

LESSON PLAN

A HISTORY OF IRELAND IN 100 OBJECTS, A SELECTION 5TH & 6TH CLASS LESSON PLAN

Eileen Gray Chair, 1926



Where to see this object

National Museum of Ireland –
Decorative Arts and History, Collins
Barracks, Benburb Street, Dublin 7
[Click here to find out more](#)

Book a class trip to the museum

[Click here to find out more](#)

There may be pupils in the class for whom emigration is a very real and emotive issue.
All activities /discussions should take place at the teacher's discretion.

CURRICULUM LINKS

History

Strand: Story
Strand Unit: Stories from the lives of people in the past
Strand: Continuity and change over time
Strand Unit: Literature, art, crafts and culture

Visual Arts

Strand: Drawing
Strand Units: Making drawings; looking and responding

English

Strands: Oral language; writing
Strand Unit: Developing cognitive abilities through language

Drama

Strand: Drama to explore feelings, knowledge and ideas, leading to understanding
Strand Unit: Co-operating and communicating in making drama

RESOURCES

- Rolls of paper of uniform length
- Variety of art material – any/all of: pencils, paper, charcoal, coloured pencils, crayons

OBJECTIVES

- To begin to work as a historian.
- To approach the object from an evidence-based viewpoint.
- To discuss aspects of design of Eileen Gray's chair.
- To become aware of Ireland's outlook on the world at that time.

- To empathise with the people who lived during that time.
- To recognise the connections between life at that time and life now.

ASSESSMENT

Drama
Creative writing

DIFFERENTIATION

Activity – visual arts
Drama

LESSON

- Display image of Eileen Gray non-conformist chair.

Discussion A (speculation)

- What is this?
- Do you notice anything unusual about it?
- How old do you think it is?

Read story of Eileen Gray chair

It is recommended that children listen without seeing text on screen, which they can access at a later time.

Discussion B

- Who was Eileen Gray?
- Where was she from?
- Where did she live for most of her life?
- What movement did she belong to?
- What did that movement believe?
- Why were Eileen's designs so unusual?
- Were Irish people really interested in her designs at that time?
- Why not?
- Are people interested now?
- Do you like the chair? Why/Why not?
- Would you sit in that chair, when
watching TV?
playing on the computer?
eating your dinner?
playing a board game?

Activity – visual arts

Differentiation

- Pupils design their own chair.
- Alternatively, pupils design their own version of any item normally found in the home.
- Pupils discuss their designs.

The National Craft Gallery commissioned a response to the 100 objects from Irish designers. The design partnership, Designgoat, responded to the Eileen Gray chair by designing a new chair. Photographs of Designgoat's chair in the 'look' button for this object.

EXTENSION EXERCISES

Creative writing

Assessment

- Report: You are a furniture manufacturer in France. You receive Eileen's design for a chair and have to decide whether or not to make it. Write two short reports: one in favour and one against.
- Debate: The class is divided into two groups: those in favour of Eileen's design and those against. Pupils must argue their case, verbally or in writing.

Objects from pupils

- Ask pupils to bring in objects that are significant in their own family history.
 - A. Video the pupils talking about their object.
 - B. Create a photostory with the pupils' objects. Below are links to explanations of photostory and blogging. Pupils speak over image of themselves with object. Cut to next pupil and object. Presentation includes all pupils in class.

National centre for technology in education:

[How to use photostory](#)

[How to blog your photostory](#)

- A or B is put up on school website.

Local history

- Is there an object of interest in the school's locality?

Drama – hot seating

Assessment

Differentiation

- A pupil is designated the role of Eileen. They sit in the 'hot seat'. The other pupils question them about their designs, their life in France, what they think of Ireland at the time, etc.