

Irish Sporting Heritage

Transition Year

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Rational

The Irish Sporting Heritage Project aims to record Ireland's built sporting heritage, existing and historical, over the past 150 years. It will produce an online searchable database for use by the general public. The project will identify sports of all traditions and social classes. By gathering multiple case studies the Irish Sporting Heritage Project will build an inclusive social history of Ireland's past.

Aims for Transition Year Students

1. To reach an appreciation of the built sporting heritage.
2. To reach an understanding of the importance of sporting spaces as centres of social interaction, economic connections, architectural design and community activity.
3. To engage with the local community
4. To contribute to an understanding of the history and geography of the locality
5. To make a significant contribution to a national database on Ireland's sporting heritage
6. To promote general, technical and academic skills which are inter-disciplinary

Skills

- Designing and organising an area of investigation
- Information gathering using maps, photographs, newspapers, club histories, economic data, oral histories and surveys
- Presentation and communication of ideas in a variety of ways (including photographs, maps, figures, electronic, written and oral) to school groups, local community and sporting groups
- Interdisciplinary approaches of history, geography, photography, architectural history and economics
- Co-operation and allocation of roles within a team
- Engagement with the local community

Activities

1. Select a sporting site for investigation (eg. The Markets Field, Limerick, Lahinch Golf Club or a less well-known local site)
2. Interpret the location from maps and aerial photographs
3. Explain the local significance of the site: history, name, sport type, community activity
4. Compile a history of the ground and map it in relation to transport and communication links
5. Photograph the ground noting the age of buildings and interesting architecture
6. Collect oral histories of the venue and survey the venue
7. Consider the importance of the site to the local community and to its sense of identity
8. Present the work in oral, written and electronic form to the local community

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Irish Sporting Heritage</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">A presentation to school and community groups should include the following information:</p>	Completed
NAME OF SPORTING SITE	
LOCATION OF SITE ON ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS, AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND GOOGLE MAPS	
<p>HISTORY OF SITE LOCATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has this venue always been used for this sport? - Does the venue now have a different use? - (ie. Your study might be of a site which is no longer used for sport such as Baldoyle Racecourse or the site of the first All Ireland Hurling Final which is now a Tesco) - Why was the site chosen for this sport? - How is it accessible by rail, road, or bus links? - Who owns the land? 	
<p>HISTORY OF SITE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When was it opened? - Where did it get its name? - Was there an opening ceremony? (include information on who opened the venue and what his/her message was to the crowd. This information will be found in local or national newspapers, souvenir brochures and local knowledge) - Describe some of the significant non-sporting and sporting events that have taken place there (eg. Non-sporting events might include Pope John Paul II's visit to Galway Racecourse, Elton John playing at Thomond Park or visits and concerts that have local significance) 	
<p>PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SITE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Photograph the site noting the age of the buildings and any interesting architecture - Locate old photographs of the site and discuss change over time 	
<p>IMPORTANCE OF THE SITE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY</p> <p>Draw up a short questionnaire. Each participant should interview five people. They should ask approximately three questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is your first memory of visiting the site? OR What do you remember being told about this site? (if it is no longer in existence) - Why is this sporting site important to you/ to this community? - What is your most important memory of the site? 	
<p>SURVEY THE SITE OVER A ONE MONTH PERIOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the number of people who attend the venue (approximate for large venues) - Discover why they attend the venue (eg. sport, social, cultural, political, religious) - Note the age and gender of those who attend 	
<p>UPLOAD INFORMATION TO www.irishsportingheritage.com</p>	