

Student Workbook 1



Primary & Post Primary Learning Resource

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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

museum

National Museum of Ireland

Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

Country Life



The Aran Islands: Living The Old Ways



Go to the **Aran Islands** exhibition



Look at the clothing display.

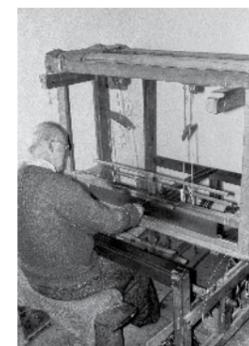
Circle 3 materials used to make these clothes.

- | | | | | |
|-------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Nylon | Cotton | Rubber | Wool | Linen |
| Fish Scales | Leather | Silk | Felt | Fur |
| Lace | Velvet | Seal Skin | Polyester | |

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



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**



Go to the **Clothing Cart**: Look, Feel & Try On!



Choose 2 different clothing items.

What material is each item made from?

Choose 2 words to describe the texture of each item

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

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

Working as a Historian



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

Romanticism vs. Reality



Go to **Romanticism vs. Reality** exhibition



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.

Sentimentalised
Idealised

Nostalgic
Scenic

Dramatic
Timeless

Picturesque
Heroic



P PP

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.

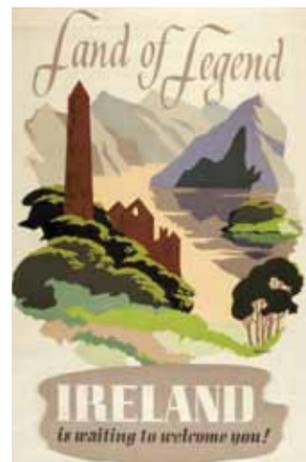
Think about it!

PP

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?



Timeless Objects



Go to the **Timeless Objects** exhibition

P PP

Write in the name of the object that is on display and also features in the picture



Continuity and Change

P PP

Why did some objects change very little over time?



Well done! You have completed Level A tasks.

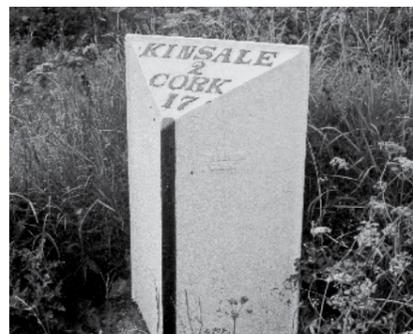
Now go to Level B.



The Times

 Go to Level B: **The Times** exhibition 

Look carefully at each of the pictures. Can you find similar objects on display and name them ?



Explore and Learn! 

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)

Location, Location, Location!



After the establishment of the Irish Free State the following place names were changed. Can you match them?

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Kings County | • Laois |
| 2. Queens County | • Port Laoise |
| 3. Maryborough | • Daingean |
| 4. Philipstown | • Dun Laoghaire |
| 5. Queenstown | • Ballydesmond |
| 6. Kingstown | • Cobh |
| 7. Kingwilliamstown | • Offaly |

19th Century Map



Find the following features and mark on the map

- Police Station
- Ring Fort
- Methodist Meeting House
- Castlebar River
- School house
- Bridges
- Pound



The Natural Environment

 Go to **The Natural Environment** exhibition



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?



Go to **101 uses of Straw** exhibition



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?



Go to **Straw, Hay and Ruses** exhibition



A

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? _____



B



C

Well done! You have completed workbook 1.

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