

LESSON PLAN

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

Tall cross, Monasterboice late-ninth century



Where to see this object

Monasterboice, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

Book a class trip to the museum

For information on booking a guide
Tel. 041 9872843

CURRICULUM LINKS

History

Strand: Story
Strand Unit: Stories from the lives of people in the past
Strand: Early people and ancient societies
Strand Unit: Early Christian Ireland

English

Strands: Oral language; writing
Strand Unit: Emotional and imaginative development through language

S.P.H.E

Strand: Myself and the wider world
Strand Unit: Developing citizenship
Geography Strand: Human environments
Strand Unit: County, regional and national centres

Drama

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

RESOURCES

- Pencils, pens.

OBJECTIVES

- To begin to work as a historian.
- To approach the object from an evidence-based viewpoint.
- To appreciate the relevance, importance and technical brilliance of high crosses.
- To empathise with the people who lived during that time.
- To recognise the connections between life at that time and life now.

ASSESSMENT

Creative writing
Drama

DIFFERENTIATION

Drama

LESSON

- Display image of Tall cross, Monasterboice.

Read story of Tall Cross, Monasterboice.

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

Discussion A (speculation)

- Does anyone know what this is?
- What are high crosses?
- Is there a high cross near here?

Discussion B (speculation)

- Were high crosses found in any other country?
- How many high crosses were there in the country around 950?
- What scenes from The Bible, the sacred book of Christianity, are depicted on the Tall cross, Monasterboice?
- What took place at the base of these crosses?
- Who built the high crosses?
- Why were they built?
- If you lived at that time and paid for a high cross to be built, what would you arrange to be inscribed on its surface?

Activity - worksheet

- Working with a partner or in a group.
- Each pair or group is given a worksheet.

Answers to worksheet questions:

1. Lent
2. Cross
3. Bible

4. Advent
 5. Silent Night
 6. Over 2 billion
 7. Nativity
- Groups/pairs report back to class.

EXTENSION EXERCISES

Creative writing

Assessment

- Diary Entry: You are a stranger who comes across the Tall cross, Monasterboice. Write down your impressions of the cross – and remember you've never seen one before! Maybe you even bump into a local who gives you some information.
- You live in the locality of the Tall cross, Monasterboice, which is still being made. You've heard all about the time and work that has gone into the cross. When it's officially finished, there is a ceremony at its base. You go along to see what all the fuss is about!

Drama – freeze frame

Assessment

Differentiation

- Divide class into groups and assign the following scene.

A group has come along to a service at the base of the local high cross. A stranger comes across the scene. It's cold and wet and windy.

- Individuals are tapped on the shoulder and brought to life to explain what is happening, how they feel, etc.

Objects from pupils

- Ask pupils to bring in objects that are significant in their own family history.
- H. Video the pupils talking about their object.
 - I. 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.

Professional Development Service for Teachers: [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?