

Irish Sporting Heritage

History Students

Leaving Certificate

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Rational

The Irish Sporting Heritage Project is concerned with Ireland's sporting history over the past 150 years. It will help students to develop an understanding of human activity in the past while contributing to a national record of the country's built heritage. By gathering multiple case studies the Sporting Heritage Project will build a comprehensive social history of Ireland. This type of case study is suitable for the Research Study aspect of the history curriculum.

Aims for History Students

1. To develop knowledge and understanding of human activity in the past.
2. To develop a range of research skills essential for the study of history
5. To reach a greater understanding of the economic, cultural, political and social forces which are at play in a local sports venue.
4. To promote an understanding of the importance of sporting sites to the development of local and national identities
5. To encourage students to participate in the documentation and appreciation of local heritage

Skills

- Defining an area of independent enquiry
- Locating historical data from primary and secondary sources
- Selecting and recording the relevant data
- Evaluating data
- Collating data
- Presenting data
- Engaging in the history of the local area
- Understanding of historical inheritance

Activities

1. Select an area for specialised study, (eg. The Markets Field, Limerick or a less well known local site)
2. Consider:
 - When was it opened?
 - Was there a ceremony to accompany its opening?
 - Does this venue have political significance?
 - Is the name of the venue significant?
3. Visit your local library to identify possible sources
4. Locate sources from: local newspapers, old photographs, clubs and sports histories
5. Draw up an oral history questionnaire and gather information on the significance of the sporting site to the local community
6. Compile contemporary and historic photographs of the venue

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Research Study Report

OUTLINE PLAN:

Why has this sporting site been chosen for study?

- **Does it have historical significance?** This may be its name (eg. Parnell Park); its location (eg. The Mardyke); site of an important event (eg. Croke Park), important international sporting occasion
- **Does it have architectural significance?**
- **Does it have local significance?**

What are the aims of this study?

To determine your aims you should choose one from the list below.

- **To write a history of the site focussing on the name and/or opening ceremony**
- **To write a history of the site explaining the history of its location**
- **To write a local history of the site using newspapers, souvenir brochures and oral history**

What sources will you use?

Possible sources are:

Local and national newspapers, old photographs, club and sports histories, souvenir programmes, minute books, oral histories (ie. draw up a short questionnaire and interview local people about the sporting site. This will be an interesting source to evaluate in your essay)

At ordinary level you should use at least TWO sources and at Higher level you should use a minimum of THREE sources

EVALUATION OF SOURCES

- **Does the source provide detailed information on the subject of my study?**
- **Is the information reliable?**
- **Is the author a participant, an eye witness or a historian?**

- **What is the viewpoint of the author?**
- **Is there any evidence of bias?**
- **Does the author's stance appear to be reasonably objective?**

- **In terms of the information I require for my research, how comprehensive is the source?**
- **Does it deal with only some aspect(s) of the subject under investigation?**

THE EXTENDED ESSAY

This should be c.1,000 words at Ordinary level and c.2,000 words at Higher level.

- **Lay out your main findings clearly**
- **What process did you undertake?**
- **How useful was it?**

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