

Hola    Ciao  
 SALUT    Salam  
 Konichiwa    NI HAO



## Discover Ireland's Past through English

Elementary/Pre-Intermediate

# Hearth and Home

### Hi! Welcome to the National Museum of Ireland.

When people think of Ireland in the past they think of men in the fields looking after the animals and working long hours to grow potatoes and other vegetables. But most work was in the home, and here it was the women who did everything. Women worked from early in the morning until late at night and for many it was a very difficult life. It was possible to hear Irish women say,

*"A man's work is from sun to sun  
 but a woman's work is never done".*

### Task 1- What do you think?

Here are some activities which women did in the home. Write down if you think the women did the activity every **day**, every **week** or every **year**. The first two are examples.

start the fire...	<i>every day</i>	wash clothes...	<i>every week</i>
make butter		milk the cows	
bake the bread		take eggs to the market	
paint the house		give food to the animals	
cook the meals		collect water	
bath the children		pick vegetables in autumn	

### Task 2- Check your answers

Go to Level C and find the section called 'Hearth and Home'. If you can't find it ask one of the museum attendants. Before you go into this section you can see some information about *'the housewife's week'*. The information talks about the daily tasks, the weekly tasks and the yearly tasks of the housewife. Read this information and see if your ideas in Task 1 are correct.

### Task 3

Look at the information about the housewife's week and find the words below.

Try to match the words in the information with the familiar words on the right. The first is an example.

<b>bake</b>	→	<b>turn milk</b>
<b>supper</b>		<b>clothes</b>
<b>churn</b>		<b>cook in the oven</b>
<b>feed</b>		<b>evening meal</b>
<b>laundry</b>		<b>give food to animals</b>

### Hearth and Home

In English the word 'hearth' describes the area around the fire. In the past the hearth was the warmest place in the house and also the centre of the house.

### Task 4

Work with a partner. In the 'Hearth and Home' section there are a lot of things to look at.

1. Choose five objects and write down the names (ask a museum attendant if you don't know the name or use your dictionary).
2. Then, say how people used these objects.

Here is an example to help you.

**Example:**

**1: A dresser**

This was a big cupboard with open shelves. People used it to store all their plates, cups and bowls and other kitchen things.

**2:**

**3:**

**4:**

**5:**

**Tomorrow your teacher will ask you to read your description of your five objects to your class. The other people in your class will listen and guess the name of your objects.**