Winners of the Sandford Award for Heritage Education 2014

The Heritage Education Trust independently assesses museums and heritage sites across Britain and Ireland and has recognised the National Museum of Ireland - Country life for the high quality of its learning programmes.

National Museum of Ireland - Country Life
Opening Hours:
10am to 5pm Tuesday to Saturday
2pm to 5pm Sundays
Closed Mondays, Good Friday & Christmas Day
To arrange a visit contact the Bookings Office:
Tel: 094 90 31751
Email: educationtph@museum.ie

Primary & Post Primary Learning Resource
Introduction
The National Museum of Ireland-Country Life is home to the Irish Folklife Collection, a collection of objects representing Irish rural life from 1850-1950. This learning resource will help you to explore the first two floors of the Museum, levels A & B. The main themes covered are: Aran Island clothing, the Irish Folklife collection, romance and reality, continuity and change, the times, the natural environment, housing and materials. These are colour coded so you know which section relates to each topic. This workbook is available to download from www.museum.ie plus accompanying teachers’ notes and ideas for post-visit activities.

How To Use This Resource
Complete the workbook during your visit to the Museum. We recommend that you go through the contents with your teacher when you are back in the classroom to further explore and discuss the topics.

Where To Start
Begin at the Aran Island Clothing exhibition on Level A. Work through the questions to discover more about the objects and information on display. On completion of the workbook, you will have expanded your knowledge and understanding of the themes of the Museum of Country life.

Answering The Questions
Check each section of the workbook for these icons P PP
You are encouraged to try to answer all of the questions but some are more challenging than others!

Questions with a P are more suitable for Senior Primary: 3rd - 6th Class
Questions with a PP are more suitable for Post Primary: Junior Cycle

What do these materials all have in common?

The photos below show some of the processes involved in making the clothing on display. Can you match the photo with the process?

A. Knitting
B. Weaving
C. Sewing
D. Spinning
The Carbon Footprint of Clothing

Which do you think has the higher carbon footprint?

A. The clothes of the Aran Islanders  
B. The clothes you are wearing today  

Give a reason for your answer

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

The Irish Folklife Collection

Go to the The Irish Folklife Collection exhibition

Read the panels to find the answers.

What aspects of heritage did the Irish state start collecting?

What example of a commissioned object is on display and in the photograph?

How does the Museum interpret its collections differently today?

What does the word mean? Circle the correct answer.

- It commissioned them to make an object using authentic techniques and materials…
  a) forced   b) specially ordered   c) frightened   d) demanded

- Today folklife and folklore are increasingly studied as part of ethnology…
  a) craftwork   b) life   c) history   d) the study of human beings

- Artists and writers have frequently showed people in the countryside living an idealised way of life…
  a) horrible   b) unrealistic   c) funny   d) flawed

- Popular films such as ‘Man of Aran’ and the ‘The Quietman’ helped perpetuate the idea of a heroic or idyllic life in Ireland…
  a) perfect   b) lazy   c) brave   d) tragic

Who do you think would have made clothes like this in the past?

___________________________________________________________________________________________
To discover what this object is, think about the questions you might need to ask...

1. What materials are used to make this object?

2. What size is the object?

3. What shape is it?

4. Does it look heavy or light?

5. Are there any marks or features on it?

6. What other questions might you ask?

Now have a guess at what this object is used for

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Romanticism vs. Reality

The top row of images depict Irish country life as beautiful, happy, sunny & peaceful. These pictures are ‘romanticised’ and are not necessarily showing the reality of life as it was.

Read the descriptions of each picture and write in the ‘romanticised’ word used to describe it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentimentalised</th>
<th>Nostalgic</th>
<th>Dramatic</th>
<th>Picturesque</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Idealised</td>
<td>Scenic</td>
<td>Timeless</td>
<td>Heroic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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These images convey the reality of life in the countryside for some people in the past. Choose a word to describe each image.

- Heavy
- Smelly
- Wet
- Cold
- Boring
- Exciting
- Tiring
- Necessary
- Hardship
- Painful

A
B
C
D

Choose one image and describe what is happening.

Think about it!

Do you think there is still a romanticised view of Ireland today? Yes ☐ No ☐

Give a reason for your answer

Can you give any examples?

Why did some objects change very little over time?

Well done! You have completed Level A tasks. Now go to Level B.
Look carefully at each of the pictures. Can you find similar objects on display and name them?

What does the word mean? Circle the correct answer.

A. Around this time An Garda Síochána was formed, there was a re-distribution of land from large landlords to individual farmers. Along with the establishment of a new radio service Irish was made compulsory in schools.
   a) forced  b) free  c) optional  d) essential

B. Around this time social and economic changes continued to affect the lives of rural people. Along with the establishment of the GAA there were also mass demonstrations and outbreaks of civil unrest.
   a) courteous  b) topical  c) public  d) unmannerly

C. After the prospect of home rule and the outbreak of war, the Easter rising and civil war took place in Ireland.
   a) revision  b) probability  c) vision  d) illustration

Which time period is correct for each statement?

- New Hope For change/Land War (1879-82)
- New Hope For change/Land War (1901-23)
- An Irish State (1924-1949)
The Natural Environment

Investigate this exhibition to discover the types of materials that were used to make the objects. Identify the object in each photograph.

Can you list the materials these objects were made from?

Why do you think these materials were chosen to make these objects?

Look at these different types of houses and the materials they were made from

1. What is this style of roofing called? ______________
2. What do all these houses have in common?___________________________
3. How do these houses compare to your own home?___________________________

Find The Answers:

A. How old is the chair? _____________________________________________
B. Name the materials used to make this basket __________________________
C. What animal was this object made for? _______________________________

Well done! You have completed workbook 1.