

Embedding Tolerance in our Young People

About Me, About Us

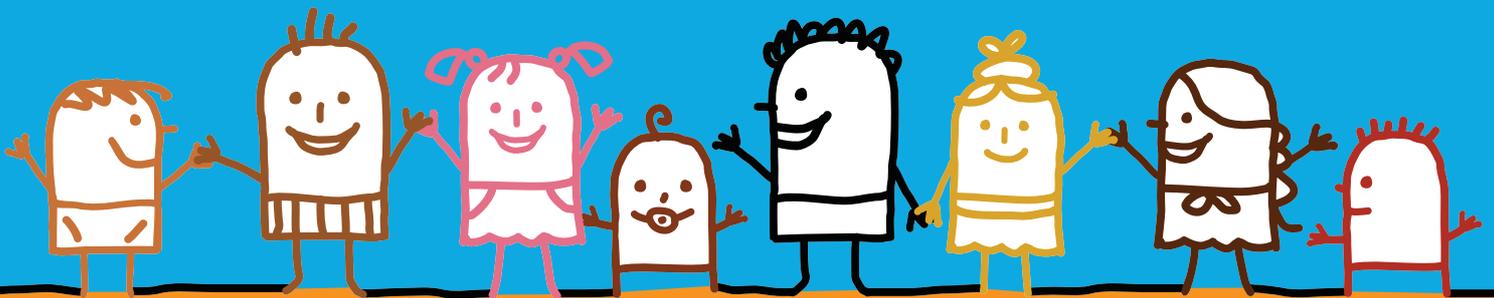
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in County Monaghan Schools

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Embedding Tolerance in our Young People

About Me, About Us Celebrating Diversity in County Monaghan Schools

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Foreword

It is a great pleasure to welcome this excellent teaching resource.

The Embedding Tolerance in our Young People Project has successfully produced a teaching and learning tool, which encompasses most areas of the new curriculum and provides teachers with the opportunity to use a thematic approach in the delivery of their classes.

Under the expert guidance of Project Co-ordinator, Emer FitzPatrick; ten teachers have used their skills and experience to produce a resource which incorporates the areas of English, History, Geography, Social, Personal and Health Education, Religion, Art, Music, Physical Education and Drama.

It is child centred, interactive and visually appealing while also being teacher friendly and very simple to use.

This teaching resource is a significant educational development. In our increasingly diverse Monaghan society, it will assist the holistic development of the children in our care. Significantly, it will focus on the issues of racism, sectarianism and bullying. It will provide the children with a basic knowledge of countries such as Latvia, Poland, Lithuania, Nigeria, and the Philippines.

More importantly, it will develop the children's understanding and appreciation of where their friends and classmates have lived before coming to Ireland. They will learn that diversity is an issue for everyone, not just our friends from other countries. Our children will grow to recognise the normality of diversity in their everyday lives and in turn, they will celebrate, respect and learn from the many different backgrounds, customs and traditions that they share with their friends on a daily basis.

Anna Mai Rooney

Principal

St. Louis Girls' National School

Monaghan Town

April 2011

Introduction

In 2009, Monaghan Education Centre made a successful application to the Monaghan County Development Board Peace III Peace & Reconciliation Partnership for funds to carry out this Peace III project. The EU Programme for Peace & Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border region of Ireland (PEACE III Programme) is a distinctive European Structural Funds programme.

In October 2009, a group of primary school teachers from nine schools spanning the four corners of County Monaghan came together in Monaghan Education Centre to discuss issues of racism, sectarianism and bullying in their schools.

Over the coming months, experiences were shared, promising practice passed on and ideas for a practical teaching tool were thrashed out.

It is with great pleasure that we now hold this completed resource in our hands.

This resource provides teachers with a framework for dealing with issues of diversity in the classroom. It provides basic information and activities that can be adapted to suit pupils of all levels, ages and abilities.

Throughout the pilot, the project team were continually amazed by the resourcefulness of the teachers and colleagues who embraced the draft material; taking words on a printed page and turning them into exciting and challenging lessons and classroom activities.

In addition to the commitment of the ten individual teachers involved in the project, a sincere thanks must be passed to the families, colleagues, pupils and parents who supported the members of this working group as they made this journey all the way from a blank page to a resource bursting with information, ideas and content.

There are hundreds of different ways to approach this material. We encourage you to find your own route through.

The Embedding Tolerance in our Young People project was very fortunate to receive Peace III funding to develop primary resources for reconciliation for use within Co. Monaghan schools. We wish to acknowledge the funding provided by Peace III, without which this project could not have proceeded.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge the work of the staff at the Peace III Office in Monaghan County Council, who have supported the 'Embedding Tolerance in our Young People' project from the outset.

Primary Schools' Working Group

Embedding Tolerance in our Young People

April 2011

Why not visit our website www.aboutmeaboutus.ie for a whiteboard friendly version of this resource including interactive games and activities?

No broadband in your area? Why not use the accompanying CD to access the same materials direct from your PC?

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Who are we?

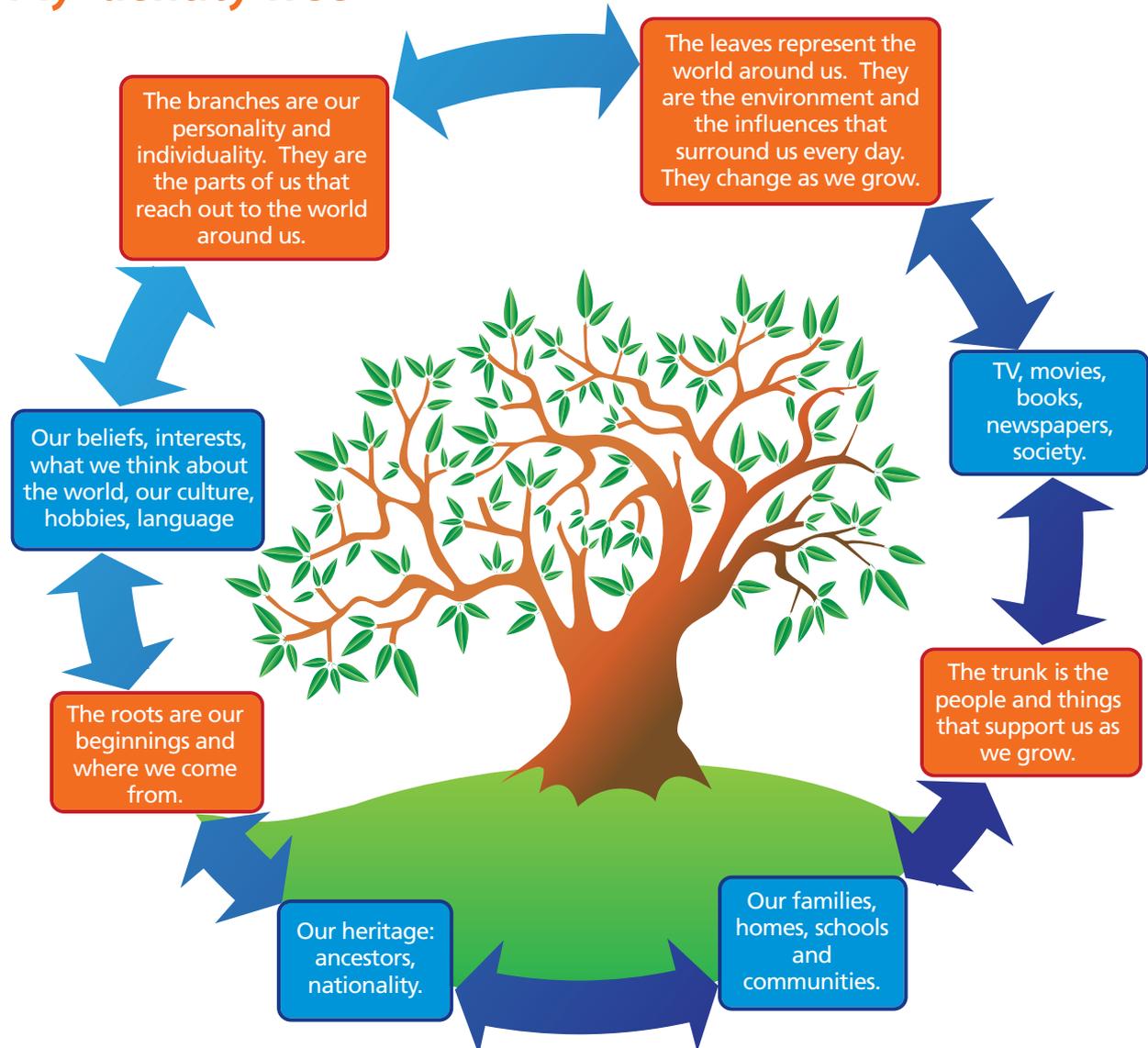
Who am I?

Integration

SPHE: *Myself, Self Identity; Myself and Others, Myself and My Family*

English: *Oral Language, Developing cognitive skills through oral language*

My Identity Tree



Each one of us is unique. Lots of different things add together to make us special in our own way. This includes our personality, appearance, abilities, heritage, culture, family traditions and where we live.

We are also part of a community. Our community is made up of many different people. We are all different ages. We might have different interests. We sometimes speak different languages. We often have different jobs. We support different teams. We might go to different churches and attend different schools.

We live together in this community as family, neighbours and friends, so we also have a lot in common.

In this book, we will look at all of the different things which influence who we are and how we all make our community special.

- **Who am I?**
- **Understanding myself and others**
- **Exploring our community**
- **The world in our classroom**
- **Understanding religious diversity**
- **Embracing our differences and working together**

My Name

Circle Time Discussion

Everyone has a name. Sometimes, a person's name can give us clues about their identity. Your name might tell a new friend where your family comes from or what is important to them.

Think about your own name.

- Do you know what it means?
- Why did your parents choose it?
- Were you called after someone (a relation, a famous person or even a pop star)?
- When a new friend hears your name for the first time, what might he/she think about
 - Are you a boy or a girl?
 - Your nationality?
 - Your religion?
 - The languages you speak?
 - Examples
 - Áine might be an Irish girl
 - Christoph might be a Christian
 - Pierre Ó Murchú might speak Irish and French
- Is he/she correct?
- Does anyone else in your class share your name?
- What else do you have in common with that person?



An assumption is something we take for granted without any proof that it is true.



Naming Traditions

In towns and villages all over Ireland, communities have their own naming traditions.

Did you know because there are so many McKennas in Emyvale, local people use special family nicknames to tell them apart.

Some travellers also have their own naming traditions. People or families who share a first name or a surname are often known by a nickname.

What surnames are common in your home town or village? Do you know of any naming traditions in your area?

Other cultures also have their own naming traditions. The Yoruba people in Nigeria use names to describe something special about the baby's birthday. Abegunde means born during a holiday and Abiodun means born during a festival.

Can anyone share a naming tradition from another culture?

In many countries, people celebrate their 'name day'. In Poland this is called **imieniny**. You can learn more about this in the section on Poland.

My Identity Crest

Have you ever asked yourself, 'Who am I?'

Take a few minutes and think about all of the different things that are important to you.

Imagine you are meeting a new classmate for the first time; you want to make him/her feel welcome so you decide to share something about yourself.

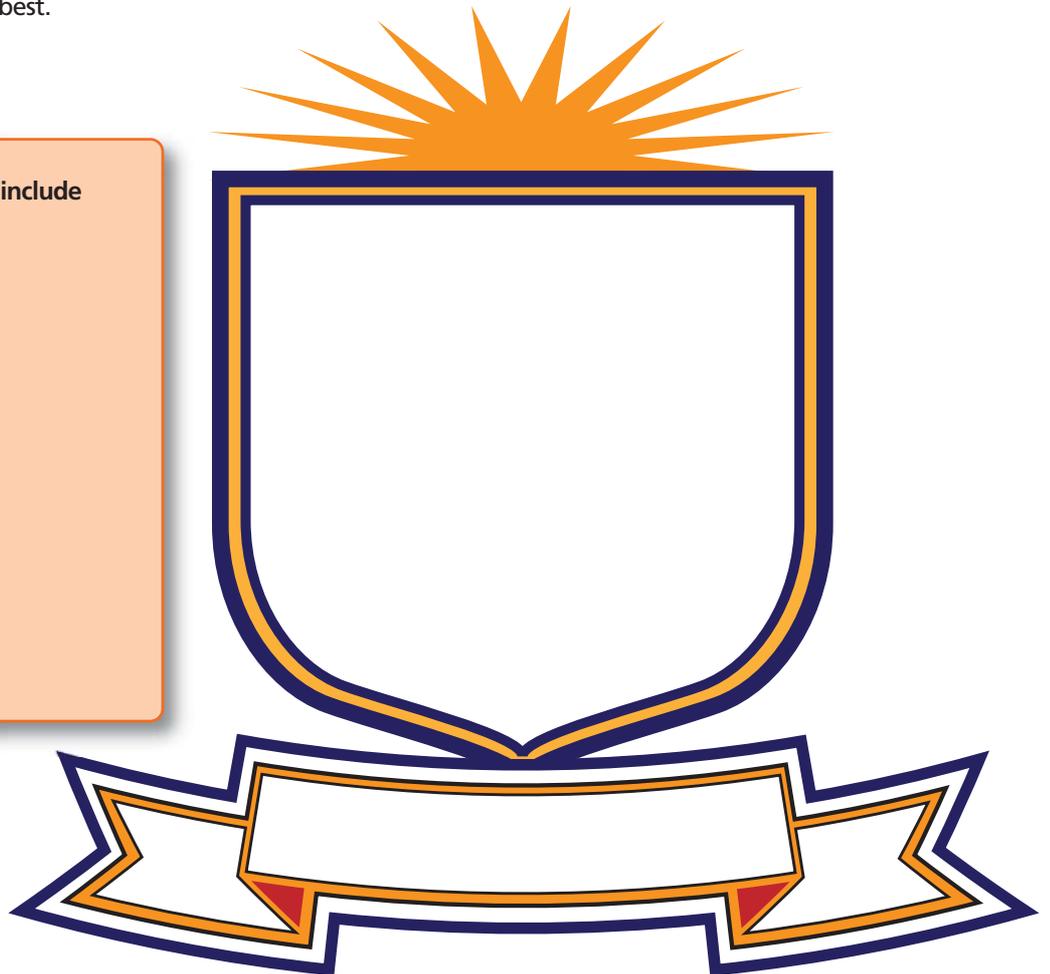
You might be a chess champion from Ballybay, who speaks fluent Portuguese and plays hurling in his spare time.

Or an Irish dancer, who loves pizza, was born in Sweden and goes to Sunday school at her local church.

Use the template to draw your identity crest. Pick five things that are important to you, to show your new friend what represents you best.

Tips: You might want to include

- Home and family
- Friends
- School
- Religion / Beliefs
- Nationality
- Sports
- Flags
- Favourite team
- Favourite food
- Favourite subject
- Favourite place
- Hobbies
- Special talent



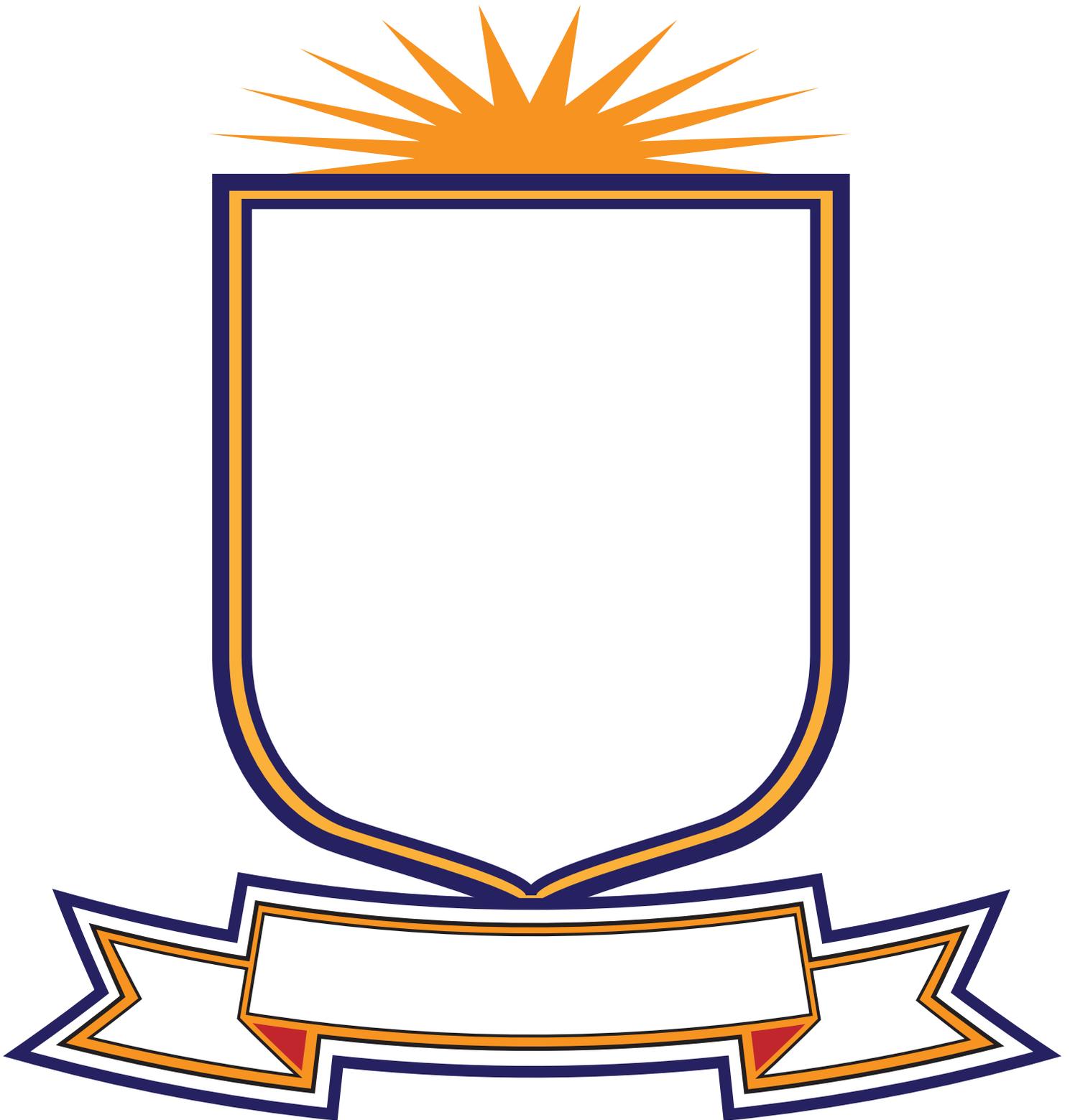
Reflection:

- Why are these symbols important to you?
- Are they unique to you or do you share them with others in the class?
- Have you chosen the same symbols as your friends?
- What do these symbols tell other people about you?

Activity

My Identity Crest

Draw your identity crest. Pick five aspects of your identity and use colours, pictures and phrases to show a visitor or a new classmate what represents you best.



Understanding Myself and Others

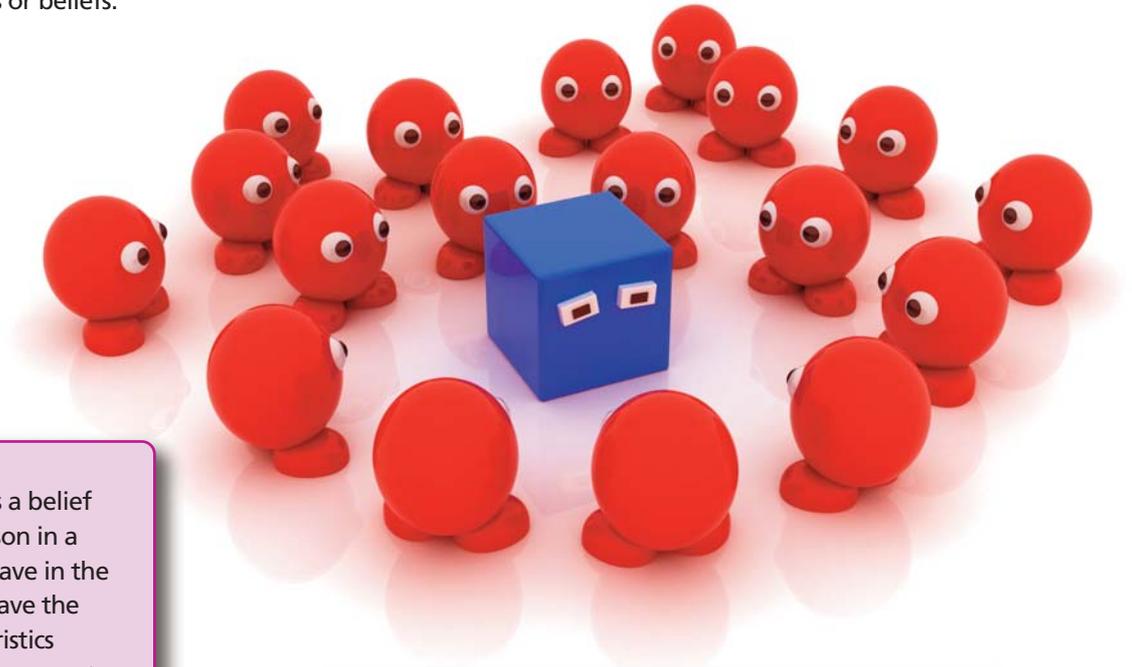
Integration

SPHE: *Myself and others, My friends and other people; Relating to other people; Myself and the wider community, Developing Citizenship*
 English: *Oral Language, Competence and confidence using language / Developing emotional and imaginative life through oral language*

Prejudice and Stereotypes

Children and adults sometimes think that they can judge people by the way they speak, the clothes they wear, the church they go to, or the colour of their skin. When we do this, we are only looking at one part of that person's identity. We make up our minds before we have all the facts.

Using stereotypes to label people we don't know is unfair. Stereotypes tell us nothing about a person's true personality, opinions or beliefs.



A **stereotype** is a belief that every person in a group will behave in the same way or have the same characteristics because they are a part of that group.

Example: All girls love to play with dolls and all boys love to play football.

Prejudice is when we have negative opinions about other people or groups.

We are prejudiced when we make up our minds not to like someone before we get to know them.

FACT or OPINION

It's important that we can tell the difference between a fact and an opinion.

A fact is something which is true. We can prove that it is true.

Example: In 2010, Ussain Bolt was the fastest man in the world.

We know this is true because Ussain Bolt holds the world record for the 100m sprint.

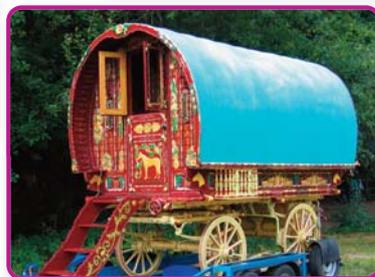
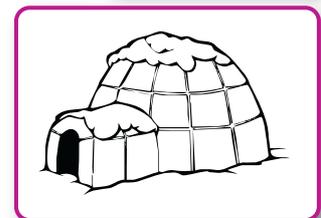
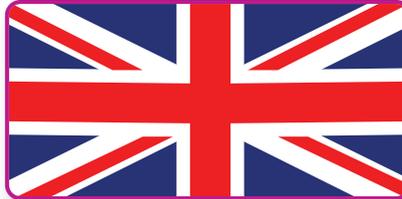
An opinion is not always true. It is an attitude that we have about something but can't prove that it is true.

Example: In 2010, Tommy Bowe was the best rugby player in Ireland.

This is an opinion not a fact. I believe it, but I can't prove it.

Symbols

What do these symbols tell me about myself and others?



Teachers' Notes:

Using a blank piece of paper, pupils should write down the first thing that comes to mind when each symbol is displayed. They should also decide: who does the symbol represent, me or someone else?

Gather the answers anonymously and collate common assumptions within your class.

Symbols/First Impressions

Using the common assumptions gathered in the 'First Impressions' and 'Symbols' exercise discuss common attitudes with your class.

Reflection – Part I:

What is a symbol and what is it used for?

Think about the symbols that represent you.

What assumptions might others make about you when they see these symbols?

How do you feel about these assumptions?

Were these assumptions based on fact or opinion?

Encourage the children to explore which other symbols represent their heritage, interests, gender and beliefs?

Reflection – Part II:

Now think about the symbols that represent other people.

What assumptions do you make about other people when you see these symbols?

How might someone else feel about these assumptions?

Were these assumptions based on fact or opinion?

Explore the links between identity and symbols. For example: Do all Catholics wear Celtic jerseys? Which flag is more important to you, the Irish flag or the EU flag? Are all ballet dancers female and all fire-fighters male? Do all travellers live in caravans?

Distribute the worksheet 'First Impressions' to your class. Pupils should work individually at first and then in small groups to discuss:

- a) first impressions people that I don't know might have about me
- b) first impressions I might have about other people.

Reflection:

How do you feel when someone makes a negative assumption about you?

How do you feel when someone makes a positive assumption about you?

How does someone else feel when you make a negative assumption about them?

How does someone else feel when you make a positive assumption about them?

Group work:

Discuss:

Which statements are fact and which are opinion?

What extra information do you need before you make up your mind about a new friend?

What first impression would you like a new friend have about you?

Teachers' Notes:

You can extend this activity by challenging the assumptions pupils may have made about the children in the pictures. Provide them with more information about each picture and ask whether they would like to change any of their previous answers...e.g. 'What if I told you that girl is called Agnieszka?' or 'What if I told you that boy speaks Irish with his Mam and Dad?'; 'What if I told you that girl lives in Castleblayney?' 'What if I told you that boy goes to Sunday School?' or 'What if that girl spoke with a Carrickmacross accent?'

Activity



In a small group, look at each picture.
Tell me about the person you see.

Tips:

How much can you tell about me from:

- my name?
- my age?
- where I live?
- the school I go to?
- my accent?
- the colour of my skin?
- the church I attend?
- the sports I play?
- the clothes I wear?
- the food I eat?

How much can you tell about me before
you really know me?

Challenging Myths and Understanding Stereotypes

Mammy always makes dinner and Daddy always fixes things around the house.

Everyone in County Monaghan lives on a farm and eats potatoes every single day.

All travellers live in caravans and travel around from place to place.

School children are too young to have opinions or make decisions for themselves.

Fact or Fiction

There were no foreign people in Co. Monaghan when my Mammy and Daddy were young.

Everyone in Africa is really poor and needs our help.

Catholics and Protestants believe completely different things about God.

Protestants can't attend Catholic schools and Catholics can't attend Protestant schools.

Disabled people need lots of help. They can't do anything on their own.

Challenging Myths and Understanding Stereotypes

Children have rights. These rights are written down in a very important document called the 'Convention on the Rights of the Child' (CRC).

It says:

Children can give their own opinions. Adults should take children's opinions seriously.

Children can find out information and share their views with others unless it harms or offends them.

Children can choose their own religion and beliefs.

Parents should help their children decide what is right and wrong.

Children can choose their own friends. They can join or set up groups as long as they don't harm others.

If you want to learn more about the CRC follow this link:
<http://www.unicef.org/rightsite/files/unrcchildfriendlylanguage.pdf>

Find out: Do a survey of your class...

How many people live on a farm?

How many people eat potatoes every day?

Who does the house work in your family?

Not all travellers live in caravans. Many travellers now live in houses. They travel less than they did in the past.

It doesn't matter if a traveller lives in a house or in a caravan. Being a traveller is about more than just the type of home you live in.

Travellers have their own culture, language and traditions.

Facts

Africa is a huge continent. It is made up of lots of different countries and people.

Some countries are poor but others are not. Even in poor countries, not everybody living there is very poor. When we think about Africa we should remember that every country is different.

Small numbers of people have immigrated to Co. Monaghan for many years.

Many doctors from all over the world came to work in Monaghan Hospital. Many Italian families came to Ireland to open chip shops and restaurants. Can you think of any other examples?

Catholics and Protestant share many beliefs about God. All Christians follow the life of Jesus Christ.

Catholic and Protestant children can attend either Catholic or Protestant schools. Pupils of all religions attend schools in Co. Monaghan. Their parents chose one that suits best.

Disabled people are often very independent. They can go to college, get a good job, live alone, drive a car, have a family of their own and enjoy a full life.

Exploring our Community

Integration

Geography: Human Environments, People living and working in the local area

History: Local Studies, My Family / My locality through the ages

History: Life, society work and culture in the past

SPHE: Myself and the wider world, Developing citizenship

Activity

Communities in our Classroom



Work together as a class to make a jigsaw of the communities in your classroom.

Every child should complete one piece of the jigsaw.

Decorate your piece of the jigsaw with colours, words and pictures which represent the people, clubs, places and activities which are important to you.

When we put all of the pieces of our jigsaw together, we will see how many different communities, interests and personalities come together to make our classroom special.

You can also use photographs or magazine cuttings to complete this activity.

We all live in Co. Monaghan

Born here?

Play Gaelic football?

Have a Monaghan accent?

Be Protestant or Catholic?

What does it mean to be part of a community in Co. Monaghan?

Go to school here?

Read Patrick Kavanagh poems?

Have an Irish Passport?

County Monaghan is home to lots of people from all over Ireland and the world.

You don't need an Irish passport to be a part of your local community in Clones, or Carrickmacross or any town or village in this county.

Families in Co. Monaghan might speak English, Polish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Irish, Swahili, Italian, French or Arabic.

Think about what it means to come from County Monaghan today.

What similarities do people in our communities share?

And, what differences make our communities more interesting?

Investigate

Many people from different countries live in County Monaghan.

Do you know how many?

Many people from County Monaghan live in different countries.

Do you have relatives abroad?

Did you or your Mammy or Daddy ever live abroad?

Many different languages are spoken in County Monaghan.

How many can you list?

Many different religions are worshipped in County Monaghan.

How many can you name?

Activity

Nationalities Living in Co. Monaghan

More than 55 thousand (55,000) people live in Co. Monaghan.

Do you know which nationalities live here?



We all live in Co. Monaghan

What do I know about these nationalities?

What would I like to find out?



Watch out for the results of the latest census. How does it compare with the 2006 Census?

Activity

Religions Practiced in Co. Monaghan

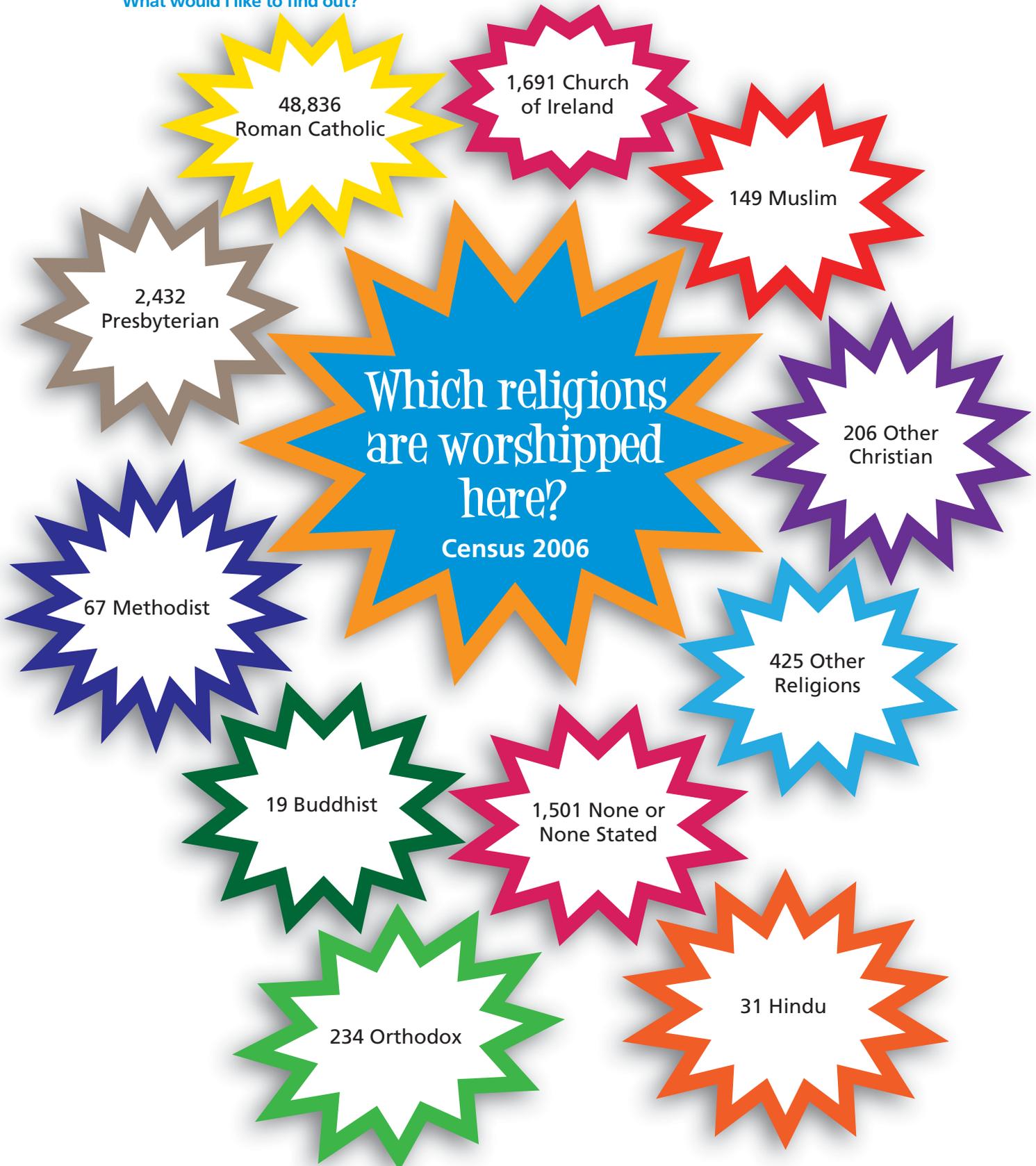
What do I know about these religions?

What would I like to find out?



We all live in Co. Monaghan

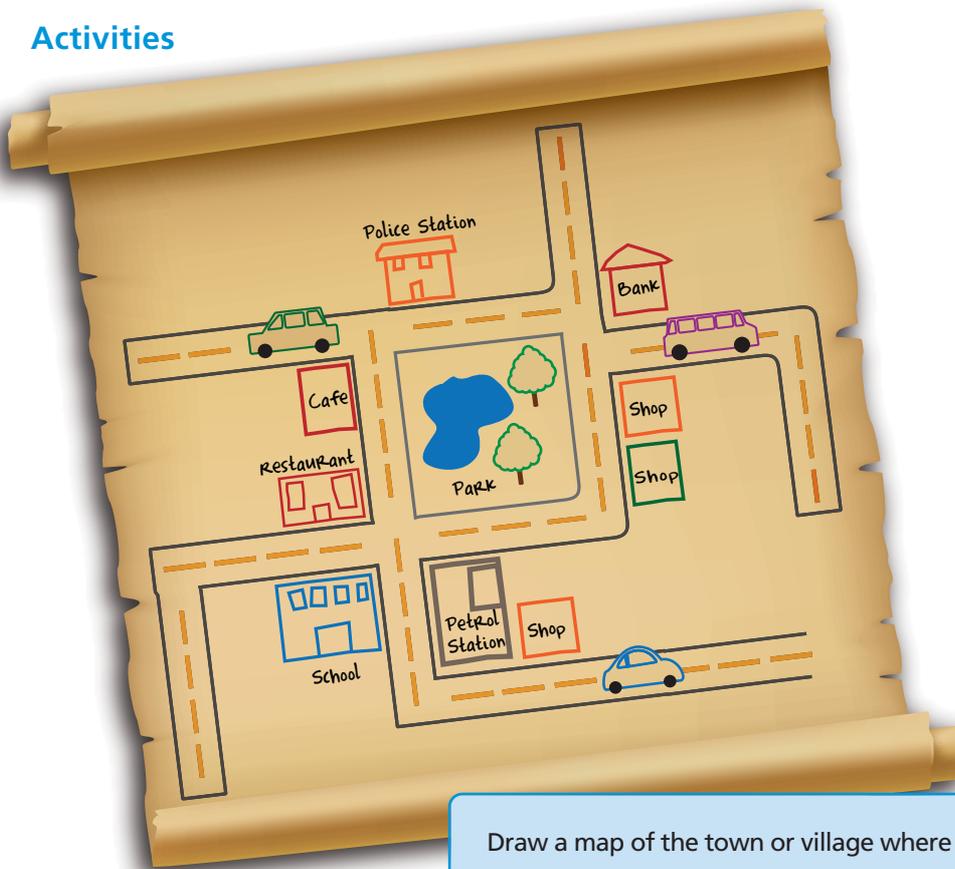
What do I know about these religions?
What would I like to find out?



Watch out for the results of the latest census. How does it compare with the 2006 Census?

We all live in Co. Monaghan

Activities



Draw a map of the town or village where you live.

Think about all of the different cultures and nationalities that live there.

How would a stranger know that you live in a multi-cultural town or village?

Tip: Think about the shops, churches, restaurants, schools clubs and meeting places.

Option 1

Draw a picture celebrating diversity in your home town or village.

Make a montage of everybody's pictures to show the diversity in your classroom.

Option 2

Gather photographs of your favourite place or favourite thing in your home town or village.

Make a montage of everybody's photos to show the diversity in your classroom.

We all live in Co. Monaghan

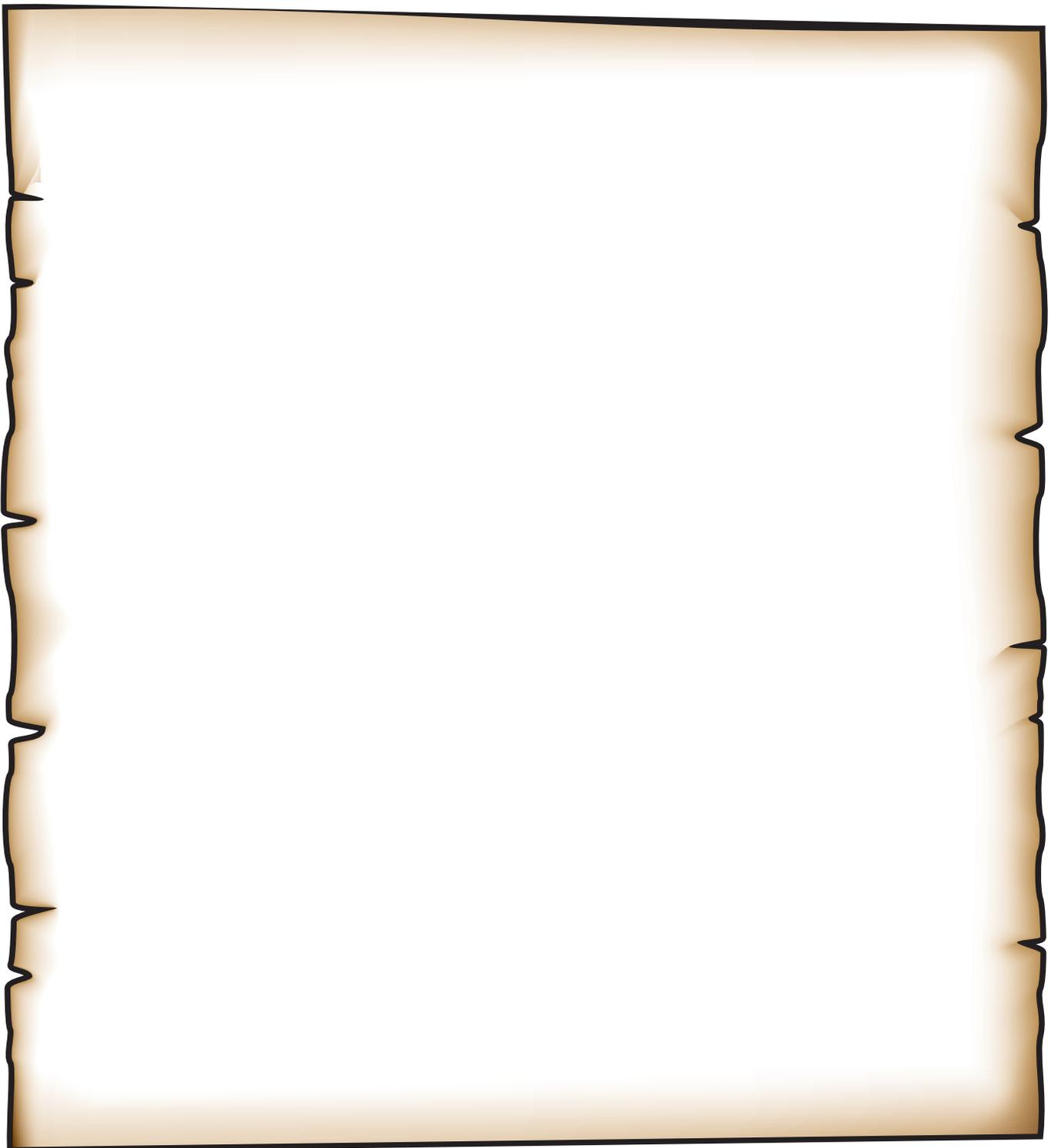
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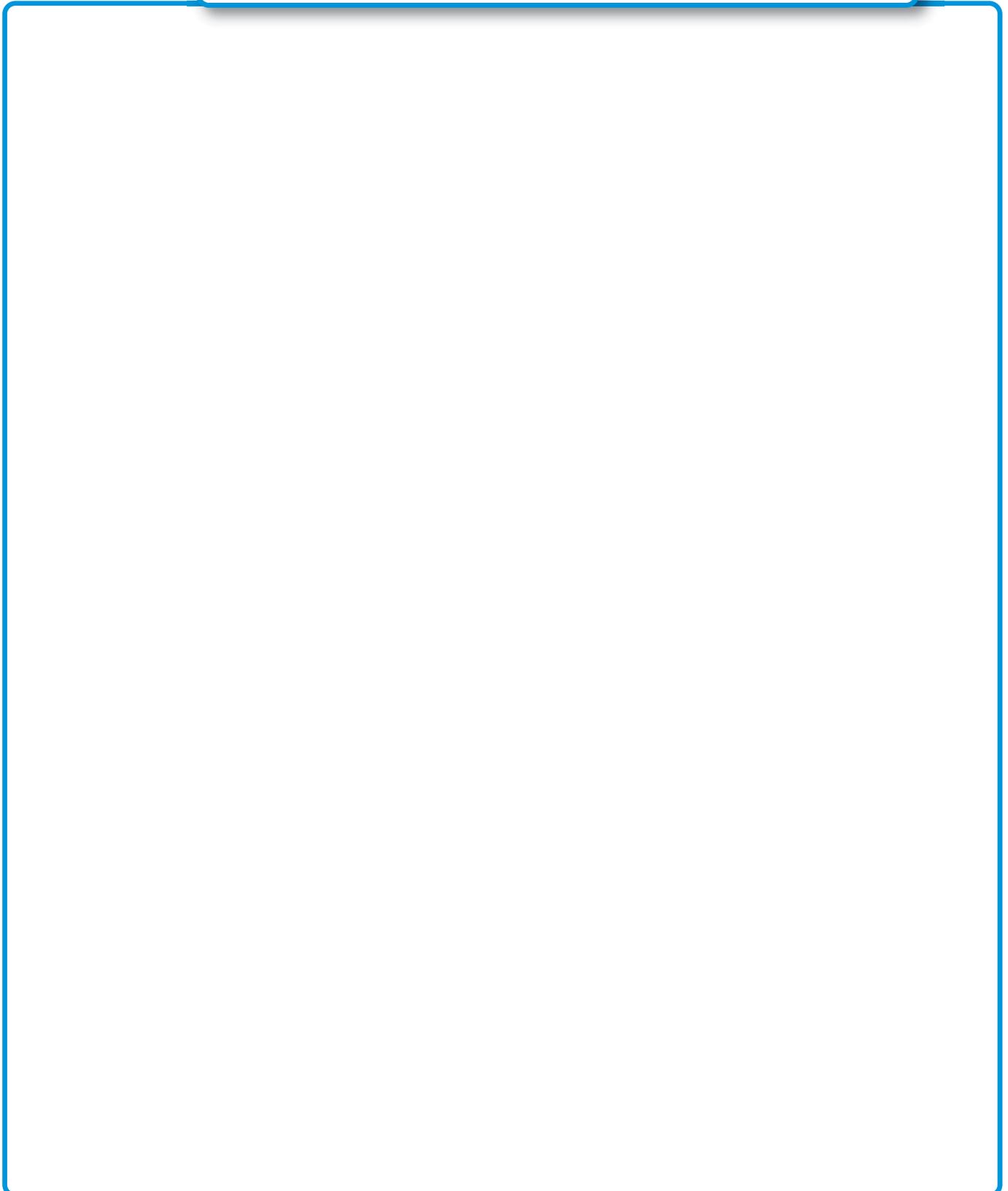


We all live in Co. Monaghan

Art Activity

Draw a picture celebrating diversity in your home town or village.

Make a montage of everybody's pictures to show the diversity in your classroom.



Perspective

Perspective is the word used to describe how we see and understand the world around us.

Our religious beliefs can shape the way we see the world. In our identity tree, we saw that many other things also shape our perspective.

Because we are unique and individual, we often see things differently from other people. Sometimes this can cause arguments and disagreements.

EXAMPLE ONE: Elena has recently moved to Co. Monaghan and has started at a new school. She speaks fluent Latvian and her English is improving every day. She has never learned Irish before. Mr. O'Reilly told her Mum that it won't do her any harm to learn a third language. Elena's Mum thinks this is a great idea. She wants Elena to settle into her new school and to be the same as all the other children. Elena's not so keen. Her friend Áine told her that no one in Ireland even speaks Irish. She thinks Mr. O'Reilly and her Mum are just being mean.

Role Play: Mrs. Higgins, the Principal, heard Elena complaining in the corridor. She invites Elena, her Mum and Mr. O'Reilly into the office to talk about the problem.

In role, three children should discuss the disagreement from the perspective of the main characters.

EXAMPLE TWO: Hassan is twelve years old and in sixth class. This year, he will observe Ramadan. This means that he will fast from dawn to sunset during the month of Ramadan. Hassan is very excited about this because it shows that he is growing up. At break-time yesterday, some of his classmates taunted him with sandwiches and snacks. They said Hassan was stupid to bother with fasting when everyone knew that it was a load of nonsense.

Hassan is very upset. He is trying very hard to maintain his fast. He is always respectful when the Christian children celebrate their festivals.

Art Activities

EXPERIMENT 1: Break into groups of four. One child is given a picture which they must describe to the other three children. The three artists cannot ask any questions. They can only draw what they hear. They should work alone.

When the drawings are complete compare the three drawings to each other and then to the original. What is the same? What is different?



EXPERIMENT 2: Place a bowl filled with fruit in the centre of the classroom. Children should draw only what they can see from their own seat. Once the children have completed their drawings, compare the results. What is the same? What is different? The pictures should be different depending on where each child was sitting. They each had a different view of the fruit bowl. Use the pictures to explore the idea perspective with your class.

Art Activity

Perspective

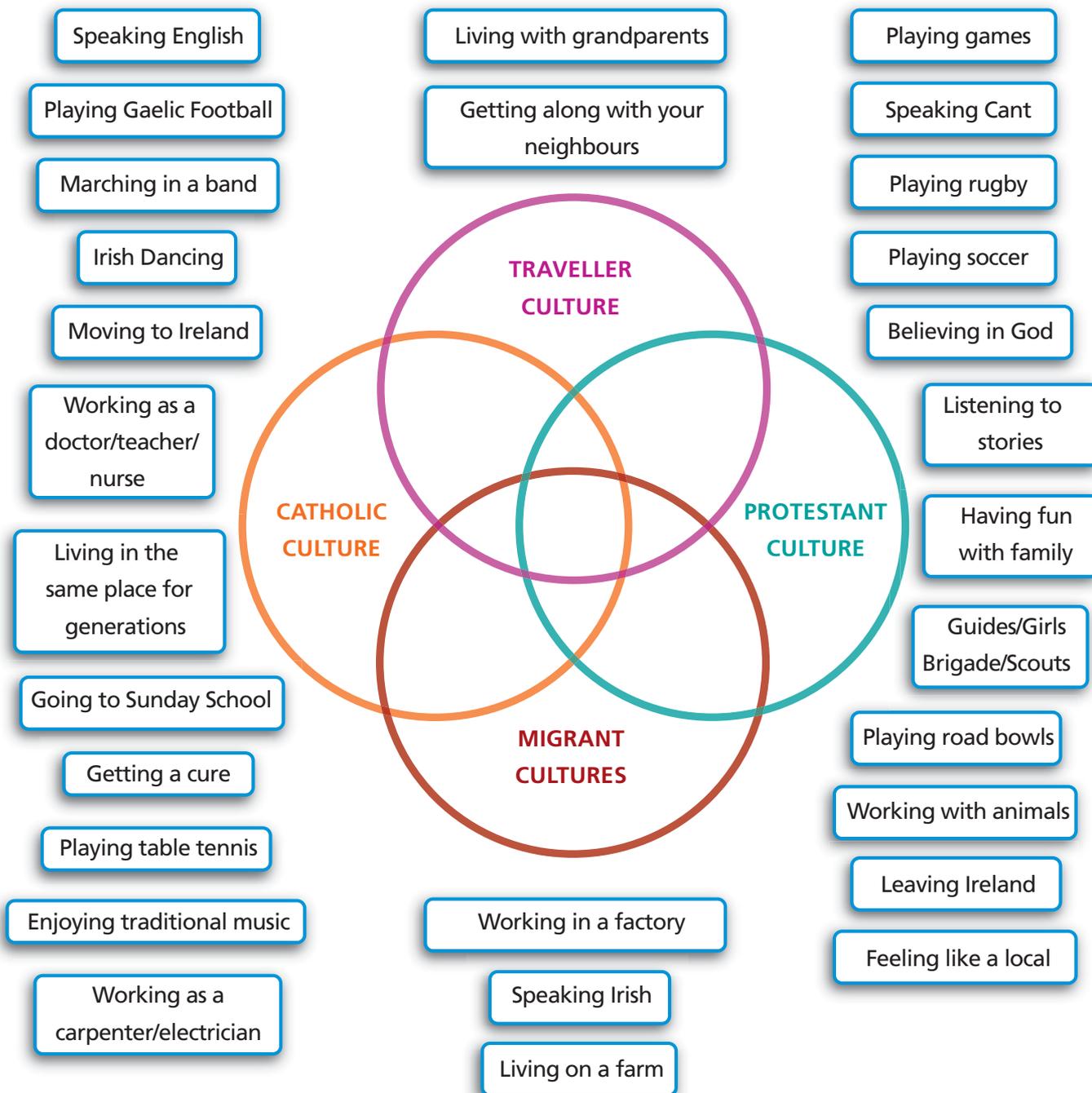
Your classmate has a picture in her/his hand which you cannot see. S/he will describe it to you in words only. You must draw the picture which s/he describes. You cannot ask any questions. Good luck!

When you have finished, compare your picture to the original.
In what ways is it the same/different?
Why do you think it is different?

Me, You and Everybody!

Culture in County Monaghan

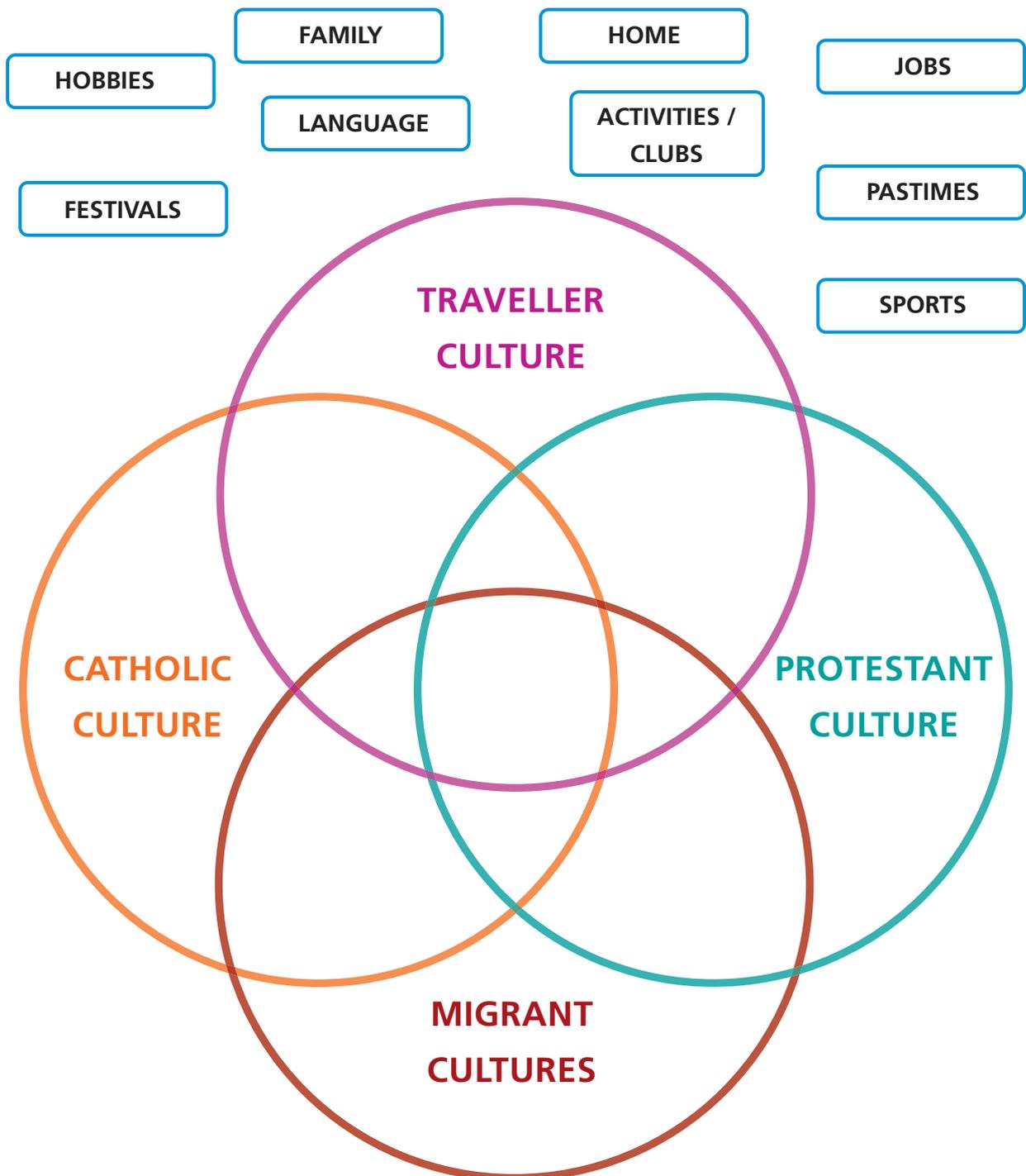
Our lives today are shaped by all of the cultures and nationalities living in our towns and villages. Let's take a look at some of the main cultures that we meet in our schools every day.



Activity

Me, You and Everybody!

Every day, we meet people from different cultures in our schools and communities. Think about the things that are important in your culture.



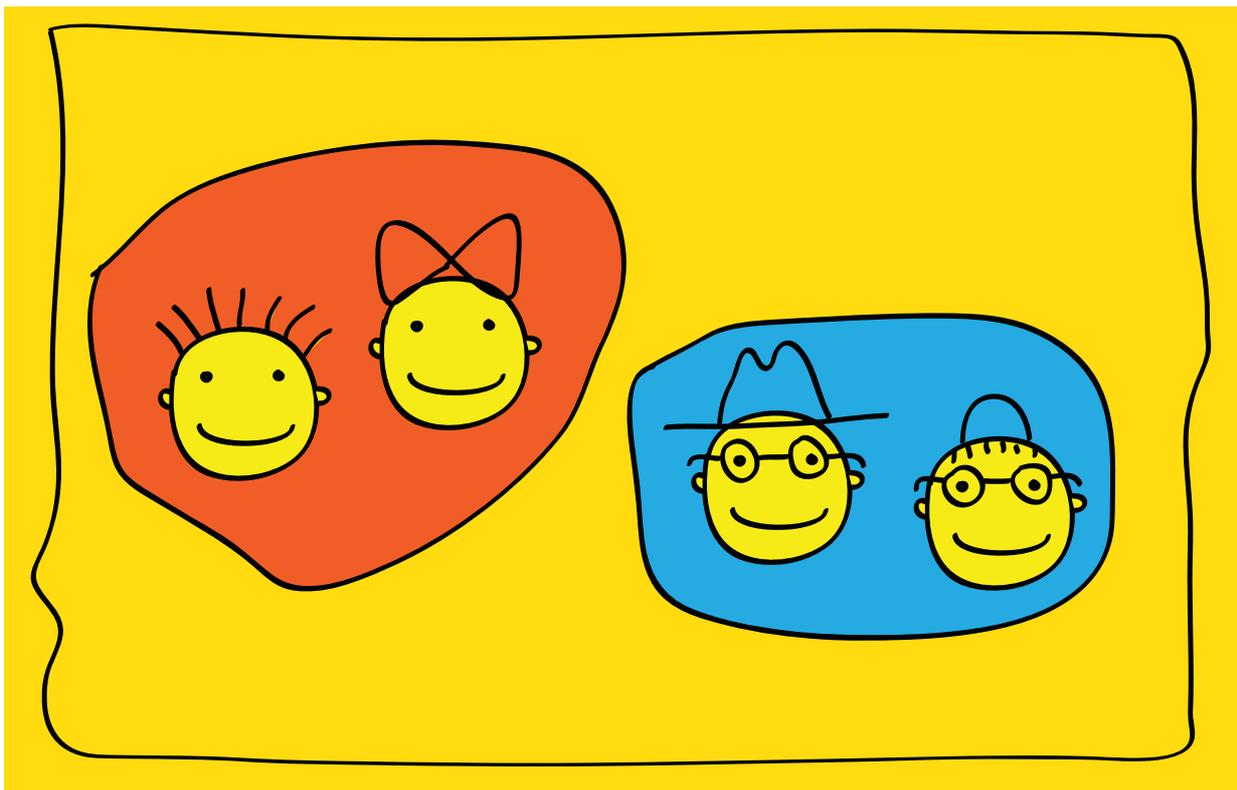
Now try to fill in these circles to show what is important in each of these cultures. The circles overlap, so if something is important to two or more groups you can put it in the overlapping part.

Stories from Home

County Monaghan has changed a lot since your grandparents were your age:

- We now have peace in Northern Ireland. When your parents and grandparents were younger there were road blocks and border checkpoints. It was sometimes difficult to travel from towns in the south to towns north of the border.
- Ireland joined the European Union (EU) in 1973. We now use the euro and can travel and work all over the European Union.
- Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Estonia and Hungary joined the European Union in 2004. Romania and Bulgaria joined the European Union in 2007. Many people from these countries have moved to Ireland and to Co. Monaghan to find work and raise their families.
- Traveller lifestyles are less nomadic than they were in the past. Many travellers now live in houses rather than caravans but traveller values and traditions are still very important.

Talk to your grandparents about their childhood memories. Ask about home life, school and travel.



Activity

Stories from Home

Life in Co. Monaghan, Ireland, Europe and the world has changed a lot since your grandparents were your age.

Interview your grandparents about their childhood memories. Ask about home life, school and travel.



Home

Who lived at home with you?
Did you get pocket money?
What treats did you get?
Where did your parents work?

What jobs did you do to help out at home?
Who minded you?
How many brothers and sisters did you have?

Social Life

What games did you play?
What hobbies did you have?
How often did you see your neighbours?

What toys did you have?
What clubs were you part of?
What did you do at weekends?

Travel

Where did you go on holidays?
What other counties or countries did you visit and how did you get there?

School Life

Where did you go to school?
How much homework did you get?
Did you wear a uniform?

What subjects did you like best?
What did you eat for lunch?
Who was your best friend?

Traditions

Think about traditions that are special in your family. Do you have any traditions that have been passed on from one generation to the next?

Example: How do you celebrate special occasions; do you play musical instruments, play games or sing songs that you learned from your parents or grandparents; are there special foods that your family like to eat?

What about religious traditions?

Ask your grandparents where these traditions began? Were they passed on from their parents or grandparents?

Activity

How many ways can you say 'Hello'. There are thirteen examples in the word search below. Can you find them?

M	A	K	O	N	N	I	C	H	I	W	A	Q
D	A	B	W	P	R	S	V	E	I	K	I	A
I	Z	R	Y	H	E	A	K	T	Q	E	M	T
A	W	I	H	E	I	K	I	T	D	S	D	R
D	Y	U	E	A	H	U	J	A	M	B	O	S
H	F	Y	L	ń	B	W	T	G	S	D	B	B
U	M	B	A	W	D	A	I	B	A	L	R	U
I	R	P	B	R	U	O	N	E	L	J	ý	N
T	K	L	A	K	J	M	B	P	U	N	D	A
Q	U	E	S	W	R	I	X	R	T	B	E	Z
T	Y	E	H	E	L	L	O	E	Y	O	ň	I
P	E	R	S	H	E	N	D	E	T	J	E	U
W	O	B	K	D	S	U	O	L	J	F	H	A

Language	Hello	Thank You
Albanian	Pershendetje	Faleminderit
Arabic	Marhaban	Shukran
Japanese	Konnichiwa	Arigatou
Norwegian	Hei	Takk
Polish	Dzień dobry	Dziękuję
Romanian	Buna ziua	Multumesc
Slovakian	Dobrý deň	Ďakujem
Lithuanian	Labas	Ačiū
Latvian	Sveiki	Paldies
Swahili	Hujambo	Asante
Irish	Dia dhuit	Go raibh maith agat
French	Salut	Merci

The World in our Classroom

Integration

Geography: Human environments, People living in other lands

History: Story, Myths and legends

English; Developing emotional and imaginative life through oral language

Activity

Learning about Lithuania

How much do you know about Lithuania?

Before reading about Lithuania, work with a partner to list five things that you already know about Lithuania.

My top five facts about Lithuania!

DON'T WORRY...

If you don't know five facts before we start, you can fill them in at the end of the lesson!

Learning about Lithuania!

Labas! I'm Eglė and I come all way from Lithuania or Lietuva as I call it. I heard a rumour that you wanted to learn more about my country so I packed up my togs and swam over to help you out!

I will start with some facts about my homeland and then I will share with you a legend all about me, Eglė, The Serpent Queen!



Before I start, I would love to hear what you already know about Lithuania.

Working with the person beside you, please make a list. At the end of the lesson we can check back to see how much you have learned.

My friends tell me that there are lots of Lithuanians living in Co. Monaghan.

Are there any Lithuanians in this class?

Lithuania is a little bigger than Latvia and a little smaller than **Ireland**. It is the 122nd largest country in the world. Vilnius is the capital city.

3.5 million people live in Lithuania. This includes many people from Poland, Russia, Belarus and lots of other countries.

Did you know...

As the crow flies Lithuania is over 2,000 km from County Monaghan. That's like travelling from Monaghan to Dublin 20 times! I'm glad I don't have to do that every day!

Learning about Lithuania!

Test

Can you find Lithuania on the map of Europe?

Which countries share borders with Lithuania?

Answer: Latvia, Belarus, Poland and Russia

Did you know...

Scientists studying Europe have discovered that Lithuania is located smack bang in the middle of Europe!

Of course Irish people and Lithuanian people have a lot in common. Here's one similarity that you might not know about already.

Just like the Irish, we Lithuanians love potatoes! Many of our favourite dishes include potatoes. My favourites are potato sausages called vėdarai and potato dumplings called zeppelins or didžkukuliai. These delicious dumplings are filled with minced meat, carrot or mushrooms. Yum yum!



If you ever decide to visit me in Lithuania, you will need to know what kind of money we use there. Can anybody tell me what currency is used in Lithuania?

Answer: The Litas. Here's a picture of the one litas coin.

For an extra bonus point, can you find out how many litas make up one euro?

Answer: In 2010, one euro was equal to 3.45 litas.

Learning about Lithuania!



I'm so pleased that you invited me into your classroom today.

When I visit a new town or a new country, I love to hear all about the festivals, customs and traditions that people celebrate there.

So, I thought I'd share some of our most famous events with you today! They are also a lot of fun!

Some of your classmates might know about these traditions!

Celebrating Užgavėnės in Lithuania

On the same day as children here in Ireland are celebrating Pancake Tuesday, people of all ages in Lithuania are making masks and dressing up as ghouls and monsters, witches and devils. Dressed up in these frightening costumes, Lithuanian families have great fun playing games, telling jokes, dancing in the streets and eating pancakes!

People dressed in costumes go from house to house looking for treats! In return for these treats, they sing special rhymes and wish their neighbours well for the rest of the year.

For Catholics in Lithuania, Užgavėnės is the last day of celebration before the beginning of Lent. But, Užgavėnės is also an ancient custom that says goodbye to winter and welcome to spring!

There are three main characters at the Užgavėnės festival: Morė, Kanapinis and Lašininis. These great figures are made of old clothes stuffed with hay.

Every year, there is a play fight between Kanapinis (the straw man) and Lašininis (the pig) and every year Kanapinis wins the fight! This is a sign that winter is gone and Lent is on its way.

The highlight of the festival is a big bonfire. Morė is the symbol of winter. At the end of the night she is burned on the bonfire as the children dance and sing songs telling winter to go away!

Learning about Lithuania!

Does our festival of Užgavėnės remind you of any festival that you celebrate here in Co. Monaghan?

Did you know...

The feast of St. John (Joninės) is one of the biggest celebrations in Lithuania!



Joninės (23 June)

When our Latvian friend Spriditis was here, he told us all about Jani and the festival of Ligo.

In Lithuania, 23 June is also a huge holiday for everyone, especially people called Jonas, Jonė and Janina!

Find out about Joninės from a Lithuanian friend and compare it to Ligo in Latvia...you might be surprised at what you find out!

Lithuania is also famous for its folk music and dancing! Why not try this traditional game of cat and mouse
<http://ausis.gf.vu.lt/eka/dances/dance04.html>

'Katinas ant pečiaus sėdėjo'



Ačiū, thank you for your interest in my country! I will leave you now with a famous Lithuanian legend all about me.

I hope you enjoy it. Viso gero! Goodbye!



A Fairytale from Lithuania *Eglė, Queen of Serpents* *(Eglė žalčių karalienė)*

(Recommended by Vytautas Ruzveltas and Kristine Jankaitiene)

Long long ago, in the country of Lithuania there lived a large family of twelve children. There were three daughters and nine sons. The youngest and most beautiful was a girl called Eglė.

One summer evening Eglė and her sisters went swimming in the cool waters of the lake beside their home. When they grew tired of swimming, they swam to the lakeshore to get dressed. The girls were laughing and messing as they came close to the rocks where they had left their clothes. Suddenly, their laughs were interrupted by a high pitched scream. 'Eeeeekkk', shrieked Eglė, 'there's a snake in my blouse!' Sure enough, when her older sister poked the pile of clothes with an old stick, out came a slithery slimy snake.

To the girls' horror, the snake began to speak. 'Eglė, my love. You must promise to marry me, or I will stay here snuggled up in your clothes forever'.

'Eugh', spat Eglė, 'I can't marry you, you're nothing but a slithery slimy snake! Get out of my blouse and go back to where you came from'.

But the serpent refused to leave. Instead, he hissed and fussed until Eglė gave in to his curious request. As soon as she agreed to marry the serpent, he vanished.

Eglė had never spoken to a serpent before, so she had no idea how serious her promise to the slithery slimy snake would be.

Eglė forgot all about the talking snake and her hasty promise to marry him until three days later, she awoke to find her garden filled with snakes of all descriptions from all over the country. There were so





many snakes you could not see the grass, just hundreds and thousands of slithery slimy snakes swarming all over the garden.

Her father was dismayed. He did not want to hand his youngest and most beautiful daughter over to a serpent. He tried to trick the serpent, but to no avail. First he sent a white goose, then a white sheep and finally a white cow. Each time the snakes returned, demanding that Eglè be handed over to the serpent.

With no other choice, Eglè's father bid his beautiful daughter goodbye and sent her back to the serpent by the lake. To Eglè's surprise, a very handsome man greeted her by the lake shore. 'I am Žilvinas, the serpent prince', he told her. Eglè fell head over heels in love with the serpent prince and agreed once more to go with him to his magnificent castle at the bottom of the lake so that they could be married.

Eglè lived a life of luxury under the lake with Žilvinas. As the years passed, they were blessed with four children, three sons Ažuolas (Oak), Uosis (Ash) and Beržas (Birch) as well as one daughter, Drebulė (Aspen).

Eglè was so happy with Žilvinas and her own children that she never thought of her old home or family above the lake. But, one day when her sons asked her why they had never met their grandparents she began to feel homesick for her loving parents and 11 siblings. 'Please Žilvinas, can I take the children home?' she begged.

The Serpent King did not want to let his wife and children go. He knew how much Eglè's family hated him and he feared that his wife would not return, but he was a fair man. 'Eglè, my sweet serpent Queen, you may visit your family but only if you pass these three very difficult tests.'

Eglè was determined to see her family so she agreed.

To pass the first test, Eglè had to spin a never-ending yarn of silk. Eglè tried and tried to no avail. Eventually, she went to see a local sorceress for help. The sorceress advised her to throw the yarn into the fire. When she got home, this is exactly what Eglè did. Sure enough, a magical toad appeared in the flames. The toad spun a never-ending yarn of silk for Eglè and she passed the first test.

For her next test, the Serpent King told Eglè that she must wear down a pair of iron boots. For days and days Eglè trudged around in the heavy boots but she failed to make so much as a dent in their





metal soles. Again, Eglè went to the sorceress for help. This time, she advised Eglè to take the shoes to the blacksmith. The blacksmith threw the shoes into the kiln which melted them down in no time at all.

For her final test, Eglè had to bake a cake. A simple enough test you would think, but the Serpent King had confiscated every bowl in the kingdom. This left Eglè with nothing but an old sieve. 'How can I make a cake without so much as a bowl?' thought Eglè in despair, as she made her way to the sorceress for the final time. The sorceress told Eglè to use some old dough to fill the holes in the sieve so that it could be used as a bowl. Sure enough, in no time at all the sweet smell of cake was wafting throughout the kingdom.

And so it was that Eglè and her four children were allowed to leave the lake for nine days.

Before they left the King told them, 'When you are ready to come home, you must use these secret words to summon me to the surface of the lake:

"Žilvine, Žilvineli

If you are alive, the ripples will be white as milk

If you are dead, the ripples will be red as blood!"

But, he warned them not to tell anyone else how to summon him from the bottom of the lake.

Eglè's family was so happy to see her that they feasted for days and days. They had missed her each and every day that she was away. It wasn't long until her brothers began plotting how to keep her on dry land. To do this, they would have to kill the Serpent King. They tried to persuade Eglè's sons to tell them the secret password, but they were brave and loyal to their father and refused to betray him. When this failed, they turned their attention to Drebulè. She was not as strong-willed as her brothers and as soon as her uncles threatened her, she spilled the beans.

Armed with sharp knives, Eglè's nine brothers marched to the lake shore. They recited the words Drebulè had told them and sure enough the Serpent King appeared. As soon as they saw him they attacked him and chopped the Serpent King up into a thousand slithery slimy pieces. Once their dastardly deed was complete, Eglè's brothers then returned to the celebrations without mentioning a word to their sister.





After nine fun-filled days had passed, Eglé began to think again of her home under the lake. Saying goodbye to her family, she gathered the children and headed for the lake shore. Reciting the words her beloved husband had told her, she was shocked to see the ripples turn red. Overcome with grief, she realised that her husband had been killed. Turning to her children, she knew at once that her trembling daughter Drebulé had betrayed them all.

Eglé loved the Serpent King with all her heart and was devastated with grief. She was so full of despair that she turned her children into trees. The boys were turned into oak, ash and birch trees as a symbol of their courage. Poor Drebulé was turned into a frail and quivering aspen. Finally, Eglé transformed herself into a fir tree.

The End



Activity



Learning about Lithuania

Užgavėnės Mixing Old and New

You have learned that Užgavėnės is a special celebration in Lithuania. It celebrates both the beginning of Lent and the arrival of Spring.

Like many celebrations all over the world, Užgavėnės mixes ancient pagan traditions with Christian customs.

Find out about ancient traditions and festivals that are celebrated here in County Monaghan.

Hint: Halloween and Samhain

People all over the world celebrate the same festivals in their own special way.

Find out about Christmas or Easter celebrations in Lithuania.

Compare these celebrations to traditional Christmas or Easter celebrations in your family.

Hints:

Special foods

Traditional games

Decorations

Activities

Church services

Gifts

Family time

Activity

Learning about Lithuania

Eglė, Queen of Serpents (Eglė žalčių karalienė)

You have read the story of Eglė, Queen of Serpents. Now answer these questions.

1. How did Eglė react when she first saw the snake?

2. What was Eglė's first impression of the snake?

3. Why did Eglė agree to marry the snake?

4. Why did Eglė's father try to trick the snake?

5. What made Eglė change her mind about marrying Žilvinas?

6. Eglė was very happy in her underwater kingdom. Why did she want to leave?

7. Why did Eglė's family decide to kill Žilvinas?

8. How did Eglė react when she found out her husband had been killed?

Eglė's first impression of the snake was not very good. She did not want to marry a slithery slimy snake. She thought they would have nothing in common. When she met Žilvinas, the Serpent Prince, they fell in love and lived a happy life in their underwater kingdom.

Think about meeting someone who was different from you in some way for the first time.

(Hint: It might be someone from a different country, or another town, or from a different religion, or someone who speaks a different language)

Encounter with: _____

What can you remember about the place where you met this person and what happened when you met?

Write down everything you can remember about the person you met, what they looked like and what they were wearing.

Was it easy for you and the other person to understand each other? How did you communicate with each other?

How did you feel about meeting this other person at the time?

How do you think the other person felt about meeting with you?

Do you think there is anything you and the other person could learn from each other?

What do you think you learnt or discovered from the meeting?

If you met the person again is there anything more you would like to ask them or anything else you would tell them about yourself?

Teachers' Notes:

These questions are taken from the Council of Europe's Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters for Younger Learners (AIEYL). A full version of the AIEYL is available to download at http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/autobiography/Source/AIE_en/AIEYL_autobiography_young_en.pdf. The authors welcome feedback from teachers which can be submitted via an online form at <http://www.coe.int/t/DG4/AUTOBIOGRAPHY/>.



Activity

Learning about Latvia

How much do you know about Latvia?

Before reading about Latvia, work with a partner to list five things that you already know about Latvia?

The diagram consists of a central text box containing the text "My top five facts about Latvia!". Five empty rectangular boxes are arranged around this central text, each with a yellow arrow pointing towards the center. The boxes are positioned at the top, left, right, bottom-left, and bottom-right relative to the central text.

DON'T WORRY...

If you don't know five facts before we start, you can fill them in at the end of the lesson!

Learning about Latvia

Sveiki! My name is Spriditis and today I'll be your guide to Latvia or Latvija as I like to call it!

Like most Latvian kids in Co. Monaghan, I'm a long way from my home town. Today, I will share with you some interesting facts about our country and our customs.



Did you know?

Latvia is only slightly smaller than Ireland.

Riga is its capital city.

As the crow flies, it is almost 2,000 kilometres from County Monaghan!

But a good friend of mine from Clones tells me it is 3,000 kilometres by car. It took her family three days to drive there and three more days to drive home!

Luckily for you, I love travelling!

Did you know?

Many people claim that Latvia was home to the first ever Christmas tree!

Test

Can you find Latvia on the map of Europe?

Which countries border Latvia?

Answer: Lithuania, Estonia, Russia and Belarus



Soon you'll get to read all about my own search for fame and fortune.

Before we get to that, can you tell me what currency is used in Latvia?

Answer: The Lat

Do you recognise the brave wee man with the shovel over his shoulder? It's me, of course!

Latvia has a population of 2.3 million people.

Just like Ireland today, there are many different ethnic groups in Latvia. This means that many Latvians have ancestors from different countries and not everyone in Latvia speaks the same language at home.

Almost 60% are Latvian.

About 30% come from Russia.

10% come from other countries including Belarus, Ukraine, Poland and Lithuania.

Learning about Latvia

Great, you're still here! Now that you know some basic facts about my home country, I'll treat you to a guide to one of our most special holidays.



Jani (St. John's Day) - Latvia's Favourite Holiday

The festival of Ligo (pronounced Lee-gwa) is one of Latvia's finest traditions. It lasts for three days and celebrates the summer solstice.

On the third day of the festival, 23 June, family and friends leave cities and towns to celebrate Jani deep in the countryside. The name Jani comes from Janis, the Latvian version of John. On this day, girls wear traditional clothes and gather wild flowers and foliage to make impressive wreaths for their hair. Men and boys also join in the fun and those called Janis wear great crowns of lush oak leaves around their heads to celebrate their name day.

Everyone eats special cheese with caraway seeds.

Friends sing traditional Ligo songs as they dance around the bonfire to celebrate the shortest night of the year. Everyone must stay awake all night and watch the sun rising the next day.

Traditional games are played to pass the time until the morning.

Young men and women search the forest for fern blossoms. Legend has it that the fern only blooms on this day of the year. Whoever finds the mythical flower will have good luck.

People in love must hold hands while jumping over the bonfire. Young girls throw their wreaths into the lake to see if they will float. If it sinks, people believe it is really unlucky.

Did you know?

St. John's Day is also celebrated in other countries such as Lithuania and Belarus?

Bonfire night is celebrated in parts of Donegal and in the West of Ireland.

At one time, St. John's Day was celebrated every year in Knockatallon, Co. Monaghan. People celebrated with dancing, games and a huge bonfire!

Although there are no bonfires today, the people in Knockatallon still celebrate St. John's Day with a special sport's day for all the local kids.

Find Out

What is the summer solstice?





Wow! You've really been working hard today. I think you deserve a reward. Here's one of my favourite stories. It's about a small but courageous boy, who travels the world in search of fame and fortune...Yes you've guessed it - it's about me! Uz redzesanos.



Spriditis

A fairytale from Latvia

*(Originally by Anna Brigadere contributed by
Elita Bauska, Carrickmacross)*

A long time ago, a brave young boy named Spriditis lived in a remote part of Latvia. The boy was named Spriditis by all who knew him because he was a wee small boy, little bigger than Tom Thumb. Spriditis lived unhappily with his wicked stepmother. The only good thing about his home was that his best friend Lienite lived close by. Although Spriditis and Lienite had great fun together, our little hero longed to leave the village of his childhood and dreamed of adventures in the big wide world.

One day, when Spriditis and Lienite were out playing by the deep dark forest, Spriditis saw a magnificent glow rising from the forest floor. 'We're rich Lienite', he exclaimed, 'There's gold buried in the forest and I'm going to find it!' 'Don't be silly Spriditis', said the far more sensible Lienite, 'there's no gold in the deep dark forest. There's nothing there but creepy crawlies and all kinds of nasty beasts. That's why we never go in.'

But Spriditis refused to heed Lienite's advice. Instead, he bid Lienite a swift goodbye and grabbing his sturdy shovel, he took off at great speed into the forbidden forest.

It didn't take long for Spriditis to find that Lienite had, as usual, been quite correct. The golden glow was nothing more than a wildfire burning brightly in the forest. Our wee hero was disappointed and sat down by a large old tree to think. Unbeknownst to Spriditis, a fairy queen had been watching his antics from afar. She was so impressed by the bravery of the tiny boy that she decided to give him two gifts. She appeared before Spriditis and bearing a magic flute and an enchanted slingshot she said, 'If you are ever in trouble, play a tune on this flute or fire a stone from this slingshot and they will keep you from harm'.





And so, armed with these special gifts, Spriditis decided to continue his search for treasure, fame and adventure. This is where Spriditis' legendary travels begin.

After many days and nights wandering through forests and meadows, hiking up hills and down dales, the weather changed. Where once there had been sunshine, now there was lashing rain and howling winds. Spriditis found himself alone in the middle of a heavy storm. He pulled his hat down firmly on his head and trekked on through the gale force wind. Eventually, tired, wet and weary, our brave young man came upon an old wooden shack. 'Thank goodness', thought Spriditis, 'I'll ask the owner if I can take shelter for the night'.

The door was opened cautiously by an angry looking robber. 'What do you want?' he barked at Spriditis. 'Just a bed for the night, Sir. I'll be gone first thing in the morning'. The robber didn't want to let Spriditis into the shack but he was taken aback by the young man's courage. 'You can sleep on that bench' said the man, pointing to a rickety plank of wood in the corner 'but I don't want to see you move, I've business to attend to'. Spriditis was too tired to argue and fell deep asleep as soon as his head touched the wooden bench.'

Before long, he was woken by a loud knock at the door. He opened the door and found a bedraggled old man standing in the rain. 'Please young man, can I have some shelter from the storm?' he pleaded. Spriditis was as kind as he was brave, so he let the old man in.

The robber who had been busy counting coins in the far corner of the room, turned as soon as he saw the old man enter the shack. 'What did I say about moving little man? How dare you invite that old codger in to my shack!' he roared. 'Now I have to teach you a lesson you won't forget', he cackled. The old man flinched, but Spriditis was as brave as ever. The robber was incensed by the wee boy's bravery and decided to test it. He held our hero's tiny hand close to the fire and waited for him to scream but Spriditis remembered his enchanted slingshot and kept as calm as ever. Quick as a flash, Spriditis pulled the slingshot from his pocket and hurled it at the robber. The robber vanished out of sight.

With that, the old man who had been hiding under the bench jumped up. Spriditis now realised that he was not just an old man, but a wizard. 'Take this ring, young man. In your hour of need it will transport you to a happy place. Just remember these magic words, "Swan, oh gentle swan, swim swiftly





and take me to a happy place”.’ Spriditis thanked the old man. He popped the ring into his pocket and continued on his way.

After a few more days and nights in the wilderness, Spriditis saw a castle appearing in the distance. He had never seen such a magnificent castle before and decided to get closer to get a better look.

As he approached the castle, Spriditis noticed a commotion involving the king’s horsemen and what looked like a wild beast. He hid behind a large rock to get a better look. The noise of clashing swords was deafening but the soldiers struggled to contain the animal. One by one the king’s horses took fright and galloped away from the castle leaving the beast free to enter the castle gates. Spriditis followed quietly behind the beast as it stormed into the spectacular courtyard where the king and his daughter, the beautiful princess, were huddled under the throne.

‘Please leave us in peace’, pleaded the king. ‘You have defeated my army but I cannot let you take my daughter.’ The beast opened its gruesome mouth and laughed so loudly that the chandeliers shook ominously overhead. Spriditis knew he would have to act quickly to save the princess. He put his hand in his pocket and remembered the magic flute given to him by the fairy queen. He put the flute to his lips and blew as hard as he could. To his amazement a beautiful and joyful tune emerged from the instrument. As music filled the air, the beast began to dance. Around and around he twirled, twisting and turning to the melody. ‘Please’, he begged, ‘make him stop. I’m getting dizzy’. But Spriditis did not stop. Instead, he played harder and faster. Thump. With a loud bang, the beast fell to the floor. Spriditis crept quietly towards the groaning mass of fur, until he was close enough to feel its rancid breath on his bare arms. In one quick movement, he jumped up onto the beast’s head and broke off one of his horns. The beast vanished beneath him.

‘Young man, you have saved this kingdom from a terrifying end’ proclaimed the king, ‘As a reward for your courage, you shall have my daughter’s hand in marriage.’ Spriditis was overjoyed. Not only had he slain the beast, but he had won the princess’s hand. Sadly, his joy was short lived. The princess may have been beautiful but she was not so noble as her father. ‘I won’t do it Daddy’, she wailed, ‘What would the other princesses think, if I were to marry this tiny little peasant? I won’t! I Won’t! I WON’T!’ With that, the spoilt princess had a tantrum so ferocious that even the king had to take cover to avoid her wrath.





Spriditis began to realise that riches, fame and adventure were not always as wonderful as he had imagined. For the first time since his adventure began, he felt tired and longed for peace and quiet. World weary, he put his head down and he shoved his hands deep into his pockets. It was then that he remembered the ring, hidden deep within the folds of his pocket. He pulled it out and repeated the magic words, 'Swan, oh gentle swan, swim swiftly and take me to a happy place'.

Before you could say abracadabra, a beautiful white swan appeared to bring our wee hero home. Arriving back in the familiar peace and quiet of his village, Spriditis was greeted once again by his best friend Leinite. Taking her by the hand, he thought to himself, 'I have travelled the world, only to find happiness right here at home.' The End

The End





Привет (Privet)! My name is Daniils and I live in Co. Monaghan with my family. We come from Latvia and speak Russian at home.

Have you enjoyed learning all about my home country?

When I lived in Latvia I learned a lot about my country too. My favourite story is the story of our flag, which is one of the oldest flags in the world. You can see it just over my head. It's got three horizontal stripes. Two maroon stripes on the outside and a white stripe in the middle.



As the story goes, there was once a great war in ancient Latvia. The brave tribal leader was injured in the fighting and had to be carried from the battlefield on a white sheet.

As he was carried away, his blood spilled out and soaked two sides of the white sheet. Although their courageous leader died, the Latvian tribe won the war and used the blood soaked sheet as their victory banner.

Activity

Learning about Lativa

Think about the story of Spriditis.

At the end of the tale, Spriditis discovers that there's no place quite like home.

Emigration is when people leave their home country to live in another country.

What does Spriditis teach us about emigration?

Why might a young person like Spriditis decide to emigrate from their home to live in a far away country?

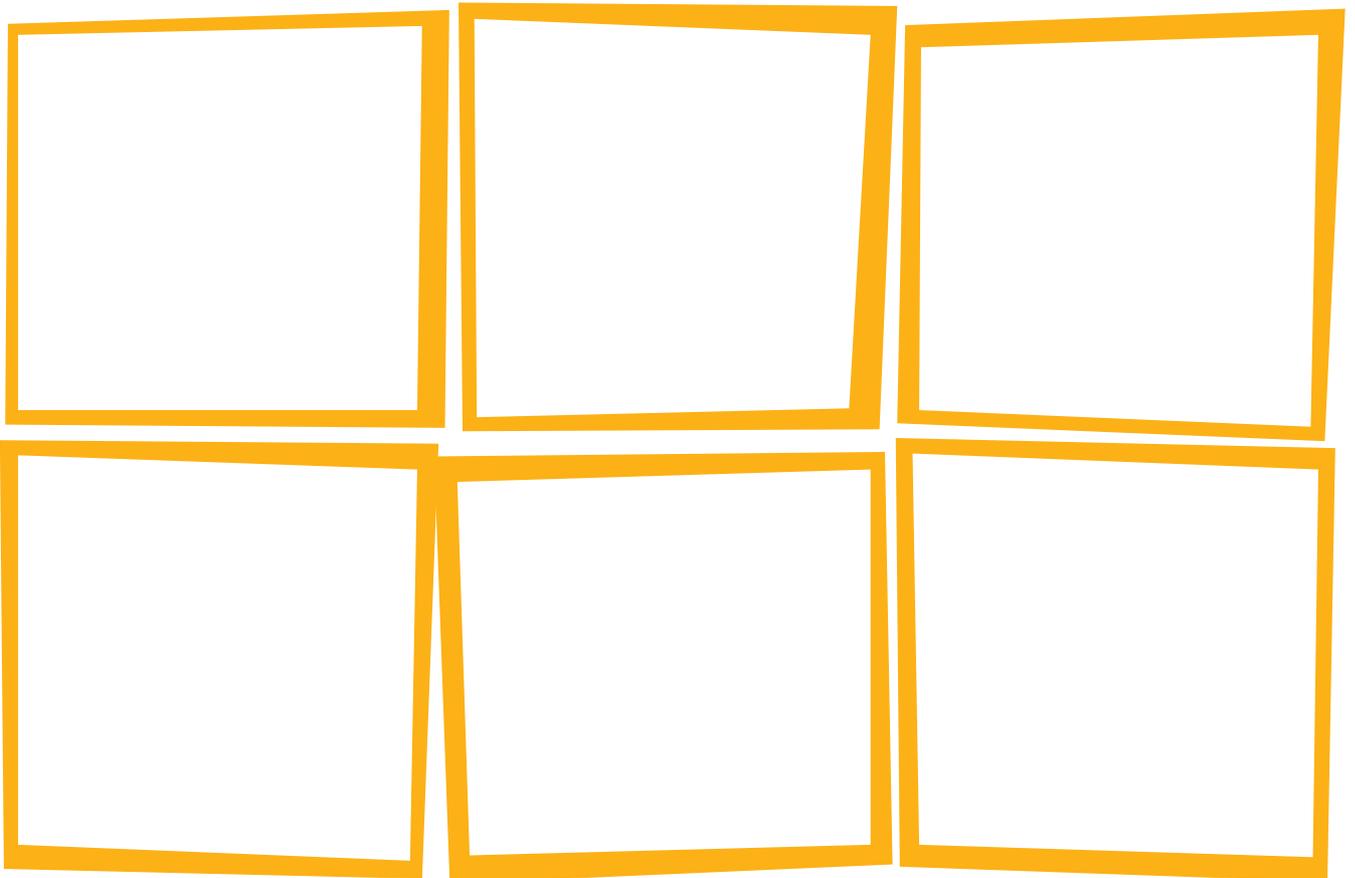
Why might a family decide to emigrate from their home and move to Ireland?

How would you feel about moving to a different country?

What would be easy?

What would be difficult?

Make a comic strip about a trip you have been on to another town or country. Illustrate your adventure and the people you met along the way.

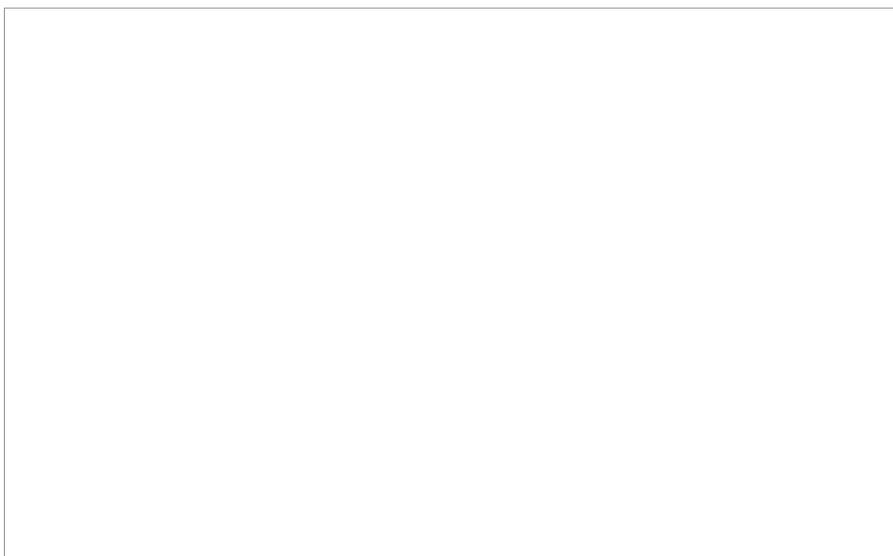


Activity

Learning about Latvia

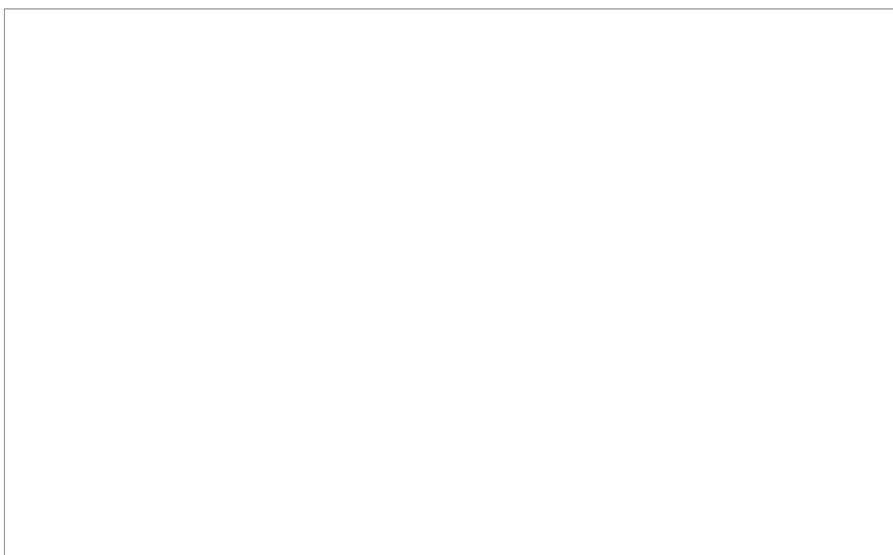
The Latvian Flag

Can you draw the Latvian flag?



Daniils told us about the meaning of the Latvian flag.

Can you draw the Irish flag? Do you know what the colours symbolise?



Activity

Learning about Poland

How much do you know about Poland?

Before reading about Poland, work with a partner to list five things that you already know about Poland?

My top five facts about Poland!

The diagram consists of a central purple text 'My top five facts about Poland!' with five orange arrows pointing outwards to five empty orange-bordered boxes. The boxes are arranged in a circle around the central text: one at the top, one on the left, one on the right, one at the bottom-left, and one at the bottom-right.

DON'T WORRY...

If you don't know five facts before we start, you can fill them in at the end of the lesson!

Learning about Poland!

Cześć! Bardzo mi miło. I'm so pleased to meet you all. My name is Lech and I am from Poland. Today, you are in for a treat because today we will learn all about my favourite subject.

Can you guess what that is?...

Yes, that's right, today we will learn all about my homeland, Poland or Polska as we say in Polish.



Did you know? Lechia is the old Latin name for Poland. According to ancient Polish legends, it is claimed that I, Lech, discovered the land that we now called Poland.

Do you know the story? No? Well then let me share it with you.

The Story of how Poland came to be...

Long long ago, a thousand years or more, I lived in a crowded little village with my family and my friends. One day, I decided to find a new home, less crowded than our bustling village. My brothers **Rus** and **Czech** had the same idea.

We travelled for many weeks without meeting a single person. From the peak of a mountain we looked out on the land below. Determined to find a new home we split up. Rus went right, Czech went left and I travelled straight ahead.

Finally, I came upon a grassy meadow and the cool crisp waters of a lake. As I stopped to take a rest, a snow white and majestic eagle swooped over my head. At the same time, the red rays of the setting sun beamed onto his wings. The eagle's wings dazzled as if they were made of gold. I was awe struck by this beautiful sight and decided that this was where I would settle down with my people.

We called the town **Gniezno**, which means eagles nest. Our flag was **red with a white eagle**. Soon, we became known as '**Polonians**' or people of the field and Gniezno became Poland's first capital city.

Learning about Poland!

Have you ever been to Poland? If you have, you will know it's a long way from here. In fact it's almost **2,000 km** from Monaghan Town to **Warsaw** our capital city.

This is my first time in Co. Monaghan, so before I tell you about my home in Poland, can you tell me something about your home here in Co. Monaghan?



Working with the person beside you, make a list of the five most important things that I should know about living here.

Reflection:

How can you help a new child to settle in?

If you have moved here – what helped you to settle in?



Did you know?

Poland is the **sixth largest** country in the EU. It is more than four times bigger than Ireland!

There are many more people living in Poland than living here in Ireland. The population of Poland is more than **38 million** people!

Do you know the population of Ireland?

Famous People from Poland

Nicolaus Copernicus -
Astronomer

Marie Curie – the first
woman to win a Nobel
Prize

Pope John Paul II

Test

Can you find Poland on the map of Europe?

Which countries border Poland?

Answer: Russia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Germany

Learning about Poland!

You're really impressing me with your learning power today! You also look like a group of kids who love a little bit of fun! Am I right?

Would you like to know more about what we celebrate at home in Poland?

You might even be lucky enough to have someone from Poland in your class who can tell you how they celebrate with their family here in Co. Monaghan?



Imieniny

For grown-ups in Poland, their name day or '*imieniny*' is more important than their birthday. On Polish calendars, there is a list of names for every day of the year. Families gather together to celebrate and to present an odd-number of flowers to the solenizant/solenizantka (person whose name day it is). On my name day, you can greet me by saying 'Wszystkiego najlepszego!', which means 'All the best!'.

Activity:

Do you know any other nationalities that celebrate name days?

Does anyone in your class celebrate their name day?

Ask a friend how he/she celebrates his/her name day.

In Poland, Christmas is known as '**Gwiazdka**' or '**Little Star**'. On Christmas Eve, Polish families enjoy a delicious feast once the first star appears in the night sky.

On Easter Saturday, Polish families prepare a traditional food basket called a *święcony*. This includes seven types of food; brightly coloured decorated eggs called '*pisanki*', bread, salt, smoked meat, cheese, horseradish and cake. The family brings the basket to the church where it is blessed by the priest.

On Easter Sunday, the family gathers together for a delicious breakfast. Each person receives something from the basket.

And...on Easter Monday, Polish children practise an ancient custom. On this day, boys sprinkle girls with water!

Find out about Easter traditions in other countries. Does Co. Monaghan have any Easter traditions of its own?



Learning about Poland!



Have you ever been to Krakow? Well, if you ever get there be sure to look for my friend Lajkonik! Here he is now to tell you something about himself!

Cześć everybody! Thank you for inviting me to visit this lovely hilly county of yours. I'm glad I came on horseback so that I could explore this beautiful countryside.

Once every year, you can see a very strange sight in Krakow. What will you see? A bearded man, dressed in exotic robes and a pointed hat riding through the city on a wooden horse attached to his waist. Now who do you think that is?

It's me of course! I'm the funny looking fellow who trots around Krakow bashing people over the head with my mace!

Of course I only do it gently and a little tip on the head is actually a sign of good luck! But, you must be wondering why I do this.



In June each year, Krakow remembers how some brave oarsmen saved the city from Turkish invaders called the Tartars. The oarsmen launched a surprise attack on the Tartars and then stole their clothes before returning to the city to celebrate their victory. My parade retraces the steps taken by the oarsmen.

The parade takes place on the first Thursday after the Christian feast of Corpus Christi so the date changes every year.

Some people believe that the parade existed long before the oarsmen battled against the Tartars. They believe that it was an ancient pagan ritual which brought good luck and a rich harvest but I prefer my version!



Dziękuję! Thank you for taking time away from your books to learn about me and my country. I hope you enjoyed your time with me today.

Before I say goodbye, I have one final treat for you. This is a story about a very good friend of mine called Janosik.

Does he remind you of anybody? Do widezenia!



A Polish Legend

The story of Janosik

Janosik was the famous leader of a band of Polish robbers. As a young man, he lived in the mountains which lie along the border between Poland and Slovakia.

One day while walking through the mountains he came across a greedy landlord and his henchmen soldiers who were collecting money from the poor and starving people of the villages.

Janosik decided to steal the money from the landlord and give it back to its rightful owners.

He displayed great bravery and recaptured the heavy sack of gold coins. Unbeknownst to Janosik, three wise witches were watching from the wings. They were so impressed with his courage that they gave him three magical gifts.

The first was a magical shirt, to protect him from the arrows of his enemies. The second was a magic belt, to help him run as fast as the wind. The third magical gift was a climbing axe so that he could escape up steep cliffs.

Janosik and his friends were the scourge of the rich and greedy people living in Poland at that time. Janosik used his supernatural powers to plunder their homes but never kept the loot for himself. Instead he used it to feed the poor and hungry people.





Although Janosik was the hero of the poor, not everybody was happy about his special powers. A large reward was offered for his capture. A woman he knew was tempted by the reward. She stole his magical gifts and helped the soldiers to find Janosik.

After a brave battle, Janosik, who no longer had any superpowers, was arrested and taken to prison...but not for long. Even without his magical gifts Janosik managed to escape using his cunning to trick the guards.

To this day, he lives in the same mountains robbing from the rich and giving to the poor.

The End



Activity

Learning about Poland

flowers

eagle's

Gniezno

little star

imieniny

Ireland

name day

Warsaw

Use the words in this box to fill in the gaps in the text below.

The town of _____ was Poland's first capital city.

Gniezno means _____ nest.

Today _____ is the capital city of Poland.

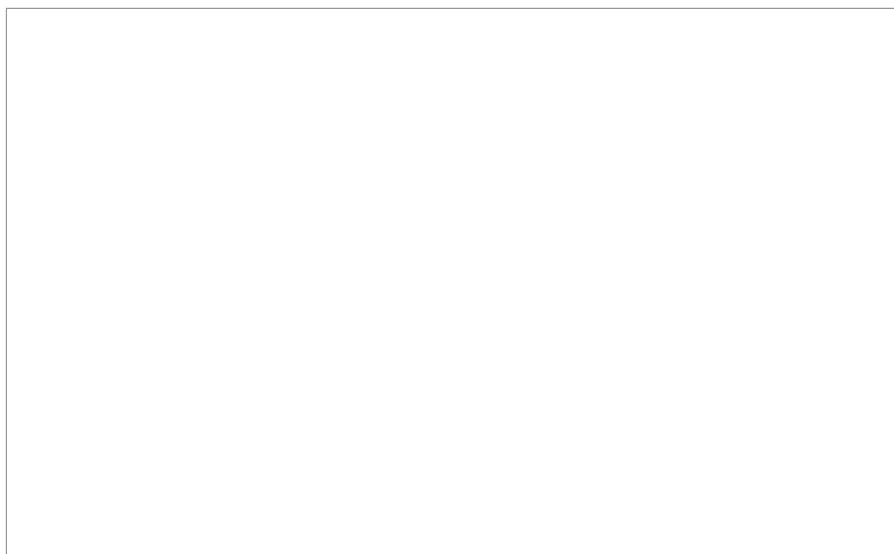
Poland is four times bigger than _____.

Christmas time in Poland is called Gwiazdka. This means _____.

In Poland people celebrate their _____ more than their birthday.

On this day, which is called _____ in Polish, people receive an odd-number of _____ from their friends and family.

Can you draw the Polish flag?



Activity

Learning about Poland

Think about the story of Janosik.

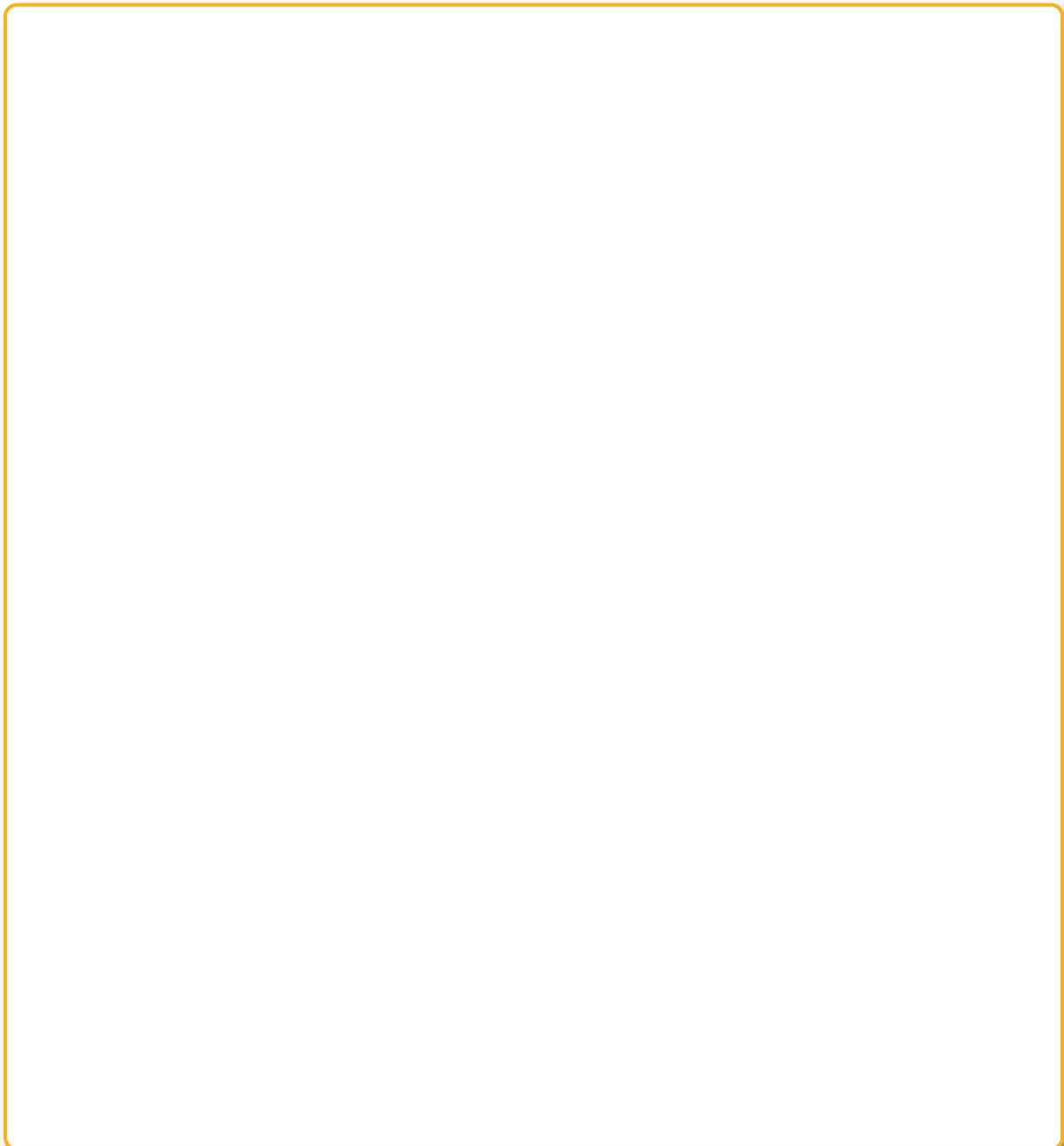
Janosik is famous because he stole from the rich to give to the poor.

Does the story of Janosik remind you of any other story?

Most countries and cultures have stories about heroes from their past. Many of these stories are very similar. The hero is often brave, courageous, kind, strong and honest.

We see that in many countries, people admire the same traits.

Draw a picture of Janosik and another hero who is famous for his bravery and his kindness towards poor people.



Activity

Learning about the Philippines

How much do you know about the Philippines?

Before reading about the Philippines, work with a partner to list five things that you already know about the Philippines?

My top five facts about the Philippines!

DON'T WORRY...

If you don't know five facts before we start, you can fill them in at the end of the lesson!

Learning about the Philippines!

Kumusta! My name is Mary Ann. I am 12 years old and I live in Carrickmacross. I was born in the Philippines and moved to Ireland when I was nine years old.

My teacher asked me to tell you all a little bit about my homeland.

Before I do that, I'll introduce you to your guide today.



Juan Tamad is one of our most famous characters. He's really lazy...but you'll read all about that a little later on. I hope he stays awake long enough to tell you some fascinating facts about life in the Philippines.

<<Juan...wake up!!!>>

...I don't think he's listening...Everybody on three...

<<JUAN...WAKE UP!!!>>

Yawn...Stretch...YAAAWWWN...

Kumusta everybody!

It's great to be here in Co. Monaghan today even if it is a bit nippy! I'm not used to cold weather like this.

Mary Ann has asked me to help you out with some fascinating facts on the Philippines or Ang Pilipinas as we say in Tagalog.



Did you know?

The Philippines is much larger than Ireland. It is the size of four Irelands all stuck together, but I don't know why you would try that! It sounds like rather a lot of work.

It is almost 11,000 kilometres from Co. Monaghan to the Philippines. I'm so glad I travelled by aeroplane! The flight took 19 hours so I slept all the way here.

Learning about the Philippines!

The Philippines has a population of 99.9 million people. That's a lot of people.

People from different parts of the country speak different languages and have different customs and traditions.

87 different languages are spoken in the Philippines. The official languages are Filipino and English. Cebuano, Tagalog, Ilocano and Maranao are the main local languages.



Most people living in the Philippines are Christian but we also have a large Muslim community. Most Muslims live in the south of the country in the region of Mindanao.

The people of Mindanao have rich traditions and customs that come from their Islamic culture. These are different from the traditions and customs that come from the Christian culture in other parts of the Philippines.

Did you know?

The Philippines is the third largest English-speaking country in the world?



Did you know?

That most schools in the Philippines are English-speaking schools.

Every subject except Filipino is taught through English.

Activity

What would it be like to live in a country where many different languages are spoken every day?

How many languages are spoken in your classroom every day?

Think about your local area.

Do different towns, townlands or parishes have different traditions, different stories, different heroes or different pastimes?

Think about Ireland

Do different counties have different traditions, different stories, different heroes or different pastimes?

Think about Europe

What do you share in common with children your age in other European countries?

Learning about the Philippines!

Test

The Philippines is in which continent?

Answer: Asia

Can you find the Philippines on the map?

When you look at the map, what do you notice about the Philippines?

Like Ireland, the Philippines is an island nation. The Philippines is made up of a chain of lots and lots of smaller islands. This is called an **archipelago**.

In fact, the Philippines is made up of over 7,000 islands. It is the second largest archipelago in the world.

Can you guess which country is the world's largest archipelago?

Answer: Indonesia

Salamat Juan! Thank you for helping me with some of the facts about our country.

Thanks also to all of you for your interest in our home. Now that you know a little about the Philippines, I'd like to tell you about my favourite festival, Flores de Mayo.

After that I know, Juan has a treat especially for you!



Mary Ann's Favourite Festival

Flores de Mayo

Flores de Mayo is an important Catholic festival in the Philippines. It was introduced hundreds of years ago, when the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan conquered the islands for Spain. It honours the Virgin Mary and takes place in the month of May. Little girls dressed in white sprinkle petals on the ground and leave flowers on the altar of the church.

On the last day of Flores de Mayo there is a big parade called the Santa Cruzan. It honours Reyna Elena (Queen Helena). She was the mother of Constantine the Great, who was a Roman Emperor. Reyna Elena travelled to Jerusalem with her son and discovered an ancient wooden cross. It was the cross that Jesus was crucified on, so the Santa Cruzan parade celebrates that discovery.



Learning about the Philippines!

Do you recognise this flag?

That's right, it's the flag of the Philippines.
Each part of the flag has a special meaning.

Three stars stand for the three major regions of the country; Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Blue is the symbol for peace

The sun has eight rays to remind us of the eight provinces that fought for independence from Spain.

The white triangle tells us that everybody is equal.

Red is the symbol of courage.



Well friends, it's time for me to go! I will leave you with a little treat from Juan Tamad.

Paalam! Goodbye!



The Adventures of Juan Tamad (Lazy Juan)

A Filipino Legend

Shared with the children of Co. Monaghan by Fina Maranon and her children Andres, Lucas and Gabriel, Subic Bay, The Philippines

A long time ago, a boy called Juan lived in a small fishing village in the Luzon region of the Philippines. Juan was the laziest boy in the whole village. Even though he was young and healthy, Juan never did anything except eat and sleep. He was known far and wide as Juan Tamad (Lazy Juan).

Juan's laziness was always getting him into trouble, especially with his hot-headed mother. She was at her wits end with her idle son. No matter what she asked him to do, he would let her down. Juan had an excuse for everything!

One morning, Juan's mother needed wood for the fire. She went outside and found Juan in his usual spot under the guava tree. He was lying on the ground waiting for the delicious ripe fruit to fall straight from the tree into his mouth – too lazy to reach up and pick it from the tree himself!

Furious, Juan's mother roared so loudly at her workshy son that he jumped two feet from the ground. Handing him his father's axe, she sent him out into the forest to chop wood for the stove.

Juan wandered aimlessly through the forest trying to think of a good excuse to go home early. But he was tired, and the excuses didn't come as easily as they usually did. Instead, he stopped in front of an old tree with brittle branches and set to work.

As luck would have it, this was no ordinary tree. In fact it was a magical tree, and when Juan lifted his axe, it began to weep. 'Please Juan', it begged, 'don't chop off my branches. If you leave me alone, I will give you a magical goat which shakes silver from its beard'.

Juan couldn't believe his luck. Not only had he discovered a talking tree and been given the gift of a





magic goat but he also had a good excuse for not chopping any more wood! A gap appeared in the tree and the magic goat stepped out. It shook its beard and sure enough a carpet of silver coins covered the forest floor.

Juan gathered the coins and headed home to show the goat to his mother.

Along the way, Juan met his friend José and told him all about his adventure in the forest. José was very greedy, and knowing that Juan was not very clever, he decided to rob the goat for himself. José also knew that Juan was always tired so he encouraged him to take a quick nap before continuing on his journey. Once Juan was asleep José swapped the magic goat for an ordinary goat.

When Juan returned home he gathered his family around him to tell them all about the enchanted tree but when the goat shook his beard no silver appeared. Juan's mother was fed up of her idle son and his silly stories. She was furious that he had come home without any firewood so she sent him to bed without any supper.

Juan was angry too because he thought the tree had lied to him. He wandered back into the forest to find the tree and cut it down.

When he held his axe up to the tree, again it began to weep, 'Please Juan', it begged, 'If you leave me alone I will give you a magical net which will catch fish wherever it is cast'. Juan's curiosity eased his fury and he accepted the tree's offer.

Sure enough, as soon as Juan cast the net onto the forest floor, it filled to the brim with delicious fish. Delighted once more, Juan rushed home to tell his mother.

Again, he met the crafty José on the road home and passed a few fields telling him all about his bad luck with the goat and good luck with the magic net. José again persuaded Juan to take a rest and again swapped the magic net for a normal one. At home again, Juan gathered the whole village to watch the magical net in action and again he was disappointed. His mother was even more furious than before and the rest of the villagers laughed and laughed until their stomachs hurt.

For a third time, Juan returned to the tree determined to cut it down. Again, the tree pleaded with Juan and this time offered him a magic pot of rice that would never empty and magic spoons to conjure up delicious food.





Confident that this time his mother would be proud of him, Juan toddled home along the familiar road. For a third time, he met his devious friend José and for a third time he was tempted by the thought of a nice afternoon snooze. Once more, José swapped the magical gifts for ordinary ones and Juan was left to look like a fool in front of the whole village. The villagers were becoming tired of Juan's stories and this time, they chased him and his useless pot out of the village.

By this time, Juan had lost all patience with the magic tree and its devious tricks. He stomped back into the forest determined to chop it into smithereens.

But Juan was a kind-hearted soul, and when the tree began to weep, the anger in his heart subsided. This time the tree offered him a magic stick. 'If you say the magic words, 'Boombye, Boomba' the stick will chase away your enemies.'

Wandering back towards the village, Juan met José again and told him about the stick's powers. No sooner had he uttered the words 'Boombye, Boomba' but the stick began to chase José around in circles. Terrified, José pleaded with Juan to call off the stick, 'Please Juan, if you only make it stop, I will return all that I have stolen from you'.

Suddenly Juan realised that it was José who had tricked him. Together they returned to the village with all of the magic gifts. Juan's family could not believe their eyes when they saw silver fall from the goat's beard, fish spilling out of the net and the pot and spoons overflowing with delicious rice, meat and vegetables. Juan's mother's hot temper melted when she saw Juan feed the entire village using his magical gifts. The villagers were so astounded that they decided to make Juan their leader.

And so it was, that Juan lived out his days with a fully belly and an easy mind. Most days, he could be found lying under his favourite guava tree, waiting for the delicious ripe fruit to fall straight from the tree into his open mouth.

In case you were wondering, the magic stick had a role too. It kept the villagers safe from robbers and foreign armies. With the words 'Boombye, Boomba' all marauding villains were chased far far away.

The End



Activity

Learning about the Philippines



MISSION

You're learning about the Philippines, a country where 87 languages are spoken every day!

Your mission is to find out:

How many languages are spoken by your classmates every day?

How many languages are spoken in your school every day?

Design a poster to celebrate all of the languages spoken in your school.

A large empty rectangular box with a thick orange border, intended for students to design a poster. The box is currently blank.

Activity

Learning about the Philippines

Everybody's home is special and unique.

Think about something that makes your home town or townland unique. Write a short letter to a penpal in the Philippines telling him or her what makes your home special.

Dear Friend

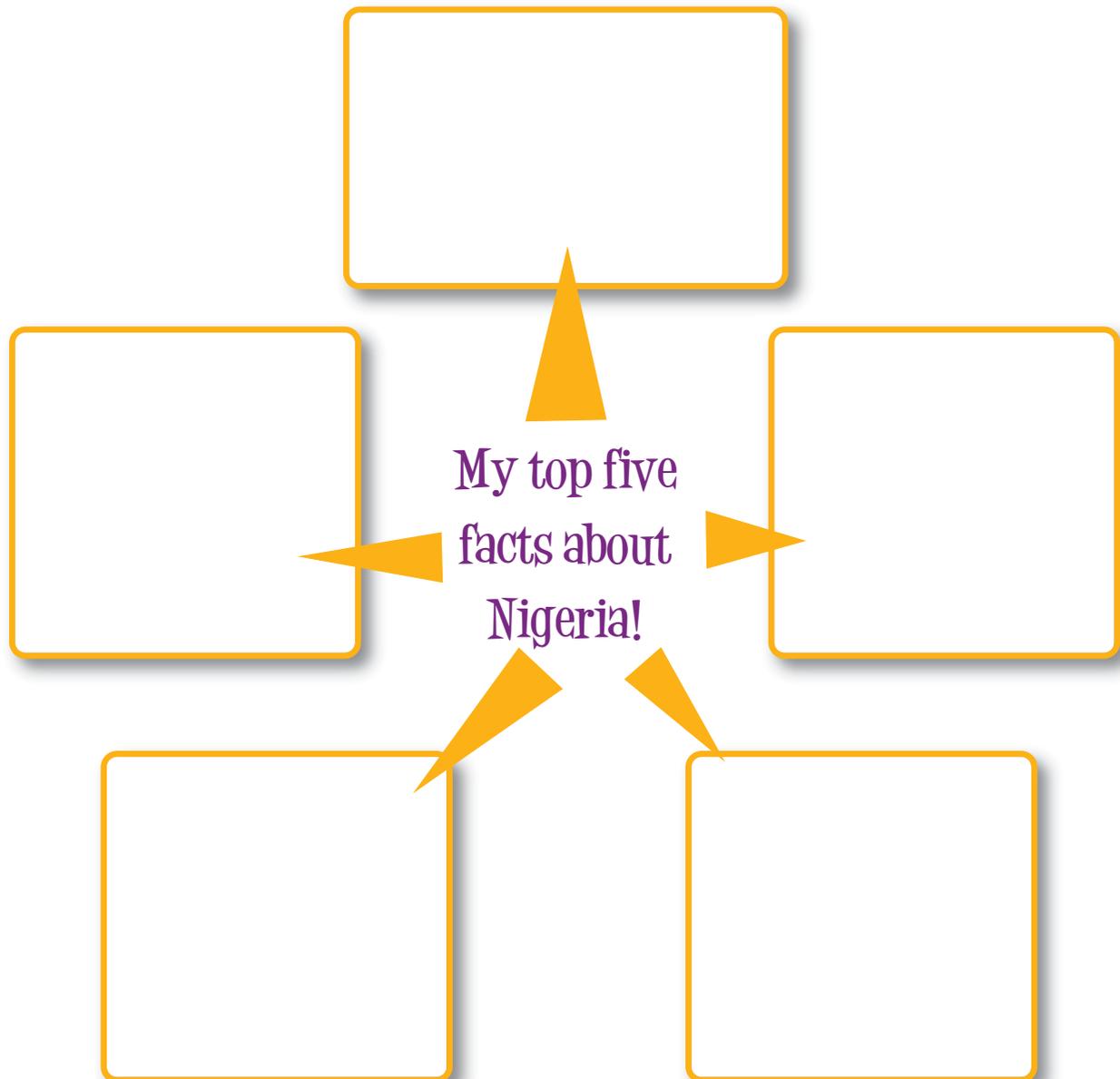
Yours sincerely

Activity

Learning about Nigeria

How much do you know about Nigeria?

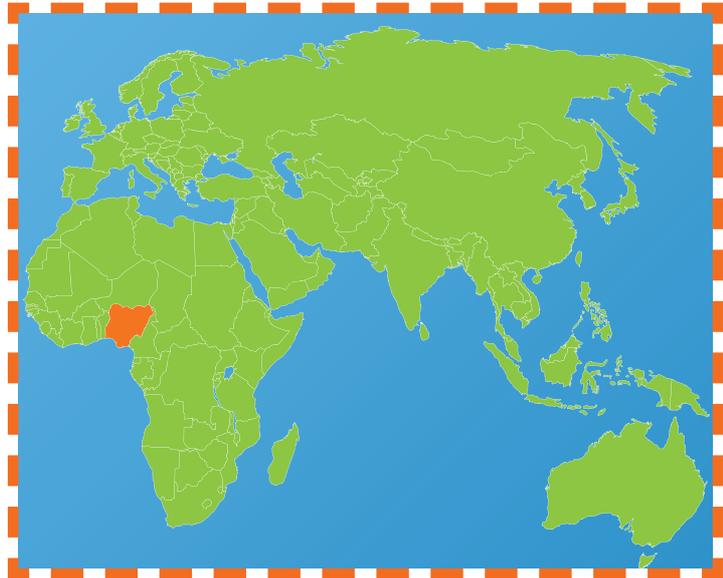
Before reading about Nigeria, work with a partner to list five things that you already know about Nigeria?



DON'T WORRY...

If you don't know five facts before we start, you can fill them in at the end of the lesson!

Learning about Nigeria



Ẹ n lẹ! My name is Tokunbo and I am 12 years old. I am in sixth class and will soon be starting secondary school.

In my school, we have been learning a lot about all of the different cultures, religions and nationalities in County Monaghan today.

So, I thought it might be interesting to tell you a little bit about Nigeria, the country my family comes from.

Sometimes, when people look at me, they see only Africa. They look at the colour of my skin and they know that I am African. They don't ask what country my family comes from or what people we belong to.

A lot of people forget that Africa is a continent not a country. They think that everyone who comes from Africa is really the same.

Test

Can you find Nigeria on the map of Africa?

Which countries border Nigeria?

Answer: Benin, Cameroon, Chad and Niger

Nigeria is a large country in the west of Africa.

It is 13 times bigger than Ireland!

Its capital city is **Abuja** but the largest city is called **Lagos**. See if you can find these two cities on your map.

Did you know?

Nigeria has a population of 152 million people? That's an awful lot of people!

Nigeria is the **most populous** country in all of Africa! That means that more people live in Nigeria than in any other African country.

In such a big country, with so many people you couldn't expect us all to be exactly the same, could you?



Did you know?

People living in Nigeria speak lots of different languages?

English is the official language. The other major languages are **Yoruba, Hausa, Igbo** and **Fulani**.

My family speak English and Yoruba. This is because we are part of the Yoruba people. The Yoruba is one of the largest people groups in Nigeria.

There are 250 people groups and tribes in Nigeria. The largest groups are Hausa and Fulani, Yoruba, Igbo, Ijaw, Kanuri, Ibibio and Tiv.

I live in Ballybay with my Mammy, Daddy and big sister Monifa.

I'm Irish, Yoruba and Nigerian all at the same time. I was born in Ireland. That's why I was called Tokunbo. In our culture, we like to give people special names that tell us something about their birth. Tokunbo means 'born overseas' in the Yoruba language.

My family come from the city of Ibadan in Nigeria. Mammy and Daddy moved to Ireland a long time ago when they were at university.



More than 20 million people all over the world speak Yoruba.

Not all Yoruba people are from Nigeria, some live in Benin, Ghana and Togo. **Can you find these countries on the map?**

When you look at the map of Africa, you will notice that the borders of many countries are like straight lines. This reminds us that many African borders were drawn by European colonisers.

When Africa was split up, a lot of traditional people groups and tribes were separated. This is why we find groups like the Yoruba, Hausa and Igbo people in different countries.

Most Yoruba live in cities, like Ibadan and Lagos rather than in villages.

Being Yoruba is not only about the language your family speaks.

We have our own culture and traditions too.



My family are Protestant. We attend services at the Elim Pentecostal Church in Monaghan Town.

Not all Nigerians are Christian. Half of the people living in Nigeria are Muslim. Many other people, like the Yoruba have their own ancient religions. They worship many different gods and spirits.

Like I already said, many people living in Nigeria have other beliefs, they worship gods and spirits.

Did you know?

Twins are more common in Nigeria than in any other country in the world!

The Yoruba people have more twins than any other group!

We even have special naming traditions for twins. The first twin is usually called Taiyewo and the second twin is often called Kehinde.

I wasn't sure what else to tell you about Nigeria so I asked my classmates to help me out.

Patrick asked, 'Is everybody in Nigeria really poor?'

The answer is no! There are lots of poor people in Nigeria but we also have millionaires and business people.

There is lots of oil in Nigeria and business people make a lot of money from mining it and selling it.

Oil is big business, but some rich and powerful people like to keep the money for themselves rather than sharing it with the poorer people.

Sofia said, 'Tell me about a festival. We all love a party!'

My friend Obioma and his family are Igbos. The Igbo people are known for their famous Iri-ji (new yam eating) festivals. These festivals take place in every Igbo community in August at the end of the rainy season. Here's what he told me about it!

The yam is a large root vegetable that is very common in Africa.

It is an important symbol for Igbo people. It shows that they are hardworking and honest.

The festival gives thanks to the gods for providing a good harvest.

Each year, the oldest man in the village or the king gets the honour of eating the first yam of the season.

Everyone is invited to the celebrations to eat lots of different dishes made from yams. Cultural dances are performed and great fun is had by young and old!



Orla asked, 'Can you tell me about another tribe?'

The Hausa are one of the biggest people groups in Nigeria. They usually live in the north of Nigeria.

The Hausa language is the main language of more than 50 million people in the West of Africa. It is widely spoken in Niger, Cameroon and Ghana.

Hausa people are usually Muslims. They have been famous traders and merchants for hundreds of years.



Alex asked, 'What does the flag look like?'

This is the Nigerian flag.

The green stripes are symbols of agriculture.

The white stripe is a symbol of peace and unity.



Well there you have it! I hope you've enjoyed learning all about Nigeria. Here's a little treat to thank you for listening. This is one of my favourite stories!

O dabo! Bye bye!

A legend from Nigeria *The Lion and the Turtle*

By Bummi Salako, Dundalk



Once upon a time Lion and Turtle were great friends.

Their families were very close as well. The two friends went hunting together every day. They agreed that when a big animal was killed Lion would take the animal home and when a small one was captured then Turtle would take that small animal home.

We all know that the Lion is bigger than the Turtle and this was the reason for their agreement.

This they did for many years without any problem.

One day, they set out to the forest to hunt for food. They walked for several hours without killing any animals. Just when they decided to give up the hunt, they saw a bull at a distance. Lion went for it and killed it. He was very happy because his family could keep the bull and they would have a great meal.

He asked the Turtle to go to his den and get his children to carry the bull home to his wife.

"Meet me at the stream on your return," he said to Turtle.

On the way, Turtle had a thought. He decided to call his own children instead of Lion's children. They took the animal home to their own mother who cooked for them a very delicious meal which they ate then and there. They didn't wait for their father to return.

Turtle went back to meet his friend by the stream. Lion had not killed any animal since Turtle left.

"I am getting really tired, I think I should go back home." said the Turtle.

"I think we should hunt a little more so you will have something to take home for your family," Lion





said thinking about his friend. "If we catch nothing then we'll share the bull between us," Lion concluded.

Turtle was shocked at this suggestion. He had thought Lion would never share his big animal with him. He became very uneasy. He decided to go straight home to make sure his wife didn't cook the bull. So, he pretended he was too weak to continue the hunt.

"I really must go home and rest," he said to Lion.

"Alright then, if I kill another animal I will bring it home to you, if I don't kill any more, then I will bring your share of the bull", assured Lion.

Turtle hurried home to see if he could still take the bull to Lion's house.

He was not happy with himself when he discovered his wife had already cooked the bull but he sat down and ate it anyway. He was sure Lion would come for him when he discovered he had betrayed him.

He told his wife what he had done.

"You shouldn't have done that," she said, "I thought you and Lion had killed two big animals and took one each," said his wife.

"Lion will be very angry when he finds out," she added.

"We must be ready to escape because he will kill all of us if he finds us here," Turtle said to his wife.

While they were still talking they heard Lion's voice at the door. He had been home and had discovered that Turtle never gave the bull to his children and realised he had been tricked.

As soon as they heard his voice, Turtle's family ran out of the house through the back door and dived straight into the river at the back of the house. Lion heard the splash in the river and hurried to the back of the house.

When he saw Turtle and his family in the river, he vowed to kill them if they ever came out.

Since then, Turtle and his family have lived inside the river to avoid being killed by Lion.

The End



Activity

Learning about Nigeria

Can you find Nigeria on this blank map of Africa?



How many other African countries can you find?

Is there anything unusual about the map? Why do you think so many borders have straight lines

Activity

Learning about other countries

Pick a country that you would like to know more about.

How much do you know about your chosen country?

Before starting your research, work with a partner to list five things that you already know about this country?

My top five facts about _____!

DON'T WORRY...

If you don't know five facts before we start, you can fill them in at the end of the lesson!

Activity

Country Profile

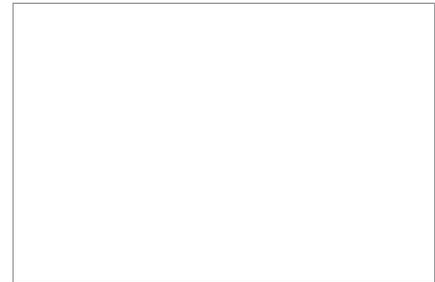
This country is called _____

It has a population of _____ people.

Its capital city is _____

The official language of this country is _____

Can you draw the flag?



People also speak these languages: _____

The people who live in this country are known as _____

The currency of this country is called _____

_____ is famous for _____

Fascinating facts about this country: _____

Famous people: _____

A traditional story: _____

Playground games: _____

Exploring Religious Diversity

Integration

Religion

History: Eras of Change and Conflict, Modern Ireland

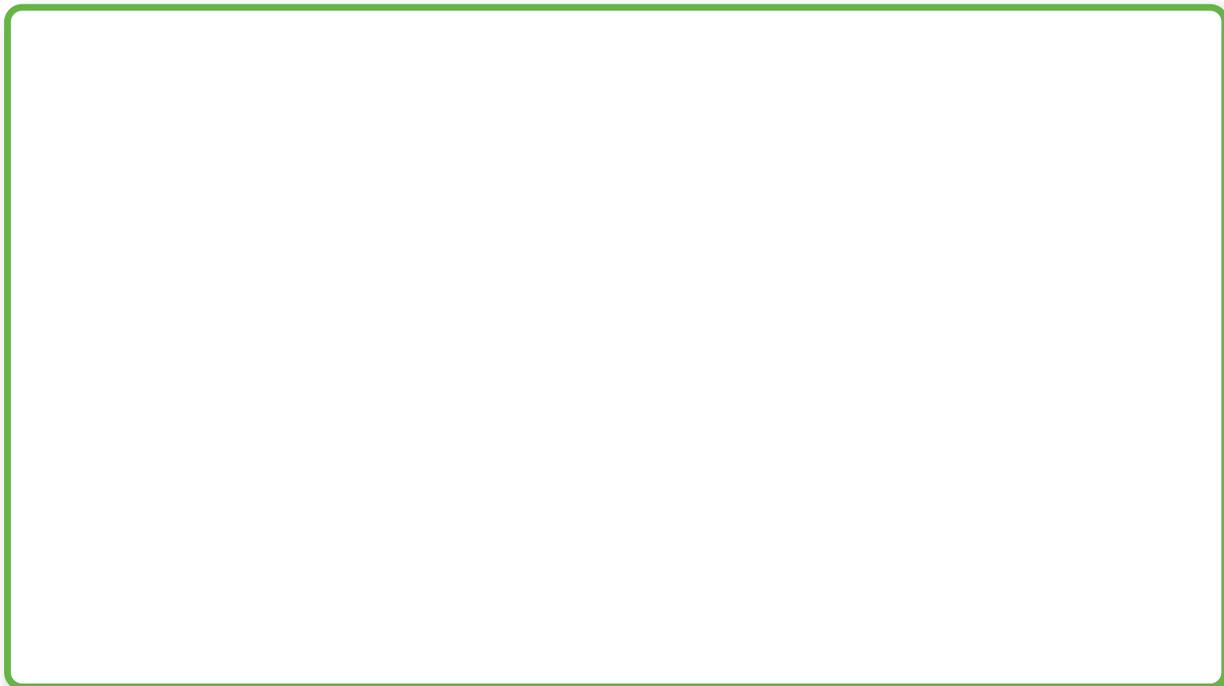
English: Oral Language, competence and confidence using language

SPHE: Myself and others, My friends and other people/Relating to others

Activity

Christianity

Draw a symbol of Christianity in the box below.



List words that you associate with the Catholic faith.

List words that you associate with the Protestant faith.

List words that you associate with Islam.

Think of another religion you know and list words you associate with it.

Christianity

Hi everyone, my name is Rosie and this is my friend Sarah. We both go to school in Monaghan and are in the same class.

Hello everyone! Rosie and I are best friends. We're both nine years old and we're both Christians.

Today, your teacher has asked for our special help to tell you about all of the Christian religions practised here in County Monaghan.

Rosie, what do we mean when we talk about Christians?

That's an easy one! Christians can be **Catholic, Protestant** or **Orthodox** but **all Christians** believe in the story of Jesus Christ.

Christians also believe in the **Holy Trinity**. We believe there is only one God who is made up of three parts: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

That's really interesting! I have some fascinating figures so put your thinking caps on...

Christianity is the largest religion on the planet!

It has over **two billion** followers all over the world.

Two billion Christians - that's a lot of people. I'm glad I didn't have to count them all! Can anybody show me what two billion looks like when it's written down?

Answer: 2,000,000,000

What about Co. Monaghan; do you know how many Christians live here?

I do surely. The 2006 Census tells us that there are over **53 thousand** Christians living in Co. Monaghan today.

Most are **Roman Catholic** like Rosie; a smaller number are **Protestants** like me; and an even smaller number are **Orthodox Christians** like our friend Vladimir.

Hmmm that's really interesting Sarah, I never knew there were so many Christians living here. I'd love to know more about them.

If I tell the kids about being Catholic, maybe you could tell them about being Protestant?

That's a great idea. We can ask our friend Vladimir to tell us about his Orthodox faith.

Teachers' Key Notes on Christianity

Common Belief: The Story of Jesus Christ

Important Feasts: Christmas and Easter. Traditional celebrations may differ depending on the denomination or country of origin.

Branches: Roman Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox

Common Protestant Denominations in Co. Monaghan: Church of Ireland, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Elim Pentecostal

Christianity

Learning about Life as a Catholic

You're still here... I hope you'll stay with me for another wee while, so I can tell you a little about my life.

I'm nine years old (nine and a half actually) and I live in Monaghan Town with my family...but I was born in a hospital in Dublin.

I've a big family. There are six of us counting Mum and Dad. We do lots of great stuff together. We really love watching TV and meeting up with other families.



I'm **Catholic** so I usually go to mass with my Mum and my sister on Sunday morning. When I'm ten, I want to become an altar server. Altar servers are boys and girls who help the priest at the altar during mass. They wear a special robe called an alb.

We celebrate lots of special family occasions at our parish church. A few months after a new baby is born, he/she is **baptised** by the priest. Last year, I made my **First Holy Communion**. This is a big celebration for most Catholic families. I wore a beautiful white dress and received Eucharist for the first time.

When I'm in fifth or sixth class, I will make my Confirmation. At Confirmation the Bishop asks the Holy Spirit to guide you and help you lead a good life.

Like families all over the world, we also celebrate our birthdays. I love parties! Sometimes when we have something to celebrate, we also go out for a special dinner.

St. Patrick's Day is great in Monaghan. I usually meet with my friends and their families so that we can watch the parade together.

My favourite hobby is horseriding.

All Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas time and his rise from the dead at Easter.

Most of the kids at my school are Christians so we all celebrate Christmas and Easter together.

The school closes for two weeks so that we can enjoy these holidays with our families.

Christianity

Learning about Life as a Catholic

Now that I've told you a little bit about my life, I want to give you some more information about the Roman Catholic faith.



Did you know the Catholic Church is about 2,000 years old! It is the oldest Christian Church in the world.

There are **one billion** Catholics in the world today and 48 thousand of them live here in Co. Monaghan!

The **Pope** is the leader of the Catholic Church all over the world. He lives in the **Vatican City** in Rome. Like all Catholic priests the pope is not allowed to get married.

Do you know the name and nationality of the current pope?

Answer: Pope Benedict XVI from Germany

Like all Christians, Catholics follow the life of Jesus Christ. These stories are all written in the **New Testament** of the Bible.

The **Virgin Mary** is more important in the Catholic Church than in other Christian Churches. Catholics believe that Jesus' mother Mary has a special place between God in heaven and us here on earth.

When I was getting ready for my Holy Communion, I learned that Catholics and Protestants have different beliefs about the **Eucharist**.

I talked to Sarah about this but we were still a little bit confused, so we asked our teacher about it.

Teacher told us that Catholics believe that the bread and wine are turned into the body and blood of Jesus Christ during mass. She said Protestants don't believe this. Instead, they see the bread and wine as a **symbol** for the body and blood of Christ.

Sarah wanted to visit my church to see this happen!

She was really disappointed when I told her that the body and blood of Christ looks exactly the same as the bread and wine.

We just **believe** that it has changed from one into the other.

Can you list some of the common symbols of the Catholic Church?

We also discovered that **saints** are more important to Catholics than they are to Protestants. Catholics often pray to saints for help with problems or for cures for illnesses.

Do you know which saints are associated with Co. Monaghan?

Teachers' Key Notes on Catholicism

Leader: The Pope

Clergy: Male clergy who cannot marry.

Important figures: Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary, saints.

Sacraments: Baptism, Confession, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Holy Orders, Marriage, Sacrament of the Sick

Services: Follow a set pattern. Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday.

Christianity

Learning about Life as a Protestant

Let me see... I'm nine years old and I go to school in Monaghan Town.

I have one brother, so when you count my Mum and Dad there are four of us altogether, but I am the youngest.

Did you know that there are many types of Protestant churches?

My family is in the Church of Ireland. We go to Church every Sunday.

The life of Jesus Christ is really important to all Protestant Churches. Each church shows its love for Jesus in slightly different ways.



When Rosie told me that the children at her church sit with their families for the whole service I thought it was really unusual.

My brother and I only sit with our Mum and Dad for the first fifteen minutes. Then, we go out to Sunday School with all the other kids.

I love Sunday School. We read stories from the Bible and do lots of exciting activities. It's a really fun way to learn about my religion. And Mum gets a bit of peace and quiet too!

My family enjoys a special dinner together to celebrate the baptism of a new baby or other special occasions like birthdays. In the Church of Ireland, we don't celebrate First Holy Communion.

As Rosie said, Christmas and Easter are times of great celebration in my family, our church and our school. Everyone gets really excited waiting for Christmas Day and Easter Sunday.

I love St. Patrick's Day too. The parade is always really colourful and everyone has a great day out watching all of the floats passing by.

My favourite sport is badminton. I could play it all day long! Once a week, I go to Girls' Brigade to meet my friends.

Girls' Brigade is a Christian club for girls but you don't have to be a Christian to join in the fun. We play games, learn special skills and do lots of fun activities together.

Every company has its own uniform. When you wear your uniform, it tells people which company you belong to and shows that everyone in the company is equal.

Christianity

Learning about Life as a Presbyterian



Welcome back! Thanks for sticking with us. Your powers of concentration are really being tested today!

I hope you have enough energy to stay with me for another while.

How about a quick test to keep your brain motoring?

Do you know:

How many Christian Churches are there in your town?

And, can you tell me:

Which ones have you visited?

The main Protestant Churches in Co. Monaghan are Presbyterian, Church of Ireland and Methodist. More and more people also attend Elim Pentecostal Churches.

I will be your guide to the Protestant faith.

I will start with the Presbyterian Church because it's the largest Protestant group in Co. Monaghan.

Did you know almost 2,500 Presbyterians live in Co. Monaghan today?

The Presbyterian Church has a long history in Ireland. The first Presbyterians came to Ulster from Scotland in the 17th Century (1600s).

It was founded by John Calvin in the 16th Century (1500s).

It is most popular in Scotland and Northern Ireland but can also be found in many other countries all over the world.

The word Presbyterian is unusual, so I asked my friend Peter to explain it to me. He goes to Ballyalbany Presbyterian Church.

Peter told me that the word Presbyterian comes from the old Greek word for 'Elders'. Every Presbyterian Church has a group of wise people called Elders, who lead the church together. They are chosen by the community.

Peter said that in a Presbyterian Church it is important that everybody shares responsibility for the church and that no one person holds all the power.

The Minister is a teaching elder. The Minister can be a man or a woman. The Minister is no more important than the other Elders.

Have you ever been inside a Presbyterian Church? If so, you will have noticed that Presbyterian Churches are less ornate than other Christian Churches. They do not have statues of saints or lavish altars. They will have a simple pulpit, bible stand, communion table and baptismal font.

Presbyterians believe that it is more important to listen to the Word of God written in the Bible, than to repeat the rituals common in other Churches.

For this reason, Presbyterian services do not follow a pattern in the same way as Church of Ireland or Catholic services do. Instead, the Minister chooses the prayers, hymns and readings that suit the occasion best.

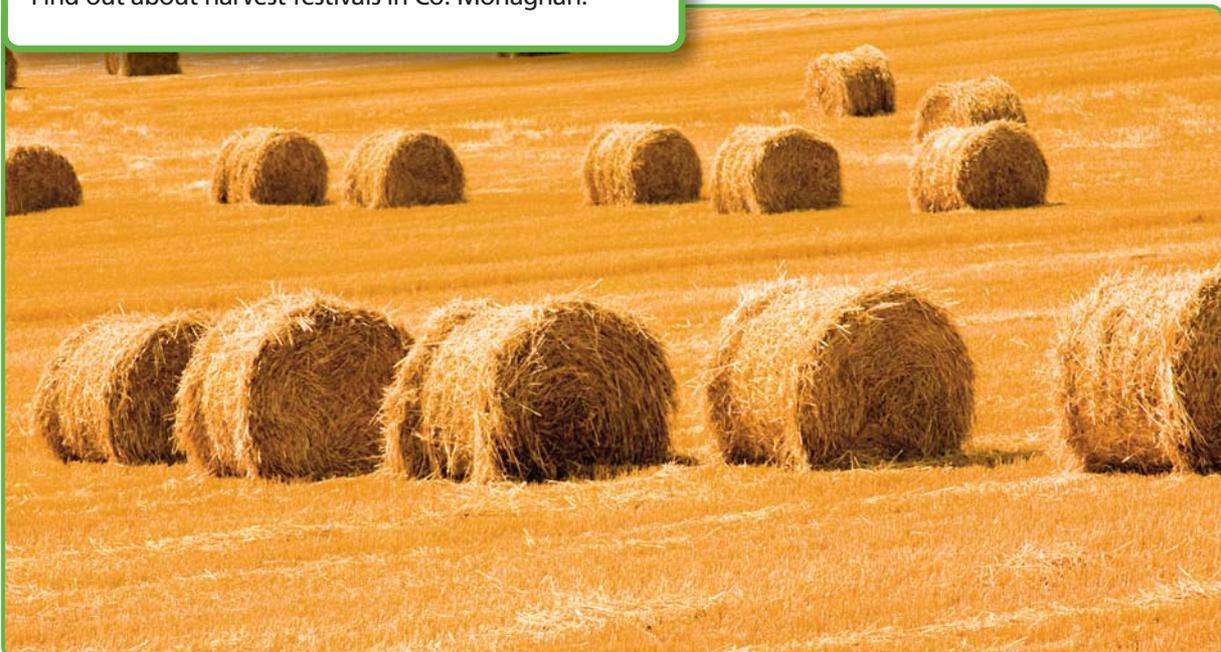
Presbyterian churches only celebrate Holy Communion two to four times a year.

Presbyterian children are usually baptised as babies.

Once a young person makes the personal decision to become a full member of the church, the Elders and church community help him or her to prepare for this special occasion.

The teenager will usually do a special training course and have an interview with the elders before he or she is welcomed as a member of the church. Once a young person is a full member of the Church he or she can receive Holy Communion.

Find out about harvest festivals in Co. Monaghan.



Teachers' Key Notes on Presbyterianism

Founder: John Calvin

Church Leaders: Local Elders chosen by the congregation

Clergy: Male and female clergy who can marry. Elders and members of the congregation can also give sermons.

Sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion (Lord's Supper).

Services: Do not follow a set pattern. The Word of God is most important. Eucharist is celebrated two to four times per year.

Christianity

Learning about Life in the Church of Ireland

You've already learned something about the Church of Ireland. This is the Church that I go to with my family.

Did you know that the Church of Ireland is the second largest religious group in Ireland? There are over **125,000** members of the Church of Ireland in Ireland.

Can you guess how many members of the Church of Ireland live here in Co. Monaghan?

Answer: Almost 1,700

The Church of Ireland is the second largest Protestant faith in this county!

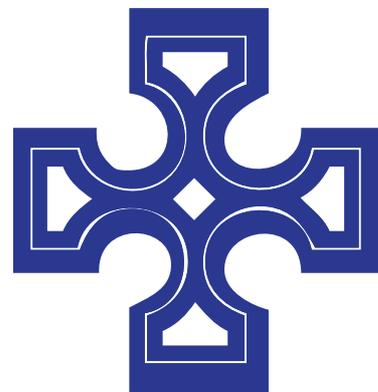


The symbol of our Church is the Celtic Cross.

One Sunday I invited Rosie to come to Sunday School with me.

I felt really special when I introduced Rosie to my Sunday School teacher and to my other friends.

When we read our Bible story for the week, I was really surprised that Rosie already knew it! Before that, I thought Catholics learned different Bible stories, but teacher told us that all Christians use Bibles that are almost totally the same.



Rosie's mum came to the service too. She told my mum it was a lot like mass in her Catholic church. She was surprised that our churches have so much in common. Many of the ceremonies and traditions are similar.

The **priest** leads the service. He or she is called a **vicar** or **rector**. Unlike Presbyterian Churches, our service follows a set pattern every Sunday. The order of service is written in a book called 'The Book of Common Prayer'.

All **Anglican Churches** around the world use this book in their services.

Like Catholics but unlike Presbyterians, **Holy Communion** is the most important part of the Church of Ireland service.

All Christians can receive Holy Communion in a Church of Ireland Church as long as they are allowed to receive it in their own church as well.

Did you know the Church of Ireland has male and female priests.

The leader of the Church of Ireland is the **Archbishop of Armagh and the Primate of All Ireland**. His name is The Most Reverend Alan Harpur.

Well friends, thank you so much for giving me your attention today. I know there's quite a lot to take in.

At first, I wasn't sure what to talk about. I didn't know how much you would already know. To find out, I did a little bit of investigating - I love a bit of detective work! So, I asked my neighbours Sean and Anna what they knew about the Church of Ireland.

Sean said that Protestants don't believe in **Holy Mary**.

Anna said that her Mammy said that Protestants don't have much time for **saints**.

What do you think?

These are two common myths about the Church of Ireland.

Did you know that the **Virgin Mary** and the **saints** are also important in the Church of Ireland?

BUT in my Church we believe that you should only pray to God himself. When we pray to God, we pray with Holy Mary and the saints, but we never pray to them.

WARNING WARNING
THESE PUPILS ARE LEARNING SO
MUCH I THINK THEIR BRAINS
MIGHT EXPLODE!

BOOM!

Teachers' Key Notes on the Church of Ireland

Leader: Archbishop of Armagh and the Primate of All-Ireland

Clergy: Male and female clergy who can marry.

Key Sacraments: Baptism, Holy Communion

Services: Follow a set pattern. Eucharist is celebrated regularly, once or twice a month in some churches.

Christianity

Learning about life as a Methodist



Did you know there are more than 70 million Methodists worldwide!

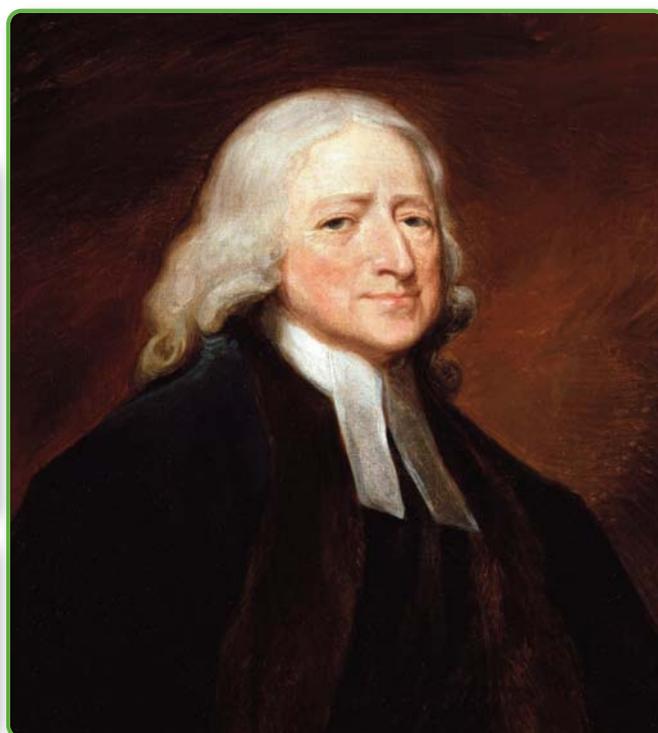
Do you know how many Methodists live in Co. Monaghan?

Answer: There are less than 100 Methodists living in Co. Monaghan today.

The **Methodist Church** was founded in the 18th Century (1700s) by a **Church of England** minister called **John Wesley**.

John Wesley was a great preacher and he toured the English countryside preaching the Word of God to **ordinary people**.

Even today, ordinary people play an important role in the Methodist Church.



My friend Paul is a Methodist. I've asked him along today to tell you about his religion.

Over to you Paul...



Hi everyone. I'm so glad Sarah asked me along today to give you my quick fire guide to the Methodist Church!

Have you ever been to a Methodist service?

If you have, what did you notice?

The Methodist Church is famous for its hymns. We love to sing!

John Wesley's brother Charles was a great composer (and also a very quick composer!) He wrote thousands of hymns which you can still hear us Methodist's singing today.

As Sarah said, John Wesley was really interested in ordinary people. For this reason, the community plays a big role in our Church.

Methodists don't only meet on Sundays for the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion); in fact most Methodist Churches only have Holy Communion once a month.

Preaching the Word of God is the most important part of our services.

Many Methodists often meet in small groups called classes. These groups study the Bible and support each other. There can be many classes in one area.

When a few different classes come together to pray, we call the larger group a **society**.

Services in my Church are always different. They don't follow a set pattern like the Church of Ireland or the Catholic Church. The local society can decide for itself what it wants to do and how it wants to praise God.

We always read from the Bible and listen to the **Minister** or the **Local Preacher** preaching the Word of God.

Both women and men can be Ministers and Preachers in our Church.

Although **Ministers** are important in our Church, they don't lead every service. We also have **Local Preachers** who lead many Sunday services. These Preachers are **lay people**. This means that they are not ordained.



Well, that's nearly it from me! I promised you a quick guide to my Church, so I'll finish with a few rapid fire facts!

- John Wesley visited Ireland 21 times in the 18th Century (1700s)...that's a lot of boat trips!
- He first came to Ulster in 1752.
- The Methodist Church believes it is as important to live a good life and to help others, as it is to have faith in God. Our society encourages us to do charity work.
- Methodists celebrate baptism but do not celebrate First Holy Communion or confirmation.
- Everybody is welcome to receive the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion).
- When I'm a teenager and want to confirm my faith in Jesus I will prepare to become a member of the church. This is quite like Confirmation. We will have a special service where I will make a commitment to Jesus Christ. At the same time, the other members of the society will promise to help me along the way.

Teachers' Key Notes on the Church of Ireland

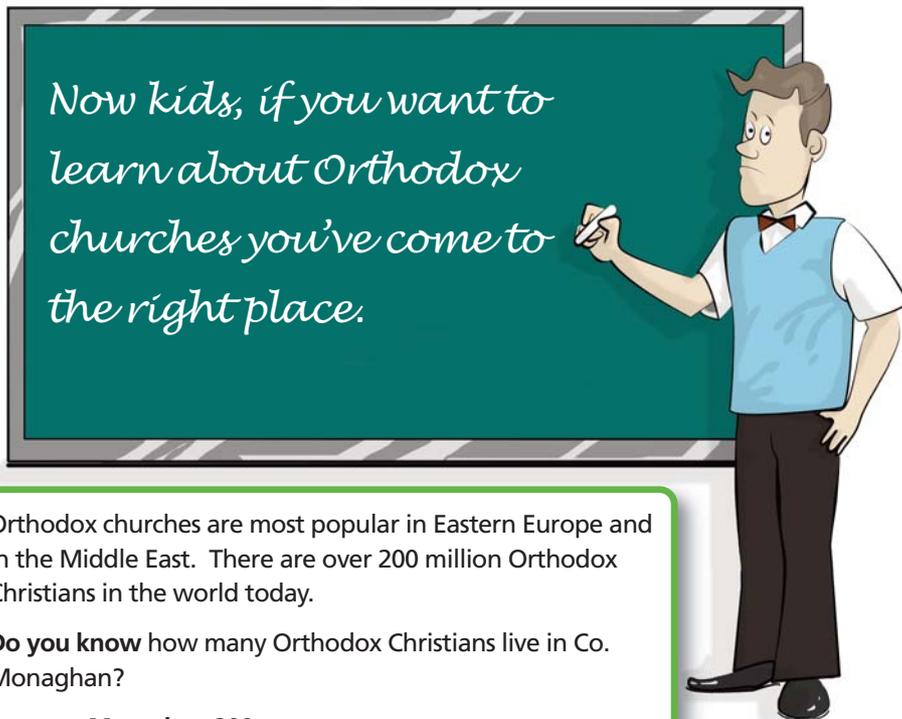
Founder: John Wesley

Clergy: Male and female ministers who can marry. Unordained local preachers.

Sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.

Services: Preaching the Word of God is most important. Holy Communion is celebrated once a month.

Christianity



Orthodox churches are most popular in Eastern Europe and in the Middle East. There are over 200 million Orthodox Christians in the world today.

Do you know how many Orthodox Christians live in Co. Monaghan?

Answer: More than 200

Immigration has helped Orthodox churches to grow in Ireland.

Did you know that there are many different Orthodox churches. They have different names and traditions depending on where they are in the world.

So... the Russian Orthodox Church is common in the Russian-speaking countries. The Greek Orthodox Church is common in Greece and Cyprus and the Romanian Orthodox Church is based in Romania.

The Orthodox Church shares many beliefs with the Catholic and Protestant faiths, especially its beliefs about Jesus.

The main differences are in the way they practise their religion.

Orthodox Christians use the same Bible as Catholics and Protestants except that they use a slightly different translation of the Old Testament.

Fasting is important for Orthodox Christians. We fast four times a year, not just at Lent.

Orthodox Christians do not celebrate First Holy Communion in the same way as Catholic children.

When they are baptised, babies are anointed with holy oil or chrism. This means that they can receive the Eucharist from this young age.

Unlike Protestants, Orthodox Christians also believe that the bread and wine are actually turned into the body and blood of Jesus Christ during the service.

Have you ever visited an Orthodox church? If so, you will have noticed at least two things:

1. They are lavishly decorated with beautiful pictures of the Virgin Mary and many saints. These pictures are called icons.
2. There are no seats.

Icons are really important in the Orthodox faith. As believers pray at icons, they kiss them and make the sign of the cross.

That's why it's not unusual for people to wander around the church during an Orthodox service.

Well kids, you're right on track! I'm astounded at how much you have learned today.

I bet you're wondering whether Orthodox Christians in Co. Monaghan celebrate Christmas in the same way as Protestants and Catholics.

This is where it gets really interesting! **Did you know** that the Orthodox Church has its own calendar? No? Well listen up...

This calendar, called the Julian calendar runs 13 days behind our calendar, the Gregorian calendar!

Can you guess when Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas?

Answer: 7 January. Thirteen days after other Christians!

Christmas celebrations begin on Christmas Eve, 6 January, once the first star appears in the sky.

Find out about some of our other Christmas traditions.



Watch this video to see how one young girl from Russia celebrates her orthodox faith.

<http://www.teachers.tv/video/1722>
Discuss what you notice!

Teachers' Key Notes on the Orthodox Church

Common Geographical Links: Russia, Greece, Romania, India

Clergy: Male priests can marry prior to ordination. Bishops cannot marry.

Important figures: Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary and the Saints

Childhood sacraments: Baptism, Chrismation, Eucharist, Marriage, Holy Orders, Holy Unction, Confession.

Calendar: Julian Calendar.

Services: Services follow a set pattern. Holy Communion is the most important part of the service, it is celebrated every Sunday.

Activity

Christianity: True, for Whom?

In this activity, we will look at what is the same and what is different about the Christian religions we have been learning about.

You have to decide which statement is correct for which church!

The Pope is the head of our church.

Our ministers can be men or women.

There are no seats in our church.

Children at our church attend Sunday school.

Holy Communion is the most important part of our service.

We follow the life of Jesus Christ.

The Word of God is the most important part of our service.

We celebrate Baptism.

We have ordained ministers and lay ministers.

We celebrate First Holy Communion.

Our church is decorated with pictures and statues of the Virgin Mary and the saints.

We believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Islam

Learning about Life as a Muslim

Assalamu alaikum! My name is Tariq and I am nine years old.

Today, I will tell you all about my life as a **Muslim**.

Did you know Islam is the second largest religion in the world!

There are over **one billion** Muslims all over this planet.

The followers of Islam are called Muslims.

Can you guess how many Muslims live in Co. Monaghan?

Answer: About 150 Muslims live in Co. Monaghan.

(Census 2006)



I live in Co. Monaghan with my family. There are six of us altogether. I have two brothers and one sister.

I am the third oldest (or second youngest!) in my family. My family are kind but like most families, sometimes they can be really annoying – especially my little brother!

I go to school with children from all over the world.

After school and at weekends we love to play football together or watch TV.

Most of the kids in my class have lived in Co. Monaghan all their lives. Others moved here from Europe, Africa or Asia with their families.

Before I moved to Ireland, I lived in America. In fact, I was born there. I am a Muslim, an American citizen and a Monaghan man all at the same time!

How lucky am I!?!

The kids in my class have lots of different beliefs.

Some kids don't go to any church. Other kids are Catholic or Protestant. We even have some Orthodox Catholics from Romania.

Ireland is a Christian country so Christmas and Easter are always an exciting time at our school.

Even though I don't celebrate Christmas with my family, we like to see our friends having fun and celebrating their beliefs.

Did you know Jesus is also mentioned in the **Qur'an**. The Qur'an is the holy book of Islam. We believe that Jesus was a **prophet** but we don't believe that he was the son of **Allah**. Allah is the Arabic word for God.

We believe that there is only one God and that Allah has no sons or relations at all.

The biggest celebration for my family is **Eid-ul-Fitr**. This day is celebrated by Muslims all around the world.

On this day, my Mammy usually bakes some special biscuits for my class at school.

It's really nice to share our special day with my friends at school! I'll tell you more about Eid later...



<<Knock knock>>

Hi there everybody! Are you still with me?

I've already told you that there are less than 200 Muslims in Co. Monaghan so I guess most of you don't know much about Islam.

Am I right?

Never fear! I'm here to help.

I asked my Dad's friend the Imam to help me teach you a little bit about my faith. I hope you find it interesting!

First off, can you guess what the word Islam means?

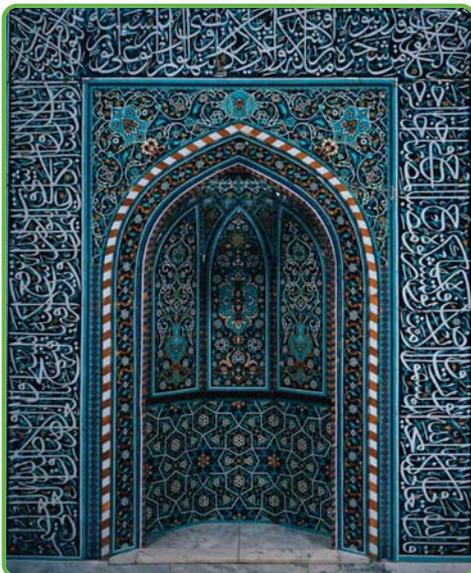
Answer: The word Islam means obedience to Allah.

Earlier, I told you that Allah is the Arabic word for God.

You might be wondering why Arabic is an important language for Muslims?

Well, a long long time ago ...1,400 years ago to be precise...the **Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him)** started preaching Islam in a place called **Mecca**, which is in Saudi Arabia.

Activity: Can you find Saudi Arabia on the map?



At that time, Allah's messages were revealed to a great man, the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). For 23 years, the **Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)** received messages from Allah.

Allah's revelations to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) are written down in a holy book called the **Qur'an**.

The Qur'an is the holiest book for all Muslims. It is written in Arabic.

Muslims all over the world learn to recite verses from the Qur'an in Arabic. There is no **mosque** in Co. Monaghan so my Dad is teaching me instead.

We believe that there were many Prophets before the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

This **includes** Jesus and **Moses** but Muslims believe that the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was the last and the greatest of all Prophets.



Being a Muslim is about much more than believing in Allah. My Dad says it is a way of life.

I'll tell you what he told me! The easiest way to explain this is to tell you about the Five Pillars of Islam. These are the rules that every Muslim must obey to live a good life.

Shahadah

The first pillar is the Shahadah. This means to say and to believe that Allah is the only God and Muhammad was his final prophet.

Salat

The second pillar is Salat. Every Muslim must pray five times every day. At dawn, noon, afternoon, sunset and at night.

Zakat

The third pillar is Zakat. Every year, each Muslim must give part of their wealth to help the poor.

Sawm

The fourth pillar is Sawm. Every year during Ramadan Muslims must fast from dawn to sunset.

Hajj

The final pillar is Hajj. Every Muslim must go on pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca at least once in his or her lifetime.

My friend Billy thinks that praying five times a day sounds like a lot of hard work!

What do I think?

I really like **Salat**. I started praying five times a day when I turned seven. It's amazing. All around the world Muslims stop what they are doing to pray together.

That's 1.6 billion people! Each one repeating the same words and doing the same actions. When I think about it like that I feel really special. It's nice to be part of such a big community.

My Grandad lives in Pakistan. Five times a day you can hear the call to prayer all over the city. A man called a **muezzin** climbs to the top of a tall thin tower called a **minaret**. He faces the **Ka'ba** in Mecca and calls all Muslims to pray.

Did you know a lot of Muslims follow a **strict dress code**. My Mum wears a headscarf called a hijab when she is out and about.

It is a symbol of modesty. She doesn't wear it in our house because we are all family.

When we came to Monaghan first, people used to stare at her, but now everybody knows who she is. Mum says people are always curious when they see something for the first time.

Did you know Muslims also have strict rules about what we eat. We **never** eat **pork** and only eat **halal** meat. Halal meat comes from animals killed in a special way so that they don't suffer too much.



Phew...We're almost at the end of this lesson boys and girls. Thanks for being so patient.

I hope you will stay with me for another little while. Before I go, I want to tell you about some of the main events in the Islamic calendar...

Can you guess what I might talk about now?

Answer: Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr

WOW – I'm really impressed – how did you know that!

Every year during the month of **Ramadan**, Muslims all over the world **fast** from dawn to sunset. That means no food or drink during daylight hours for 30 days! At sunset, my family break our fast with a small meal called iftar. At this time, we usually eat dates. We have our dinner later that evening.

Can you remember what this pillar is called?

Answer: Sawm

Little kids and sick people don't have to fast.

Ramadan is important to Muslims because Allah revealed the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) during that month.

Did you know that Islam has its own calendar?

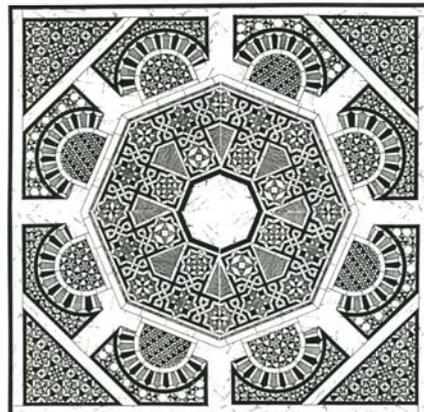
The Islamic calendar follows the phases of the moon. Each month begins when the new moon appears in the sky. That's why Ramadan starts on a different date every year.

At the end of Ramadan, we celebrate **Eid-ul-Fitr**. This festival also begins when the new moon appears in the sky.

At Eid we gather with other families to celebrate the end of fasting. We greet each other by saying "Eid Mubarak". This means enjoy this blessed festival. Eid is a really special day. We thank Allah for giving us the strength during Ramadan. We wear new clothes and decorate our houses. Then we eat loads of delicious food during daylight hours. Food always tastes yummiest at Eid! Our relations give us presents or money to buy whatever we want.

Did you know...I have been a Muslim since I was born. My Daddy whispered a special prayer into my right ear and my left ear. This ritual welcomes each new baby into the world.

Mecca lies to the south-east of Ireland.



Teachers' Key Notes on Islam

Key figure: Prophet Mohammed peace be upon him

Holy Book: The Qur'an

Holy Place: Mecca

Clergy: Male clergy, who may marry, called an Imam

Place of Worship: Mosque

Calendar: Lunar Calendar

Prayer: Muslims pray five times a day facing Mecca.

Activity

Islam

Fill in the Gaps

Eid-ul-Fitr	Allah	pillars	east
Muslims	fast	sunset	salat
Qur'an	Prophet Mohammed	dawn	night
Saudi Arabia	Mecca		

1,400 years ago, _____ revealed his messages to the _____ (pbuh). The Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) began to preach Islam in the city of Mecca in _____.

These messages are written in the _____.

People who follow Islam are called _____. They pray five times every day, at _____, noon, afternoon, sunset and at _____. When Muslims pray they must face in the direction of _____. In Ireland this means that they must face south-_____. This is called _____. It is one of the five _____ of Islam.

During the month of Ramadan, Muslims _____ from dawn until _____. At the end of Ramadan, Muslims celebrate _____.

Suggested Art Activities:

Geometric Shapes and
Calligraphy

Hinduism

Learning about Life as a Hindu

Namaste! We are Bhaaval and Pradeep. Today we're going to take you on a quick journey through our religion. Our religion is called **Hinduism**.

Brainstorm: Work with your neighbour and write down three things you think you know about Hindus.



There are almost **6,000** Hindus living in Ireland today BUT there are **900 million** Hindus all over the world. That means it is the third biggest religion on the planet!

A small number of Hindus live in Co. Monaghan. The 2006 Census tells us that there were **31 Hindus** living in our county at that time.



Did you know Hinduism is the most ancient religion in the world today. It began in India a long long time ago but nobody knows exactly when it was founded.

It is different to Islam and Christianity because it was not founded by one person.

It is also different to Islam, Christianity and Judaism because we do not have one main holy book like the Bible, the Qur'an or the Torah.

A Hindu temple is called a **mandir**. There is no mandir in Co. Monaghan, but that's not really a problem for the Hindus living here, is it Pradeep?



Bhaaval's right! Most Hindus have **shrines** in their homes where they pray to their favourite God. We don't have to go to the mandir to pray.

In our home, our shrine is a room that is beautifully decorated with **icons**. These are pictures or statues of our favourite god. When we pray, we make **offerings** to our gods. Usually, we offer flowers, fruit or incense.

Even though the shrine is in our home, we always take off our shoes before praying. This is a sign of **respect**.



Christians sometimes find it strange that we have so many gods. Really we have one supreme God called **Brahman**. Other gods like **Lord Krishna, Lord Rama and Lord Ganesh** are descendants of Brahman.

Hinduism is a **diverse** religion. People from different parts of India have different beliefs.

It's like Bhaaval said, there are many gods, so different families pray to different gods. We also eat different food, speak different languages, wear different clothes and have different traditions.

That's true Pradeep. Being a Hindu is a **way of life**.

We must show **respect** to our family especially to our grandparents and to older people. When a son gets married, it becomes his job to look after his parents.

Eating **beef** is also forbidden. We believe that the cow is a **sacred** animal. Many Hindus are vegetarian.



Well boys and girls, I think it's time we introduced you to two good friends from Castleblayney. Would you like to make the introductions Pradeep?

I surely would Bhaaval. Neesha and Meera have joined us all the way from Castleblayney.

Their families come from India. The girls will tell you about some of the Hindu festivals celebrated in India. Girls, I hope you will tell us how your families celebrate these festivals in Co. Monaghan too!



Thanks guys! Hi there everybody. Hi there, my name is Neesha. I'm 11 years old and I am in 5th Class.

My name is Meera, I'm 11 too. We are both Hindus. I was born here in Ireland so we celebrate many of the important parts of our Hindu culture here.

There are two festivals that we like to celebrate with our families here in Castleblayney. One is **Diwali** and the other is **Onam**. Neesha will tell you about Diwali and I will tell you about Onam.



Meera's Story

Celebrating Onam in Castleblayney

The state my family comes from does not celebrate Diwali as much as people do in places like Mumbai. Instead, we celebrate Onam. This **harvest festival** happens at the end of August each year. This feast celebrates the triumph of good over evil.

There was a good king who was betrayed and cheated out of his land. But he triumphed in the end. Last year we held our Onam celebration in the local hotel in Castleblayney. Somebody dressed up as the king. There were dancing and singing contests for all the adults and children. The ladies wore **traditional white saris with gold trim** and we wore traditional Indian dresses.

There was a feast of traditional Indian food.





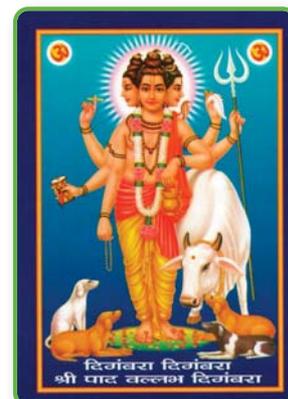
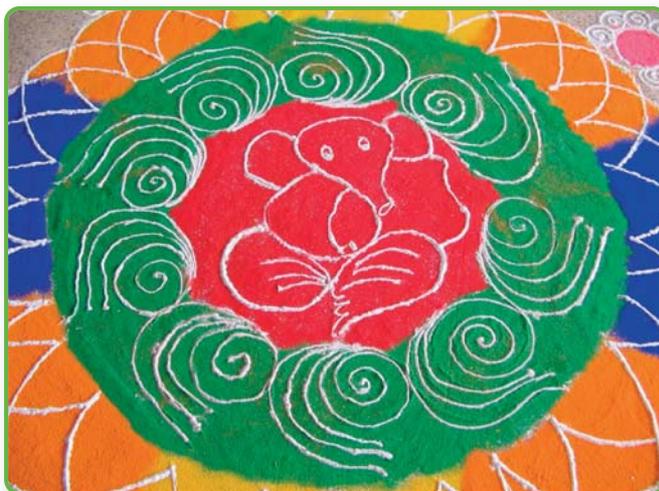
Neesha's Story

Celebrating Diwali in Castleblayney

This is a Hindu festival which continues for five days usually in October or November. It is a **festival of lights**. On the third day we have the main Diwali festival of lights. We have fireworks and people dress up. We fill our houses and gardens with lights and people give gifts to each other. We invite other Hindu people to our house to celebrate and we invite our Irish neighbours too. My auntie, uncle and cousin come from Dublin to celebrate with us.

The night before Diwali starts my mum tells me stories about **Rama** and explains why we celebrate this festival. We eat lots of lovely Indian food like **biryani** and **chapattis** and we dress up in traditional Indian dresses. We don't wear **saris** as they would be too big for us yet.

We gather flowers and give them to the older people. Sometimes the older people make **Rangoli** patterns out of coloured powder and lay them on the doorstep. This is a tradition during Diwali. We don't really follow this tradition as it is too wet here and the rain would wash the patterns away. Diwali takes place in the dry season in India so the patterns can last longer.



Why we celebrate Diwali – The Story of Rama and Sita

Prince Rama's father, Dasaratha, was the King of Ayodhya and Rama was the heir to his throne. Rama's stepmother Kaikeyi was jealous of Rama. She wanted her own son to become the next king. To please his wife, the king was forced to send Rama away. Rama, his beautiful wife Sita and his brother Lakshmana lived in exile in the forest for 14 years.

In the forest there lived evil demons called Rakshas. Some of these looked like birds with fat bodies while others looked like skeletons. Their leader was an evil demon king with ten heads called Ravana.

Prince Rama battled the Rakshas and drove them away. Alone in the forest Ravana became very angry. As revenge against Rama he captured the beautiful Sita and took her to the island of Lanka. But, Sita was both beautiful and clever and she left a trail of jewels along the way so that Rama could rescue her. Rama asked the monkey god Hanuman for help. Together with his brother, Lakshmana, and Hanuman, Rama headed towards the island to save Sita. Hanuman gathered a great army of monkeys to build a huge bridge across to the island. Rama crossed the bridge with the army and entered into a long battle with Ravana. Eventually, Rama overcame Ravana and with a single arrow killed the demon king.

Safe again and delighted to be back together, Rama, Sita and Lakshmana returned to the kingdom of Ayodhya. Their 14-year exile had come to an end. Rama was crowned the rightful king. The people of Ayodhya were so happy to see Rama return, that they cleaned their houses and placed oil lamps (divas) along the road, to light the way back home. This is why these traditions are repeated each year at Diwali.



Diwali is a good example of the different traditions among Hindus. In the North of India, Diwali celebrates the story of Rama and Sita that you have just read. But, in another region called **Gujarat** it honours **Lakshmi** the goddess of wealth.

Rows of lights guide Lakshmi into people's homes.

Do you know why Diwali takes place on a different day every year?

Answer: The Hindu calendar is a lunar calendar. Each month starts with a full moon. Our calendar does not follow the moon, so the date of Diwali changes each year.

Teachers' Key Notes on Hinduism

Main gods: Brahman (supreme god), Lord Krishna, Lord Rama and Lord Ganesh.

Place of Worship: Temple or mandir

Prayer: Hindus have shrines in their homes to their favourite gods.

Calendar: Lunar Calendar

Important feasts: Onam, Diwali, Holi

Activity

Hinduism

List five things you know about Hindus.

Onam and Holi are two harvest festivals celebrated by Hindus.
Harvest is also celebrated by Christians in Co. Monaghan.
FIND OUT what you can about celebrating Harvest in Co. Monaghan.

Suggested Art Activity:
Rangoli designs



Judaism

Learning about Life as a Jew

Shalom! My name is Ruth. I am a member of the Jewish Community in Ireland. Today, I want to tell you about my faith. There will be a little quiz at the end so listen carefully!



The Census tells us that there is only **one** Jewish person living in Co. Monaghan, **BUT**, **did you know** that there are over 13 million Jewish people in the world today!

Judaism is one of the oldest religions in the world. Historians tell us that the first Jewish people came to Ireland in 1079! They didn't stay too long but almost 2,000 Jews live in Ireland today.

Before I go on, I'm sure you have some questions for me...

Like, who exactly is a Jew? Or, what do Jewish people believe? And, what do Jews celebrate?

I've roped in my **Rabbi** to help me explain it to you.



Shalom! I hope you enjoyed Ruth's lesson on Judaism. She's asked me along to help you with some of the more technical questions.

Every time I visit a school, the boys and girls always want to know, 'Rabbi, what is a Jew?'

This is a little bit complicated, but bear with me...

Two types of people can call themselves Jews.

First, we believe that anybody who has a Jewish mother is a Jew, whether they are religious or not.

Second, anybody who converts to Judaism from another religion is also a Jew.

Now that you know what a Jew is, I'm sure you are wondering what people of the Jewish faith believe.

Unlike our friends of the Christian faith, we believe that there is only one God; we do not believe that he has three parts, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We also believe that although God almighty, God is also interested in every individual person.

We believe that our relationship with God is like a bargain or covenant as we call it. In exchange for all the good things that God has done for the Jewish people, we promise to live holy lives and to respect His laws.



The Jewish holy day is called the **Sabbath**. It lasts 25 hours and takes place from Friday night until Saturday night.

We celebrate three main festivals each year. Can anyone guess what they are called?

Yom Kippur is our most sacred day. It is also called the Day of Atonement. On this day, Jews gather in the synagogue to repent for their sins. At the end of the day, God grants a happy new year to everyone who has atoned for their sins.

Hanukkah is also known as the festival of lights. It lasts for eight days and usually takes place in November or December. Each day one new candle is lit on the menorah, from right to left, until on the last day all eight candles are lit. This celebrates the miracle of the oil. This miracle saw a small amount of oil, that should have lasted for just one day, keep the lamp burning for eight full days!

Traditional foods are eaten and gifts are exchanged. During Hannukkah children play dreidel, which is a traditional game played with a spinning top.

Passover is also an important Jewish festival. It celebrates the time when Moses helped the Jews to escape slavery in Egypt. Special foods such as unleavened bread (bread made without yeast) are eaten to remind Jews of the hardship suffered by their ancestors.

Children are especially important during the festival of Passover because they represent the future of the Jewish people.

Did you know...

The Jewish community in Cork originated in the town of Akmeyan in Lithuania!



Boys and girls, I'm really impressed! It's great to see you taking such an interest in my religion. Seeing as you are such good students, I thought you might like to see some of the main signs and symbols of the Jewish faith.

After that there'll be a quiz so keep your eyes peeled and your ears open!

Have you ever seen a synagogue in Co. Monaghan? Did you know there is one in Terenure in Dublin? Here's a picture of a traditional synagogue.

The synagogue is where I go each Saturday to worship with my family. It is the centre of our community. People also go there to study and to hold community events.

The rabbi usually leads our service but sometimes another member of the congregation reads from the Torah.



I can hear you wondering; 'Ruth, what is the Torah?'

The **Torah** is the most important religious document for Jewish people like me. It is so precious and so holy that we do not touch the scroll. Instead, we read it through a glass cabinet using a special pointer called a **Yad**.

The Torah is the first part of the Jewish Bible. It is similar to the Christian Old Testament.

It's customary for everyone except unmarried women to wear a hat in the synagogue.

You might be familiar with the special cap called a **yarmulke** or **kippah** worn by Jewish men when they pray. It is a small round skullcap that is worn as a sign of respect to God.

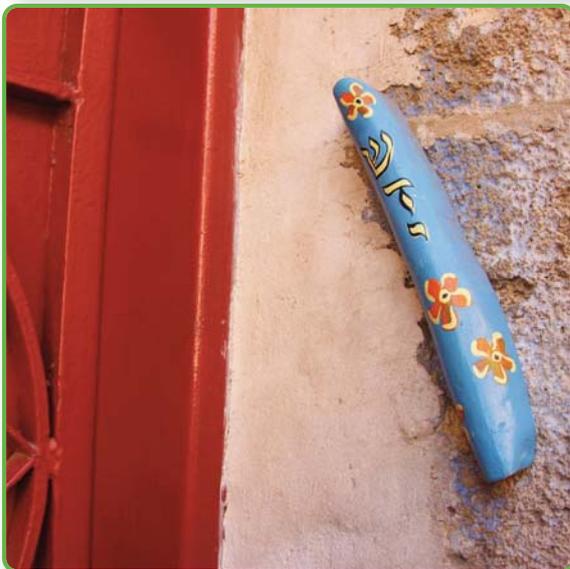
Many men, and some women, also wear a tasselled shawl, or **tallit**, when they pray.



This symbol is known as the **Star of David**. It is named after King David who ruled ancient Israel. It is one of the most recognisable symbols of the Jewish people.

The star was first used in the Middle Ages, which means that it is actually one of the youngest symbols of this ancient faith. In Nazi Germany, Jews were forced to wear a badge with the star of David on their sleeve. It was also used by the Nazis in Germany

Today it is used to identify synagogues and also appears on the flag of Israel.



If you ever visit my home, you will see a **mezuzah** like this one hanging at an angle on the right hand side of my front door.

Every time we go in or out, we touch the mezuzah and then kiss our fingers. This shows our respect for God.

The mezuzah holds a scroll of parchment. A special passage from the Bible is handwritten on the scroll to remind us that God is always with us.

This ornamental candleholder is known as a **menorah**. It is one of the oldest symbols of the Jewish faith and is found in many synagogues. The menorah has seven branches. Olive oil fills each of the seven cups and is burned to light each of the seven lamps.

A special menorah with nine branches is used at Hanukkah.



Teachers' Key Notes on Judaism

Clergy: Married clergy called a Rabbi.

Holy Book: Torah.

Key figures: Abraham and Moses.

Holy Place: Jerusalem.

Place of Worship: Synagogue.

Holy Day: The Sabbath lasts from Friday night until Saturday night.

Important Feasts: Yom Kippur, Hanukkah and Passover.

Match each Jewish symbol to its correct name



The Torah



The Mezuzah



The Star of David



The Synagogue



The Yarmulke

The Menorah



Activity

CIRCLE TIME

In towns and villages all over County Monaghan, families are celebrating different religious events which are important to them. Think about a recent celebration in your family.

- What were you celebrating?
- Who was involved?
- Where did it take place?
- How did your family prepare for the event?
- Think of some words to describe your feelings
 - before the celebration
 - during the celebration
 - after the celebration.
- Why was this event important to you and to your family?

ACTIVITY: Draw a picture of your favourite memory from the day.

CELEBRATING WITH MY FAMILY

Activity

Extension

Discuss your picture in groups of three or four.

Four similarities between our family celebrations:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Four differences between our family celebrations:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Have you ever celebrated an occasion or a festival with friends from a different religion or culture?

What did you notice?

What was the same?

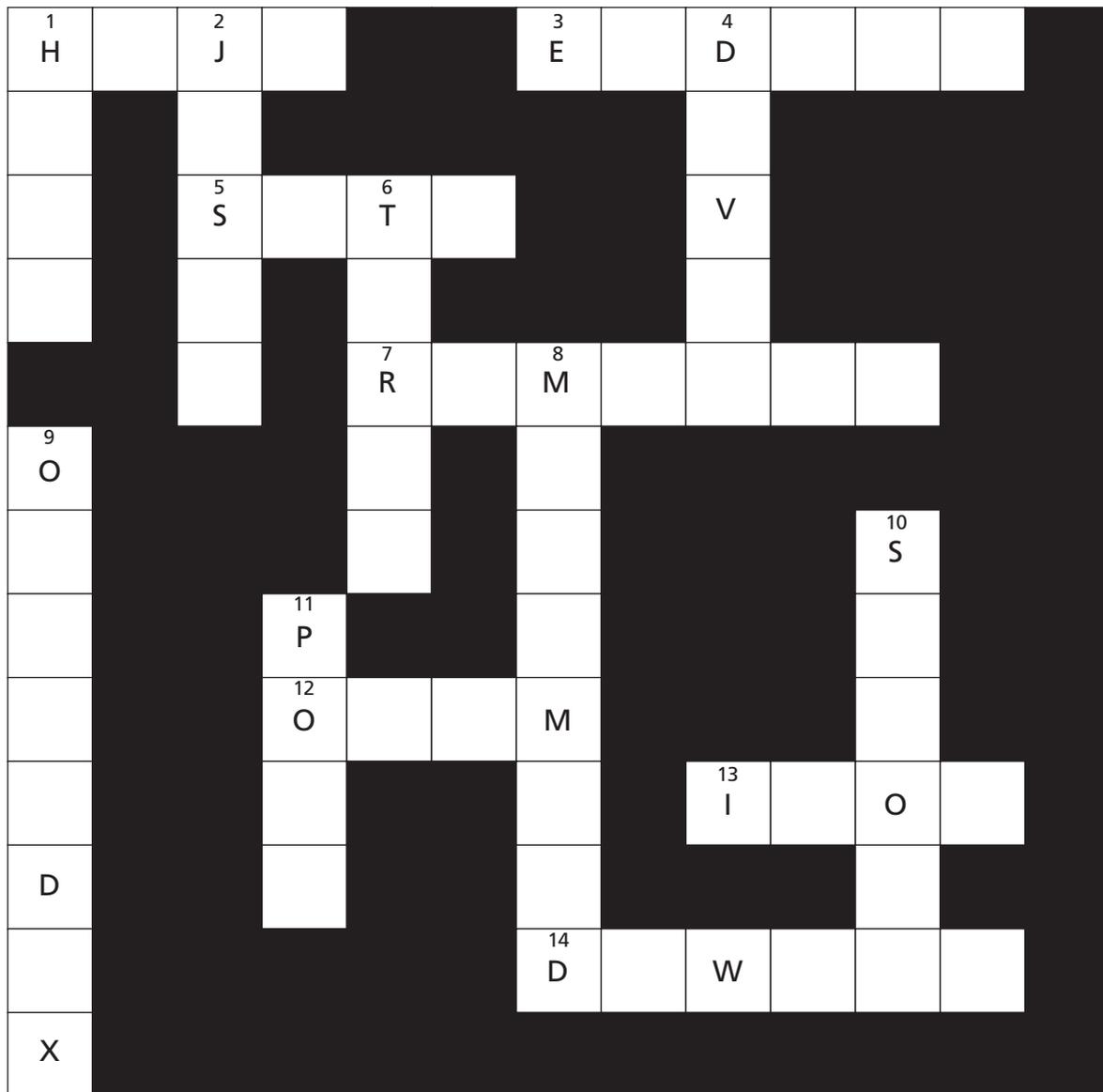
What was different?

What did you find interesting?



Do you have friends from another country, county, city or town?
Interview your friend about a festival that is important to him/her.

Crossword on World Religions



Clues Across

- 1) One of the five pillars of Islam. All Muslims must make this pilgrimage. (4 letters)
- 3) The Presbyterian Church is led by these people (6 letters)
- 5) Rama and ____; the story of Diwali (4 letters)
- 7) A month of fasting for Muslims (7 letters)
- 12) A harvest festival like 1 down (4 letters)
- 13) Pictures and statues in an Orthodox church (5 letters)
- 14) The Hindu festival of lights (6 letters)

Clues Down

- 1) A Hindu harvest festival (4 letters)
- 2) All Christians follow the life of this man (5 letters)
- 4) A Jewish symbol; the star of _____ (5 letters)
- 6) The holy book of the Jews (5 letters)
- 8) Allah's messages were revealed to this Prophet (8 letters)
- 9) A Christian religion found in Greece, Romania and Russia (8 letters)
- 10) Many Protestant Children attend Sunday _____ (6 letters)
- 11) The head of the Catholic Church (4 letters)

Embracing Diversity and Working Together

Integration

PE: Games, Understanding and appreciation of games

English: Oral Language, Developing cognitive skills through oral language

Drama: Drama to respond to explore feelings

SPHE: Myself and the wider world, Developing citizenship

This is where we all belong

By looking at who we are we realise that our personalities are made up of tens, hundreds and thousands of small but important parts.

We are all unique and we have a lot in common.

We might see things differently from time to time or believe in different things. We might even speak a different language or have different hobbies. We are all pupils of this school and members of this community. We are all equal and we all belong.

Activity

Give the children the freedom to wander around the hall or an open space. As you call out these statements they should form groups to demonstrate where they belong.

People born in the same month

Boys / Girls

People who live in the same estate/street/village/townland

People who have the same favourite colour

People who go to the same church/place of worship

People who play on the same team

People with the same name

People with the same favourite food

People with the same favourite band

People who were born/not born in Co. Monaghan

People who know/do not know their neighbours

Discussion

How many different groups were you a part of?

Did you know you had so much in common with your classmates?

Was anyone alone at any time? How did that feel?

Did you feel under pressure to join a particular group?

Diverse Dilemmas

Before using the role-plays set out below, try the following exercise with your class.

The children should gather around in the hall or in an open space. Explain to them that they are new to the school. For this exercise the teacher will represent the class. Children have one minute to walk silently around the hall and to think about what it feels like to be new in a new school. After one minute the children should find a position in the room where they feel most comfortable bearing in mind that you are their new class.

Do they rush up to you, eager to make new friends?

Do they hide behind someone else or linger anxiously at the back?

Do they position themselves cautiously in the middle of the room watching the situation unfold?

Tell the children to keep their position as you walk around the room asking why they picked a particular position.

Enquire also about their feelings as they walked around the room wondering where to stand.

This activity should evoke empathy with new children starting at the school.

EXTENSION

Gather the children in a large circle and encourage them to shake off the previous role so that they are themselves again.

Now ask them to close their eyes and consider a situation where they are in a safe and familiar place*, school, home, sports club. Out of the corner of their eye they spot a new member/friend of the family who is there for the first time. At first glance, they notice there is something unfamiliar about the person. The person may have a different religion, come from a different county or country, have an unfamiliar accent, a disability or special need.

Ask the children to walk silently around the hall until they find the place that best represents their feelings about how to approach this new and unfamiliar person.

Explore their feelings and considerations in the same way as above.

*It is important to stress that this is not a case of stranger danger.

Diverse Dilemmas

Role-plays

Anna (11) has just moved to Ireland from Latvia. She is now living in Clones with her Mum and younger brother (6). Last week her Mum bought her a new school uniform and brought her down to the local school. Anna was really nervous on her first day. All her friends are in Latvia and she doesn't know anyone in Clones. Anna learnt some English at her old school but is struggling to catch up with the rest of her class. Even when she understands the teacher's questions, she can't seem to get the words out to reply. At the end of every day Anna's head is aching because she has to concentrate so much.

At school, Anna sits beside Aisling who has lived in Clones all her life. For the first few days, Aisling helped Anna with her school work and played with her at break-time. Now she seems to have lost interest. Anna doesn't blame her, it can't be much fun talking to yourself.

Anna misses all her friends at home in Latvia and is really lonely. She wants to make new friends at school but she's not sure how to go about it.

What would you advise Anna to do?
Have you ever started in a new school?
What did that feel like?
What helped you?

Does Aisling know that Anna would like to be friends?
How can Aisling help Anna to feel more at home?

Bobby (12) is the star player of the school basketball team. The team has reached the finals of the All-Ireland Championship and the game will take place in the National Basketball Arena next Sunday. Bobby's family are Presbyterians. Sunday is a special day for the family and they always go to church on that day. Bobby's parents want him to play the match but don't want him to travel to Dublin on Sunday. Bobby is disappointed that he can't play the match but he also likes going to church with his Mum and Dad. The team is important to him but they will just have to do without him.

The other boys think that without Bobby they will definitely lose. Now, they won't even talk to him. Yesterday, on the school bus, his friend Paddy pushed him over and said he wouldn't sit beside 'the orange traitor'. Bobby is really upset. He is one of the only Protestants at the school and he has never been treated like this before.

Why is he so confused?
What parts of Bobby's identity are involved in this story?
What should Bobby do?

What does Paddy mean when he calls Bobby an 'orange traitor'?
Why have the other boys turned on Bobby?

Diverse Dilemmas

Role-plays

Arjay (10) has been living in Carrickmacross since he was five years old. He was born in the Philippines and speaks Tagalog at home with his family. He also speaks fluent English and has a Monaghan accent just like all the other boys. Arjay has lots of friends at school and loves Gaelic football.

Yesterday, three older boys chased him home from school and called him some pretty bad names. They said he should go back to where he came from. "We're sick of people like you stealing all our jobs and all our money. Nobody wants you here".

Arjay was shaking when he reached his front door. "What are they talking about?" he wondered, "Carrickmacross is my home". Arjay's mum and dad are both nurses and he's sure they've never stolen anything from anybody.

What's happening in this story?

Arjay lives in Carrick, speaks with a Monaghan accent and plays Gaelic football; what does it mean to be Irish?

How would you feel if you were in Arjay's shoes?

Discuss racism.

The boys don't know Arjay – why have they singled him out?

Who do they think Arjay's parents are stealing jobs from? Why do they think this?

Arjay's parents are hardworking; why do the older boys want them to go home?

Yesterday, Maggie's teacher, Mrs Buckley told the class a nice story about old traveller traditions and life on the road. Maggie thought it was a really good story and told it to her friend Kate at lunchtime that day. "Eugh" said Kate, "I hate travellers. They smell bad and they're always stealing and causing fights". Maggie didn't know what to say. She had lived in a house all her life, but her Granny/Old Mammy Tess lived in a trailer/caravan on a site in Dublin. Maggie was quite sure that Granny/Old Mammy Tess would never fight with anyone. Wasn't she always telling Maggie how important it was to be honest. Maggie is really confused. Kate is usually right about things. She always gets 10/10 in her spellings tests and Maggie's mammy is always saying she should try to be more like Kate. Maybe Kate is right.

Why is Maggie so confused?

Should she listen to Kate?

What would you do if you were Kate?

What would you do if you were Maggie?

Discuss stereotypes:

Kate seems like a clever girl, does she have her facts right about travellers?

What other groups have negative stereotypes?

Do you believe them?

Diverse Dilemmas

Role-plays

Paul is ten years old. His favourite sport is rugby and his favourite player is Tommy Bowe from Emyvale. Paul loves everything about sport. He loves the rivalry between the fans and the banter on the bus to Dublin when his Dad brings him to watch Ireland play. Last week the boys were playing tag rugby in the yard at break-time and Paul tried to join in. The boys stopped playing as soon as Paul arrived. Five minutes later, he spotted them playing tag rugby again in the far field. Before the bell rang, Jack spotted Paul sitting on his own and looking very sad. When he asked Paul what was wrong, Paul got upset and asked Jack why the other boys didn't want to play with him. "It's not that they don't like you Paul." said Jack, "They're just afraid that you'll get hurt. They're only trying to protect you".

Paul has Down Syndrome, but can still enjoy most sports. He's angry that the other boys won't let him play.

Do you think the boys wanted to hurt Paul's feelings?

Why didn't they tell Paul they were worried about hurting him?

Imagine you are one of the boys. Tell the story from your perspective.

Discuss being left out.

Think about a time when you were left out.

Describe what happened?

How did you feel at the time?

What did you do?

How did you feel about it later?

Making our Classroom a Welcoming Place

Welcome Pack

Design a welcome pack for a new classmate.

Think about:

What is the most difficult thing about starting a new school?

Does every new pupil have the same difficulties?

What does a new classmate need to know about your school?

What does he/she need to know about your local area?

What would you like to know about your new friend?

Have you ever moved to a new school? What advice do you have for a new school friend?

We can all imagine how stressful it must be to start at a new school. You have to learn a lot of new names and faces, you have to make new friends, maybe you need to learn a new language.

HOW CAN YOU GIVE YOUR FRIEND ALL OF THIS INFORMATION IN AN EASY TO UNDERSTAND WAY?

Tips for Teacher:

A welcome poster incorporating a friendship tree (with children's and teachers' photos and names); an illustrated map of the local area highlighting clubs and sports teams etc; a world map (map of Ireland / map of Co. Monaghan) with pins to show where each child comes from; a few welcoming words in different languages; translations of key words for navigating the classroom; a visual timetable to show lunch time and home time etc...

Who are We?

Class Identity Crest

Look back at the identity crest you created at the beginning of this workbook.

Now that you have been thinking more about the world around you, is there anything you would like to add to that crest?

Is there anything that you would like to change or remove?

Work together as a class to make a new identity crest. Use colours, pictures and phrases to show a visitor or a new classmate who you all are.

You can hang this crest in your classroom as a symbol of the great work that you have all done during this project!



Useful Resources and Websites

Cross Currents, A guide to multicultural books for young people (iBbY Ireland)

<http://www.ibbyireland.ie/publications.htm>

Diversity through the Arts, Lesson Plans for Educators in Primary Schools, Comhlamh, 2008

http://comhlamh.org/assets/files/word%20docs/Diversity_web.pdf

Irish Girl Guides, Outreach Pack, Activities, arts and crafts for younger children.

<http://www.irishgirlguides.ie/resources/16475/uploadedFiles/Outreach%20Pack%20for%20download.pdf>

Signposts – Lessons for Living, Lessons on Diversity for Junior Infants to Second Class, Ailish Dermody, Fionnuala Ward and Eilisha Kelly

Stepping Out, Yvonne Naylor and the Irish School of Ecumenics

<http://www.tcd.ie/ise/research/funded-projects-past/Transforming-Sectarianism.php>

Together We Play, Learn and Understand, A resource pack for language support teachers and teachers in culturally diverse classrooms, Joanna Parkes, HSE- West and the Balor Development Community Arts Group, 2009

Who we are, Dealing with Difference, Yvonne Naylor, Irish School of Ecumenics

<http://www.tcd.ie/ise/research/funded-projects-past/Transforming-Sectarianism.php>

Religion

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion/>

<http://www.reonline.org.uk/index.php>

<http://www.request.org.uk/index.php>

Department of Education and Science

The Accessing Intercultural Materials (AIM) portal contains links to the majority of resources listed below. It is the gateway to many valuable intercultural materials.

<http://www.integration.ie/website/omi/omiwebv6.nsf/page/usefullinks-irish-DepartmentEducationportal-en>

The DES website also contains translations of useful documents for newcomer parents.

<http://www.education.ie/home/home.jsp?pcategory=10856&ecategory=54690&language=EN>

EAL

Links to materials produced by Integrate Ireland Language and Training (IILT) are now only available online through the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment.

IILT Primary Publications

Included on this website are:

- Together towards Inclusion: Toolkit for Diversity in the Primary School
- Creating an intercultural environment, Experiences and ideas provided by teachers working in schools throughout Ireland
- Visual Parent Teacher Meeting Report
- Up and Away - A resource book for languages support in primary schools

http://www.ncca.ie/en/Curriculum_and_Assessment/Inclusion/English_as_an_Additional_Language/IILT_Materials/Primary/

Home / School Communication

Integrating Ireland

'At Home in Ireland', An Integration Guide for Immigrant Youth and Parents 2010, Integration and Social Inclusion Centre of Ireland on behalf of Integrating Ireland – the Immigrant Network
[http://www.ris.ie/media/At_home_in_Ireland_Book-for_website_\(7\).pdf](http://www.ris.ie/media/At_home_in_Ireland_Book-for_website_(7).pdf)

Jesuit Refugee Service

Community Links School Resource Folder (2006) Jesuit Refugee Service
<http://www.jrs.ie/resources/school>

Your Child and Schools in Ireland (2008) Jesuit Refugee Service

This 24 page provides information on the school system in Ireland to immigrant parents. It covers issues ranging from communicating with the school, to attendance, to uniforms, to school selection.
http://www.jrs.ie/resources/folder/14-booklet_on_edu

Inclusion and Diversity Service

Translated Letters for Schools: Common school letters translated into 15 languages.
<http://www.education-support.org.uk/teachers/ids/translated-letters-for-schools/>

Common school policies translated into 15 languages
<http://www.education-support.org.uk/teachers/ids/translated-policies-for-schools/>

Primary Audit and Action Plan Templates
<http://www.education-support.org.uk/teachers/ids/audit-and-action-plan-primary/>

Council for Catholic Maintained Schools

Welcome Pack for Ethnic Minorities: Letters and basic forms in English, Lithuanian, Portuguese, Polish and Filipino.
<http://www.onlineccms.com/diversity/welcome-packs/>

New South Wales Government, Department of Education and Training

Translated Documents in 46 languages
<https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/languagesupport/index.htm>

