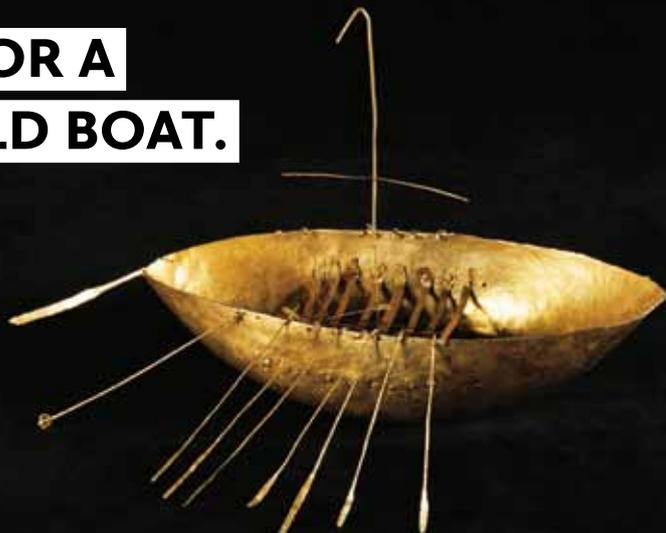
**IS THERE ANY DECORATION
ON THE HORN? TICK THE ANSWER**

YES

NO

**GOLD BOAT,
BROIGHTER, CO DERRY**

**LOOK NEARBY FOR A
VERY SMALL GOLD BOAT.**



2

This gold boat was found with neck ornaments and what appears to be a mini-cauldron! In 1896 they were discovered by two farmers, whilst ploughing the soil at Broughter, close to the ancient shore at Lough Foyle! According to mythology, Lough Foyle is connected to the Irish sea god Manannán mac Lir.

HOW MANY OARS CAN YOU SEE ON THE BOAT?

DO YOU THINK A GOLD BOAT WAS A GOOD GIFT FOR A SEA GOD?

GO INTO THE CENTRE OF THE ROOM AND LOOK FOR THE ARDAGH CHALICE.



THE ARDAGH CHALICE, ARDAGH, CO LIMERICK

READ THE LABEL AND FILL IN THE SENTENCE BELOW: THE ARDAGH CHALICE WAS MADE 1200 YEARS AGO IN

 AD.

CAN YOU SEE THE ALMOST HIDDEN INITIALS OF THE APOSTLES ON THE SILVER CUP? WRITE ONE OF THEM DOWN HERE.

3

Imagine digging for potatoes in a ringfort and finding a chalice instead! This is exactly how this silver chalice was found, in 1868, by a boy at Reerasta, Ardagh, Co. Limerick. Chalices are used in churches during the Christian mass.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE SAM MAGUIRE CUP IS GIVEN ANNUALLY TO THE WINNERS OF THE IRISH GAA GAELIC FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP. IT WAS INSPIRED BY THE SHAPE AND DESIGN OF THE ARDAGH CHALICE.

LOOK NEARBY FOR THE TARA BROOCH.



THE TARA BROOCH, BETTYSTOWN, CO MEATH.

4

This brooch of silver and gold was made for an important person to wear on their cloak. Look at the tiny gold designs and search for the mysterious animal head on the pin of the brooch.

HOW MANY LONG-BEAKED BIRDS ARE ON THE PIN OF THE BROOCH?

HOW MANY EYES DOES THE ANIMAL ON THE PIN OF THE BROOCH HAVE?

**CONTINUE AROUND THE EXHIBITION
AND LOOK FOR AN ARM-SHAPED SHRINE.**

5



A shrine is the name given to a box or place, where something holy is displayed or kept safe. This shrine houses the arm bones of St Lachtin.

**CAN YOU SEE THE
SNAKES ON THE ARM?**

YES

NO

DID YOU KNOW?

A SHRINE IS THE NAME GIVEN TO AN OBJECT OR PLACE INSIDE OF WHICH IS SOMETHING HOLY. THIS SHRINE HOUSES THE ARM BONES OF ST LACHTIN.

**THE SHRINE OF
ST LACHTIN'S ARM,
DONAGHMORE, CO CORK.**

GO THROUGH THE DOOR AT THE END OF THE ROOM AND LOOK FOR A LARGE STONE AT THE BACK WALL.

6

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TRY AND RECORD THE OGHAM CARVINGS MARKINGS WHICH YOU SEE ON THE STONE FROM MONATAGGERT, CO CORK.



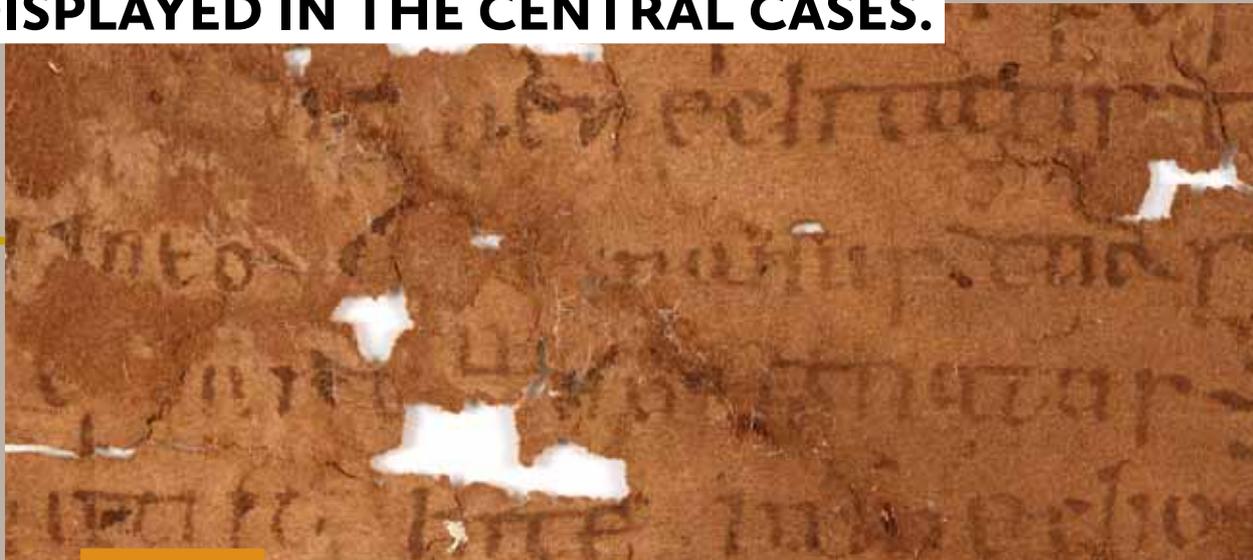
OGHAM STONE

Some Ogham stones seem to have been land markers; others are for remembering important people or marking out graves. The Ogham alphabet has 20 letters shown as lines or strokes at different angles on a line.

DID YOU KNOW?

OGHAM IS THE EARLIEST KNOWN WRITING SYSTEM IN IRELAND. OVER 1600 YEARS AGO, DURING THE 4TH CENTURY AD, PEOPLE BEGAN TO CARVE IT INTO WOOD AND STONE!

LOOK FOR THE MANUSCRIPT PAGES FROM THE FADDAN MORE PSALTER DISPLAYED IN THE CENTRAL CASES.



**PSALTER,
FADDAN MORE, CO TIPPERARY**

7

Faddan More is the name of the bog in Tipperary where this book was found in 2006.

This book was written by hand by a monk in a Monastery. Today, not many people can write in the beautiful writing with which the monks wrote, called calligraphy. This book was written around 1200 years ago, when very few people knew how to write and to read.



DID YOU KNOW?

A PSALTER IS A BOOK FULL POEMS AND HYMNS FROM THE BIBLE, WHICH ARE KNOWN AS PSALMS.

WRITE YOUR NAME HERE

MY FAVOURITE

8

WHICH WAS YOUR FAVOURITE OBJECT OF ALL THE ARTEFACTS WHICH YOU SAW IN THE TREASURY EXHIBITION? WRITE THE NAME HERE

DID YOU KNOW?

AN ARTEFACT IS AN OBJECT MADE BY PEOPLE IN THE PAST.

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NOW GO INTO THE LAST ROOM OF THE EXHIBITION. EXPLORE MORE ABOUT THE DESIGNS AND PATTERNS USED ON THE OBJECTS.

DON'T FORGET TO MAKE A RUBBING OF THE PATTERNS USING THE CRAYONS AND PAPER!

THE END

To discover more Activity Sheets contact:
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