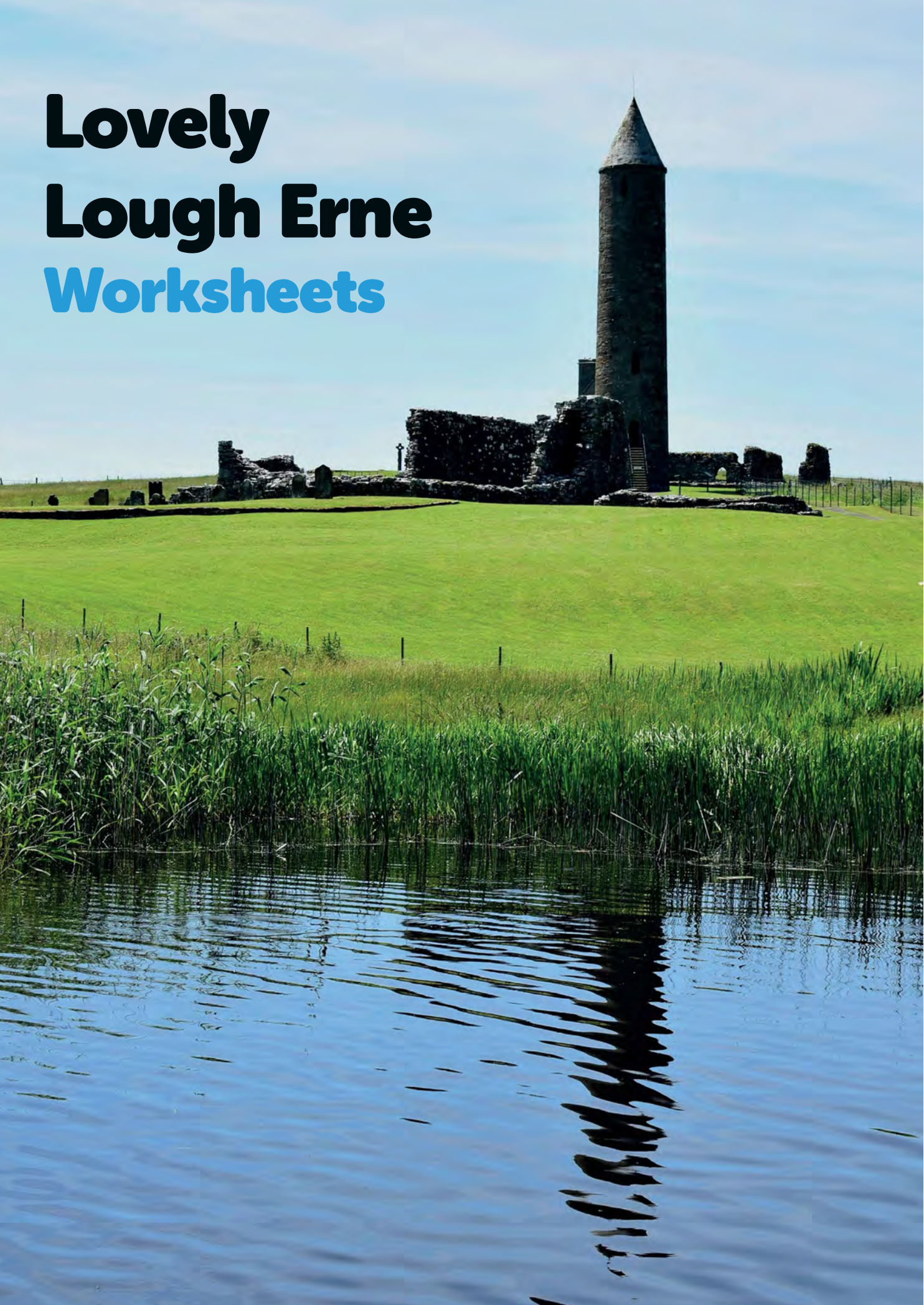


Lovely Lough Erne Worksheets



Preface

This booklet sets out to help children and their parents and teachers learn about the beauty, history, heritage, and literature of the 70 mile long River Erne system.

Beginning in County Cavan and ending in County Donegal much the greater part of the Erne lies in County Fermanagh where it forms two large lakes festooned with islands. Everybody who has been mentioned in the history of Ireland have left some sign of their passing along the Erne – from the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages to Early Christian Missionaries, the Vikings, the Normans, the Medieval Irish Chieftains such as the Maguires, the incoming English and Scottish settlers of the 1600s down to the present day when Fermanagh has a population of about 64,000 people.

Poems, songs, text, and illustrations in a two page spread tell the story of the Erne and include questions help children add to their knowledge and appreciation. There are also links to Internet sites for further information.

This booklet is also available in electronic format so that schools can download it as the needs of their curriculum allow and indeed other local items can be added to it from the area of the school.

Each item follows the following format. Author details, item and illustration/s, Questions, additional reading, and internet links.

John B. Cunningham and Seamas MacAnnaidh. Fermanagh Author's Association. 2021.

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WORKSHEET 1

The Erne by James Howard Mortimer

*From its source in hilly Cavan starts a brooklet
gently lave'n
Its pebbly banks in murmurs sweet and low.
Gently tugging at the bushes, dipping blossoms of
the rushes
As its mild, rippling waves ebb and flow.
Advancing, still advancing, murmuring, singing,
wavelets dancing
To the town of Enniskillen, quaint and old.*

*Fairest town of any nation, beauty spot of all
creation.
Home of the Dragoons brave and bold.
Now it widens and grows wild and casts its foam on
Devenish Island,
Where the round tower majestic stands on guard.
Relic left of ages hoary when old Erin in her glory
Had her liberty? her language and her bard?*

*Now it's width and depth and motion imitates the
restless ocean,
And its green isles are girdled white with foam
And its restless, surging billows whip the long and
slender willows
That fringe the sloping shores near my home.
It again becomes a river, and the long reeds
scarcely quiver,
And the swans glide proudly to and fro,*

*And the pretty girls boating pluck the waterlilies
floating
On its mild, limpid surface as they row;
'Neath the trees and through the meadows,
through the sunshine and the shadows.
Where the nightingale sings sweet and clear,
And the corncrake is calling to its mate as night is falling,
And the village lights begin to appear,*

*Now it tumbles o'er the shallows, where invading
Cornwallis
Was so near annihilation by the soldiers of O'Neill;
In childish awe I used to listen to that flood as it
went hissin'
Onward, sunward, till it sounded like a wail.*

*From Belleek to far Bundoran flows the noble River
Erne
In wild and gushing splendour to the sea,
By the graveyard of Teetunny, by shady nooks and
sunny,*

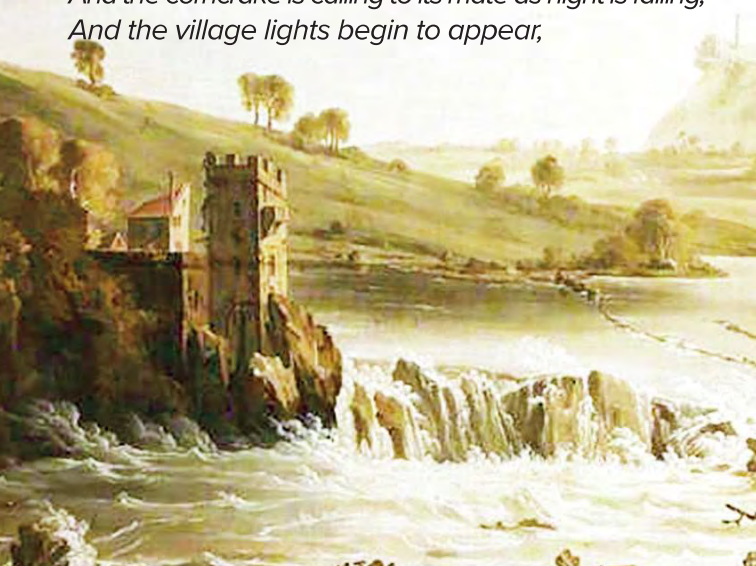
*By the holy well beneath the hazel tree.
In the wild and hilly "Nather" it seems new force to
gather
To rush on fiercely to the strand,*

*Over "Cathleen's Fall" now dashing in its wild and
wayward passion,
Rudely snatching a last kiss from "Bouilebond";
O'er the falls of "Ballyshannon" like the distant
boom of cannon
It rushes with a wild and sullen roar.
In that last wild tumult-frantic-it gets lost in broad
Atlantic,
And its freshness is gone evermore.*

James Howard Mortimer is an Irish-American author who wrote two books of fact, fiction, and poetry. These were *The Dawn* published in Ireland and *Confessions of a Book Agent*, in the U. S. in 1906. He was born on May 23rd 1858 in the Commons townland near Belleek and grew up alongside the Erne.



This poem tells of the River Erne from its beginnings as a tiny stream in County Cavan and how it flows through the length of County Fermanagh and finally Donegal to enter the Atlantic Ocean at Ballyshannon. It is the third largest river system in Ireland after the River Shannon; the largest and the rivers Barrow, Nore, and Suir in the southwest of Ireland.



The Erne - Activities

History and song and story have much to say about the Erne, It was known and feared before Nero burned Rome, Love has been whispered as it whispered, Tragedy has been enacted to the sound of its angry roar. St. Patrick drank of its limpid purity, St. Bridget bathed her tired feet in it, down there beneath the shade of that old yew tree at “Hearnshaw,” and both have consecrated it with their touch. (Hearnshaw is the name of a house in Belleek alongside the Erne. Bouilebond” an area of Ballyshannon.)

- 1. Can you find these rivers on a map of Ireland, the Erne, Shannon, and Barrow, Nore and Suir.
- 2. What cities are on these Rivers. Liffey, Foyle, Lee, and Lagan.
- 3. Who is on the pillar looking down on Enniskillen?
- 4. What is made in Belleek.
- 5. Cathleen’s Fall hydroelectric power station generates el-----.
- 6. What is the name of the nearest river to where you live?
- 7. Mark your home on the map.



Learn more about Ballyshannon <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballyshannon>

Learn more about Belleek https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belleek,_County_Fermanagh

Learn more about Cavan <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cavan>

WORKSHEET 2

Seasons of Crom Castle

by Miss C. P. O'Connor

The Castle stands so tall and grand
Upon this green and fertile land.
When skies are grey, and rain does fall
The turrets bleak, so black the wall.
But when the sun is shining bright,
The Castle walls show clear and white.
Sometimes at night the wind howls true
But even so, when passing through,
It's no unfriendly sound we hear,
But whisperings of promised cheer.

Morning comes, but what a sight!
The ground, a carpet of delight.
Leaves of many hues lay strewn
Russet red and golden, too.
Forerunner, this, for very soon,
Trumpets of daffodils push through.
Snowdrops bow their tiny heads,
Wave goodbye, make way instead,
For primroses and bright bluebells,
Gorse and heather in the dells;
Thru' all seasons of the year
The one unchanging sight is clear:-
The Castle still stands tall and grand
Upon this green and fertile land.



The Unsung Poetess:- Miss C. P. O'Connor was a Nanny who worked at Crom Castle in the 1970s. She obviously loved her job and Crom Estate enough to put her feelings down on paper. She wrote this only two years before she died. There are a lot of people who aren't famous poets, but feel so deeply about a place or another person that they take pen to paper. This is Nanny O'Connor's poem.

What does a Nanny do? _____



The Crom Castle still standing now was built in 1842 by John Crichton, the Third Earl of Erne. Since it was built mainly of lime stone, which is a grey stone that holds the water when damp, Nanny O'Connor's description of the Castle is very good. 'When skies are grey and rain does fall, the turrets bleak, so black the wall.'

There is an older castle, now in ruins, which was built in 1610 or 1611, also built of limestone, since the builders at that time used whatever was at hand near their chosen place. This was burnt down in 1764 and it is hard to understand how a huge castle built with stone could burn down.



Question 1: How do you think the fire started?

- a) by an electrical fault?
- b) by a chip pan getting too hot?
- c) by a draft blowing sparks from an open fire?

Question 2: There are three round towers at the corner of the main Castle. Why were they round?

Question 3: This Castle was three stories high. How would the builders have made the floors.

Question 4: Do you think it would be easy or hard to build walls that high in 1610? What would builders need now-a-days?

Question 5: _____ What is the name of the nearest castle to where you live?

The best place to find the flowers Nanny O'Connor was writing about are down at the Old Castle, just by the side of the Lough where the two old yew trees are.



The Old Castle at Crom is located at number 2. If you had come to the area in 1610, why would you have chosen to build a fortified Castle at this place? Chose two answers.

- A) The TV reception is brilliant.
- B) You can see your enemies coming.
- C) There is water in the Lough to drink
- D) There is plenty of space to have school friends over.

Colour in the River Erne and Lake.
 Could you go to a shop to buy building materials?
 What materials would you need to build a Castle?

Why don't you draw a Castle you would build....

Why don't you write a poem like Nanny O'Connor....

WORKSHEET 3

The Fisherman and the Faeries, A Legend

A peasant stood at a mountain lake
And fishing long was he
But never a fish could that peasant take
Till the sun went down on the sea.

Then came a change –it was joy to see
What fish on the shore he flung:
On gads he made of the rowan tree
The speckled trout he strung.

Then his home he sought in the mountain wild
With a bosom of hope and joy
To meet with a wife and prattling child
And the fish on the fire to fry.

As on he went in the solitude
The moon shed her light on the scene
Till on the pathway before him stood
A boy with a jacket of green.

“Beware of the faeries good fishermen”,
Said the boy with the jacket of green
“They follow to take them every one
At a lake forbidden you’ve been!”

“O, never look back no matter what noise
Of menace of harm you hear,
O, never look back”, said the fairy boy
“Or you’ll mind it all days of the year.”

As a glimpse of the Moon that has come and fled,
As a meteor bright is seen,
He came and he passed with his scarlet head,
That boy with the jacket of green.

The noise of a cannon is very loud
Of Belleek the waterfall
But the noise made by an invisible crowd
Was louder than them all.

“Look round”, they shouted “you rogue and thief
You thief, you rogue, look round,
Or we cut off your head in a moment brief
And fling it on the ground.”

But on to that house in the mountain land
The fishermen hastened still.

“Nor flesh nor blood this abuse can stand”
He said and look round I will.

Because he was near his cottage door
His courage waxed bold
He turned him round with the load he bore
And what did he then behold?

Ten thousand faeries in fighting mien
Each urging a fierce attack;
But the little boy with a jacket of green
Was trying to keep them back.

Why did he look round like one of old
And the warning disobey?
His brain was as weak as his heart was bold,
As he knew in an after day.

The fish on his back that his hands had strung
Say whither are they gone?
Their heads alone on the rowntree hung
For their bodies they now had none.

The faeries had taken them every one
Away to their home afar;
And since at eve doth the fishermen shun
The lake of Lough Na-na-vhar.



This is a poem from the Donegal Vindicator newspaper dated June 1st, 1889. John McAdam founded this paper in Ballyshannon 1889. It ceased to publish in 1956. The paper circulated in Donegal, Tyrone, Fermanagh, Leitrim, and Sligo at a price of one penny.

The Fisherman and the Faeries, A Legend

‘Long life to you Mr. McNamara’ said old Duffy, ‘I knew the man well who lost the fish. His name was Luke Ward. He lived in the mountains. It was wrong you see to fish after sunset in the fairy lake and he should have taken that fairy’s advice. That fairy was a cousin of his own who had been taken away by the good people.’ ‘It rarely ever was good to look back’ said McNamara, ‘think of Lot’s wife.’ ‘True,’ said Duffy, ‘except one has some good reflection of the mind to look back upon or recollection of an meritorious action. But in going a journey, I never look back or turn back except I meet a redhead woman, or a hare crosses my path; then I never proceed on my journey as it would be unlucky to do so.’

Stories of fairies used to be a part of every day Irish folklore and at night when neighbours came to visit they would sit around the fire and tell stories especially of fairies and ghosts. The fairies were often referred to as the good folk who generally lived under hawthorn bushes or in raths – circular mounds which were the remains of iron age fortified dwellings. The fairies could be friendly and mischievous but if angered by interference with their homes could take terrible revenge. The fairies are believed to be the Tuatha de Danann, one of the first tribes to arrive in Ireland, and they were magical and secretive people. They loved Ireland so much they decided to use their magic to shrink themselves and live underground.

There is a famous poem by the Ballyshannon poet William Allingham called simply, The Fairies. You can find it here - http://www.ricorso.net/rx/az-data/authors/a/Allingham_W/xtra.htm



WORKSHEET 4

When the Salmon Leap the Fall

by James Howard Mortimer

When the Salmon leap the Fall.
On the banks of lovely Erne
When I first beheld the day
How we youngsters used to frolic
When the school let out to play;
How we climbed around the eel weir gates,
Or sat upon the walls
In June, July, and August,
When the salmon leaped the fall.

Old Simmons used to call the boys
In front of the Hotel,
To scramble there for pennies
Which he first had heated well;
For the burns upon their finger-tips
They didn't care at all,
In June, July, and August,
When the salmon leaped the fall.

The bridge could not accommodate
The crowds that came to town,
And the shores were lined with fishermen
From morning to sundown;
And Belleek was celebrated
As the grandest spot of all,
In June, July, and August,
When the salmon leaped the fall.

We used to roll our trousers up
To go wading in the stream,
And in day-time fish for jenkins
And at night for trout and bream;
Our clothes got mighty dirty,
And were scarcely dry at all,
During June, July, and August,
When the salmon leaped the fall.

We used to spar with gloves of hay
On the green outside the town,
Or take sides in mimic warfare
Till the fort was broken down;
And our eyes got blacked quite often,
In a scrimmage or a brawl,
In June, July, and August,
When the salmon leaped the fall.

When we fought those youthful battles,
Over field, and hedge and lawn
One side was always Blackamoor,
And the other Irish brawn;
The Irish always won the day,
As they won it on the 'Vaal'
While their mothers mourned their absence,
Where the salmon leaped the fall.

I have not seen that lovely spot,
Since I left it as a boy,
I've seen all the vaunted spots of earth
Unmoved, with far less joy
Than would fill my heart with rapture,
Could I sit upon the wall
That I sat upon in childhood,
While the salmon leaped the fall.

When I retire, I will return
And live there evermore,
And watch the grand old river flow
While listening to its roar
As it glides and swells and plunges,
Through your gorges Donegal,
Or in June, July, and August,
When the salmon leap the fall.

James Howard Mortimer is a notable Irish-American author who wrote two books of fact, fiction, and poetry. These were The Dawn published in Ireland and Confessions of a Book Agent, in the U. S. in 1906.

He was born on May 23rd 1858 in the Commons townland near Belleek and emigrated to the United States but remembers his childhood and their games watching the salmon migrate into Lough Erne each year and often returning to spawn where they were born.



The Erne - Activities



1. Underline the following towns along the Erne
– Belturbet, Lisnaskea, Maguiresbridge, Brookeborough, Enniskillen, Kesh, Derrygonnelly, Belleek and Ballyshannon.
2. Mark in where you live in Fermanagh.
3. What games do children play now?
4. Salmon and eels are fish that migrate, that is they tr----.
5. About how many islands are in Lough Erne?
6. How long is Lower Lough Erne ?
6. How long is Upper Lough Erne?
7. Have you ever been on an island on Lough Erne?

Find out more about salmon here <https://kids.kiddle.co/Salmon>

Find out more about Lough Erne here https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lough_Erne

WORKSHEET 5

Wee Hughie

by Elizabeth Shane

He's gone to school, Wee Hughie,
An' him not four.
Sure I saw the fright was in him
When he left the door.

But he took a hand o' 'Denny
An' a hand o' Dan,
Wi' Joe's owld coat upon him -
Och, the poor wee man!

He cut the quarest figure,
More stout nor thin;
An' trottin' right an' steady
Wi his toes turned in.

I watched him to the corner
O' the big turf stack,
An' the more his feet went forrit,
Still his head turned back.

He was lookin',
would I call him -
Och me heart was woe-
Sure it's lost I am without him,
But he be to go.

I followed to the turnin'
When they passed it by,
God help him, he was cryin',
An', maybe, so was I.

In the past there were at least four islands in Lough Erne with schools. Children from other islands rowed themselves and their brothers and sisters to school whenever the lake was calm.

Do you remember going to school?
Were you nervous?
Who brought you to school?
Who was your first teacher?
How did Grandad go to school?
How are these children dressed?
What are these children missing?
Where is the school bus?

Gertrude Elizabeth Heron Shane was an Irish poet, playwright and violinist born in Belfast and who lived much of her life in County Donegal. Among her best-known works is "Wee Hughie", a poem about a boy's first day at school.



WORKSHEET 6

The Herons on Boa Island

by Elizabeth Shane

The Herons on Boa Island
Stand solemnly all day,
Like lean old men together
They hump their shoulders grey.
Oh, I wish I could get near them
To hear the things they say.

They turn up their coat collars
And stand so gloomily;
And somehow as I watch them,
It always seems to me
That in their trouser pockets
Their wrinkled hands must be.

But if I venture near them
They look at me in doubt,
And with great wings loose flapping
They circle round about
Their long legs hanging downwards,
Their slim necks all stretched out.

If I stood on Boa Island
As gloomily as they,
And ruffled up any collar
And hid my hands away,
It might be they would join me
And I'd hear the things they say.

BACKGROUND.

Boa Island (from Irish: Badhbha) is an island near the north shore of Lower Lough Erne in County Fermanagh. It is 25 km (16 miles) from Enniskillen town and on a major tourist route to the seaside at Bundoran and Rossnowlagh.

It is the largest island in Lough Erne being approximately 8 km (5 miles) long, and relatively narrow. The A47 road goes through the length of the island. This road joins each end of the island to the mainland by bridges built in 1928 leading west toward Castle Caldwell and Belleek and east toward Kesh. Before this the island was a largely self-contained island community. There were two schools on the island and everybody, girls and boys learned to row a boat by the time they were twelve.

Boa Island is named after Badhbh, sometimes spelled, Badb, the Celtic goddess of war. Badhbh sometimes took the form of a carrion crow, most notably on the shoulder of the warrior, Cúchulainn, after he died in battle. At other times she is depicted as a wolf.



Badb is said to have caused confusion among the enemy in battles, providing victories to her side. Battlefields were named, the land of the Badb, by the Celts in Ireland.

Teaching points – Herons, food, height, and wing dimensions and where to be found in Fermanagh particularly nesting islands. The name for a group is “A siege of Herons.”

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/>



Gertrude Elizabeth Heron Shane was an Irish poet, playwright and violinist born in Belfast and who lived much of her life in County Donegal. Among her best-known works is “Wee Hughie”, a poem about a boy’s first day at school.

The Heron - Activities



1. Underline Kesh, Pettigo, Belleek and Bundoran on the map.
2. Colour in the lakes and the Atlantic Ocean.
3. Mark in the counties of Fermanagh, Donegal, and Leitrim.
4. A heron is properly called a G_____ Heron. It is 94cm tall and its wings 1.6 – 2 m wide.
Average lifespan: 5 years.
5. Read here for more about the Grey Crow. <https://www.irishnews.com/lifestyle/2020/08/08/news/stephen-colton-s-take-on-nature-the-battle-crow-could-teach-us-a-thing-or-two-too-2025849/>
6. 21 Facts about Herons here: - <https://www.livingwithbirds.com/tweetapedia/21-facts-on-grey-heron>
7. What do you call a group of herons?
8. When were the Boa Island bridges built?
9. Could you pretend to be a gloomy heron?
10. Boa Island is pronounced as BO Island.
11. Look out for herons around the shores of Lough Erne.
12. Draw your own heron here.



WORKSHEET 7

The Path to School

by Rev. Thomas A. Robinson

It wound across our meadow
And through the fields so fair
It crossed the breen and the stile
And it's oft we dallied there.
For hidden in a corner
With mossy rocks around
With a spring so clear refreshing
That spouted from the ground.

It lay hidden in the cornfield
Near the narrow road so brown
Where we always met the neighbours
On their way to Ballagh town.
It circled Pat O'Regan's shop
And I climbed up o'er the hill
And there we oft would gather
Our pockets for to fill.

With berries from the bushes
That grew along the way
And drank the breath of heather
And the scent of new mown hay.
It danced along the Valley
Winding like a snake
Oh how oft we paused to listen
To the thrush and cornrake.

Now oft we climbed the ditches
And gazed with longing eye
Down where the men were mowing
'Neath the trees so green and high.
It paused beside the little rill
Where the cows would always drink
With bare feet in the water
We'd sit along the brink.

It wandered slowly roundabout
To the fatal hour in store
When we'd hang our satchels on the peg
And open up the door.
God bless you lazy winding path
Our hearts hold memories sweet
Of the carpet that you softly spread
Beneath our careless feet.
We were never in a hurry
Your ways were magic cool
Oh many's the time we blamed you
When you kept us late for School.



Father Thomas Robinson born June 17th 1880 Boa Island, ordained December 19th 1908 Baltimore, died February 25th 1957 Providence, Rhode Island, Author of "Songs of the Dawn" and "Songs and Poems of Ireland" Seventh Volume. By The Bard of Lough Erne.

The Path to School - Activities

In those halcyon days when children walked to school, and often did so barefoot some liked to group together for various reasons but had no way of knowing if the others were behind them or had gone on ahead. In the days before mobile phones a small stone conspicuously placed the day before showed the others had not arrived and one could dally a while and wait for them. The stone no longer in its place meant the others had gone ahead and it was time to catch up. No mobile phones then.

1. Make a list of 10 things you see on your way to school.

2. In olden days the school had no water, so a child brought in water from a _____.
3. The school had no television or computers, or telephones and the teacher often came to school on a b_____.
4. Find out what the word halcyon means.



WORKSHEET 8

Exploring Marble Arch Cave

by Dianne Ascroft



Picture courtesy of Fermanagh Omagh District Council

Beneath the lower slopes of Cuilcagh Mountain, near Florencecourt in County Fermanagh, lies a maze of natural limestone tunnels which has existed for thousands of years. The Marble Arch cave system is comprised of 11.5 km of passages and chambers. Within the system a 1.4 km show cave is open to the public. The deepest section of the cave is 55 metres, extending approximately 18 storeys below ground. In other places the cave ceiling is very near the surface.

Three rivers, the Owenbrean, Shruh Croppa and Aghanrawn, flow into the caves, converging at the Grand Gallery to form the Cladagh River which then rushes noisily through its underground channel. At 50 metres high, the Grand Gallery is the tallest chamber.

The river is not deep, averaging 1.5 metres through the show cave. One stretch is 4 metres deep and a 7 metre deep sump connects two chambers. Where the show cave ends the river widens into a motionless, black lake.

Throughout time people and animals have sheltered in caves, living and rearing their young, but our ancestors would not venture more than a short distance into the cave system because they were afraid of the spirits that they believed inhabited the underground world.

Cave exploration is sometimes a dangerous occupation and today it is considered an extreme sport. The greatest dangers cavers may face

include falling and injuring themselves, being hit by rockfalls, developing hypothermia, getting stuck in narrow passages, drowning in fast-flowing water or when the water level in a cave rises unexpectedly, and getting lost.

The first person to explore the Marble Arch Caves was Edouard-Albert Martel. The Frenchman was fascinated by caves, and he explored more than 1500 caves during his lifetime. He was invited to County Fermanagh by the third Earl of Enniskillen because of his experience and reputation. He arrived at Marble Arch Caves in July 1895 accompanied by Dublin naturalist, H. Lyster Jameson.



The Moses Walk. Picture courtesy of NITB

Martel did not have modern specialist gear, so he had to make the equipment he needed. He designed linen overalls which had many pockets to hold his supplies, such as candles, magnesium flares, a whistle, a hammer and other tools. He also carried a 40 lb folding canvas canoe, chocolate cake and a flask of rum.

Martel's investigative techniques were not sophisticated either. To determine the depth of a passage, before he descended into it, Martel threw a cannonball tied to a rope into a sinkhole and measured the length of the rope. Once inside the cave, Martel utilised the rum in the process of measuring heights. To gauge a chamber's height, he inflated a paper balloon and tied an alcohol-

soaked sponge to the bottom. He set fire to the sponge and released the balloon, allowing it to rise to the ceiling then measured the length of the line attached to it.



The Porridge Pot. Picture courtesy of Fermanagh Omagh District Council

Inside Marble Arch Caves Martel and Jameson worked in complete darkness. Candles attached to their hats provided their only light. Intermittently they lit magnesium flares, giving them brief

glimpses of the space around them. They paddled the canoe along the river which runs through the cave to explore 305 metres of the cave system before a solid wall prevented them going any further.

In 1907 and 1908 the Yorkshire Ramblers, a mountaineering and caving organisation that has mounted expeditions to the Himalayas and the Alps, visited County Fermanagh. They began mapping the cave system by studying the flow of water between the caves. In 1935 they returned with more advanced equipment to continue their mapping and discovered a narrow passage, later named The Flyover, which allowed them to bypass the rock wall that had stopped Martel. They scrambled further into the cave system, discovering the largest chamber before reaching the underground lake where the show cave now ends. Exploration by cavers and divers continues today with new discoveries made in 2009 and 2010 that almost doubled the length of the cave system.

Marble Arch - Activities

1. Marble Arch Cave is comprised of what type of rock?
2. Where does the Cladagh River go after it leaves the caves system? What town does it flow through and which larger body of water does it flow into?
3. What nationality was Edouard-Albert Martel, the first man to explore the cave?
4. What tools did Martel use to measure lengths (depth and height) inside the cave?
5. Draw a picture of the overalls that Martel wore when he explored the caves.
6. If the lights were turned off in the show cave and you didn't have a source of light, what would you be able to see inside the cave?
7. Have you ever visited Marble Arch Caves?

Learn more about Marble Arch Caves: <https://marblearchcaves.co.uk/>

Learn more about exploring caves: <https://www.caving.ie/>

Learn more about Geoparks: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/unesco-global-geoparks/>

WORKSHEET 9

To School at Crom by a Boat called a Cot

by Vicky Herbert



The children who lived at Crom on the Newtownbutler side of Lough Erne, went to school each day by what is called a 'cot'. This was a boat which is shaped with special ends so that it can push into the Lough shore and people can walk out very easily. See there is only one boatman in this photo so two school boys had to help with steering. Can you see any life-jackets on the children? No! These children were going from the Island of Inisherk to Corlatt, which was near Derrylin. When the weather was rough they had to stay the night there, too.



This is the stretch of water the pupils had to cross every school day and they had to start their school day at 10.00 a.m. with prayers and ended at 3 p.m.. It was a mixed school which means there were both boys and girls attending, and it was for all religions. The Teacher lived in the house attached to the school and often they played the organ in the church at Derryvore to make a bit more money (£30 a year) since they only were paid £30 a year in 1876. The pupils had to pay between one shilling (5 pence) and one shilling and sixpence (7.5 pence) per quarter (3 months). Do you think that is a lot of money? Was it worth it?



This was Crom School in 1955 and everything looks a bit overgrown in this photo because the school closed in 1953 and the children had to go to Teemore or to Newtownbutler. They had enjoyed quite a carefree life because they had a lot of nature walks at certain times, but they also had to go to the well behind the school to get water for their drinks. Two or three children went for this job because one had to hold the bucket to lean over the edge of the well and the others had to hold on to the one in front in case they fell over which did happen sometimes. It always took two to carry the water bucket back to the school room. Would you have enjoyed doing that?



Looking at the children in this school photo of the mid-1920s can you describe their clothes? Do they look happy? What would you say about the teachers? Now looking at the same school from the 40s, what difference do you see there?



WORKSHEET 10

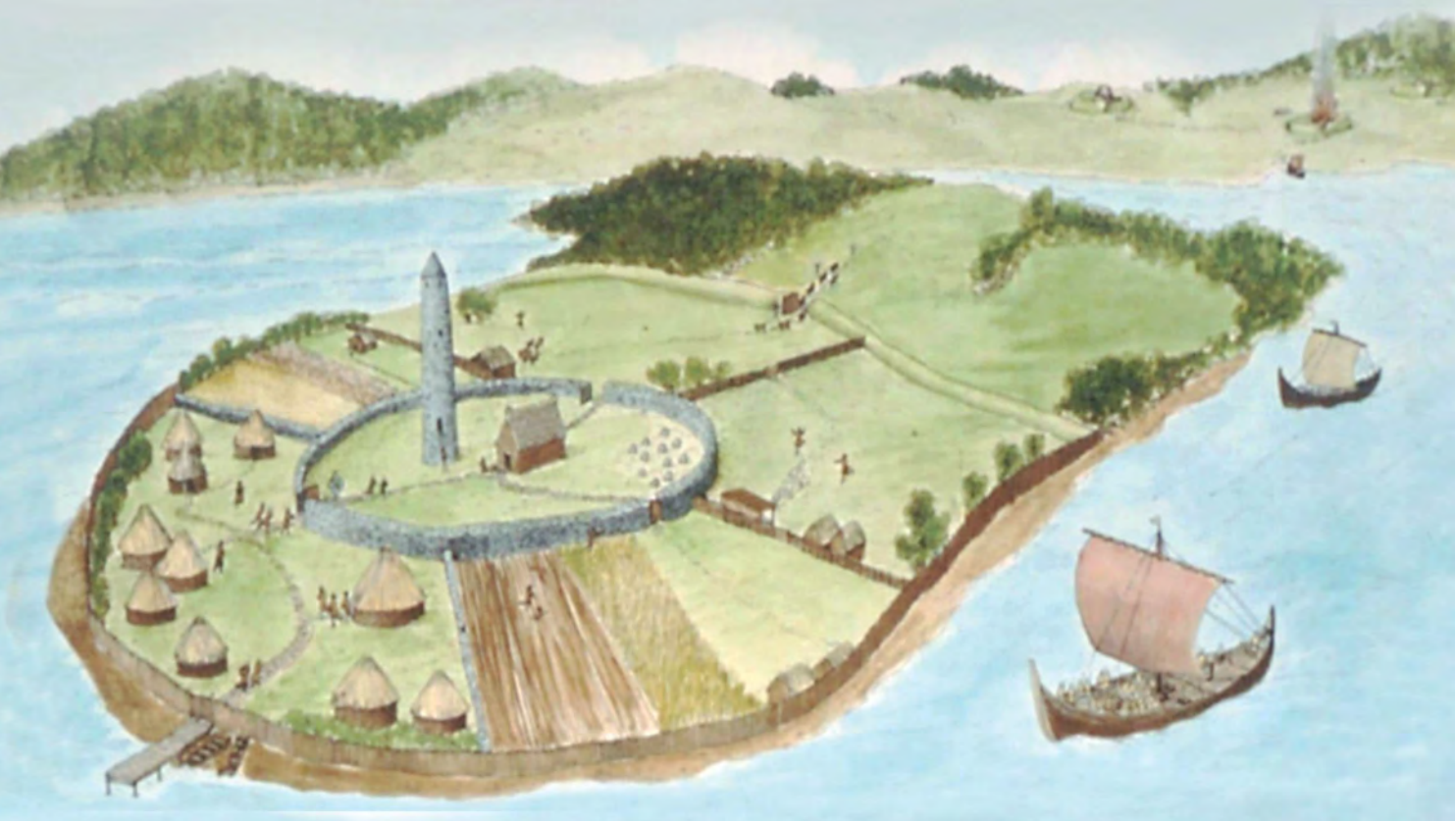
Devenish Island

by Catherine Scott

Devenish Island is the most important of Lough Erne's island churches. The island was the site chosen by St. Molaise in the 6th to locate his monastery.

The island would be used as a monastery for the next 500 years and later still for burials. The monastery was a lively and colourful place; it was like a town in many ways. It was a place for religious worship, for craftsmanship, for burial, and a place where people lived and farmed. It provided accommodation for guests travelling on pilgrimages. It was a place where treasures were stored and where fugitives found a place of safety. It was called "Devenish of the Assemblies" as it was an important place where meetings were held.

The island was attacked twice by the Vikings in 837 and 923 who remained on Lough Erne until the following summer. The Annals of Ulster record that in 837, "all the churches of Loch Erne, together with Cluain Eois and Daimhinish (Devenish Island) were destroyed by the gentiles." In 923, the Annals note: "a fleet of foreigners on Loch Erne and they plundered the islands of the lake, and the territories round it to and fro."



Despite these attacks the monastery on the island continued to thrive. The ruins that you can see on the island today are only some of the many buildings that were there when Devenish was flourishing as a monastery with a large community living on the island. Devenish Island is still a hugely important site in the county.

Today the island has a number of ruined buildings unique in the country of Ireland. These buildings relate to different stages of the monastery's life. There is a C12th church, 2 round towers, graveyards, a C15th abbey a high cross and cross carved stones.

In the monasteries, sacred and secular manuscripts were continually copied and illuminated. The most important relic from Devenish is the Soiscel Molaise, or book shrine of St. Molaise, now in The National Museum of Ireland. Unfortunately, the gospel contained in the case was lost. There is a replica of the book shrine in Fermanagh County Museum. Children were also educated on the island.



Devenish Island - Activities

Read through the text and see if you can answer these questions?

- Who founded the monastery on Devenish island? _____
- List 6 functions of the monastery.

- Who attacked the island? _____
- What were the important scriptures stored in? _____

To find out more about Devenish Island you could visit the island and discover how beautiful it is.

You could also look at these webpages:

www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/ni2-t-10-county-fermanagh-lakes-islands-and-castles-powerpoint
Who were the Vikings? | KS2 History - BBC Bitesize
School visits to historic places | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk)

WORKSHEET 11

Enniskillen - A short journey from Bridge to Bridge

How should we spell Enniskillen?

In the past, place-names were spelt in different ways. Today, the town is known as Enniskillen. The Regiments or army use the 'Inniskillings' form of spelling. Some spellings used in the past: Inyskillen; Inis-kellin, Inish-kellin; Eniskilline; Enishkeelyn; Innishkillne, Inniskillyn, Enniskilling, Iniskollin, Enishkyllyn.

There are many beautiful and historic buildings in Enniskillen. The oldest building was built before William Cole arrived in the early C17th, with the Plantation of Ulster.

In 1428 Enniskillen Castle Keep was built by Hugh 'The Hospitable' Maguire, deputy chieftain of the Maguire Clan. It was a small Irish tower house with a battered base (the bit that slopes out at the bottom), in a strategically important area guarding one of the few passes into Ulster.

What does strategic mean?
Why did people need to build castles?

The upper floors of the castle were rebuilt by William Cole in 1600s (seventeenth century). He added the Watergate in 1614. It was called "The Tower" on 1842 map & "Old Castle" on a map of 1858." He built it to further protect the castle, it also made the castle look more impressive.

FACTS

Enniskillen is the only island town in Ireland.

The town was founded by King James I in 1612.

The town was built by Captain William Cole.

The most important addition to the island town were the bridges built at the east & west of the town.

West Bridge or the Erne Bridge

The first wooden West Bridge was built by the Planters and had a draw-bridge. It had at least 8 arches. This was replaced in 1773 by a 3 arch stone bridge. Then in 1885-1892 a third bridge was built. What is a drawbridge?

Queen Street used to be called Barracks Street—because of the barracks (now the Police Station) at the bottom of the street. It was also called Brewery Lane —because there used to be a brewery at the top if the street. What is made in a brewery?



St Michael's Roman Catholic Church

In 1834 the church stood away from the main street and people had to go down steps to the front entrance. In the 1820s three galleries had been added because more people were using the chapel. These galleries were not safe and in 1867 it was decided to close the church and build a new one. The new church was built on the site of the old church. Foundation stone was laid in 1870. It was designed by French Gothic Revival architect, John O'Neill.

St Marcartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen

The cathedral stands on highest hill in Enniskillen on land set aside by William Cole for the church and church yard. The first church dates to 1622. The present building dates to 1842 and was dedicated to St. Marcartin in 1923. Why did Cole locate the cathedral on the highest hill ?

Wellington Place

Wellington Place was the place where everyone wanted to live. It was called after the Duke of Wellington. Houses in Wellington Place were built as fashionable private residences. Can you think of anything else named after Wellington? Maybe something to eat or something to wear?

The Diamond

The Diamond is the heart of the town of Enniskillen. It is the centre of the island town. It was laid out in the 1600s and was an early form of town planning- the main street ran-just as it does today-through the length of the town. The Diamond was the site of the stock and pillory in the town until 1837. Think Horrible Histories-what were the stock and pillory?

Market House (located where the townhall is now)

There has been a Market House on the corner of Water Street since 1618. By 1664 it had a Debtor's Jail. The original building shown in 1688 map was destroyed by fire in 1695. By 1748, the Market

House, now with a steeple was being used. The steeple was replaced in 1792. From 1807-1812 the market house was again rebuilt at the cost of £2000. By now the two storey house had a square clock tower and a weather cock. The Modern townhall was finished in 1901.

Enniskillen Courthouse

This building was described in 1834 as "the best public building in the town." The courthouse was built in 1785. It was renovated in 1821-22; the porch was added at this time too. The Courthouse was also the county Gaol (jail) before the gaol was built in 1815.

East Bridge Enniskillen

The first East Bridge was a draw bridge and dates to 1614. It was replaced in 1688 with a stone-arch bridge-the core of the present bridge; it was widened in 1823 and again in 1892.

Forthill Park

The Forthill Park has a wonderful Victorian bandstand with clock tower built to commemorate Mr. Thomas Plunkett, Chairman of the Town Commissioners, 1882-1885 & 1888-1894. Coles Monument was built at the centre of the star-shaped fort in memory of General the Hon. Sir G. Lowry Cole. The first stone was laid on the 5th of June 1845 but it was not completed until 1857. The statue was made by Terence Farrell.

Kathleen's Island or Inis Ceithleann

The island was enclosed by a low stone wall in 1831 by Lord Cole and is said to have given the town its name. The Island lies at the bottom of New Street. Near the water's edge on the south-west of the island is a curved wall, with a flat standing area known as "Plunkett's Pulpit". It was built for town commissioner Thomas Plunkett in the 1880s.

To fully explore Enniskillen do a real or a virtual walk through the town guided by
Walk Enniskillen (ekn.guide)

Curricula links: The World Around Us-Geography-Place.

WORKSHEET 12

Lower Lough Erne in WWII

Royal Air Force Castle Archdale or more simply RAF Castle Archdale is a former Royal Air Force station used by the RAF and the Royal Canadian Air Force station in County Fermanagh.

It was located on the eastern shore of Lower Lough Erne, near the village of Lisnarick. It was used during the Second World War by flying boats of No 2 Squadron RAF. From Castle Archdale, Consolidated Catalinas and Short Sunderlands could patrol the North Atlantic for German U-Boats. A secret agreement with the government of Ireland allowed aircraft to fly from Lough Erne to the Atlantic along the Donegal Corridor.

In May 1941 the German Battleship, Bismarck was found during a routine patrol by a Catalina flying out of Castle Archdale boat base on Lower Lough Erne., Northern Ireland. RAF St. Angelo and RAF Killadeas were also on the shores of Lough Erne, close by.

A flag lowering ceremony was conducted in late 1957, and the airfield finally closed on 31 January 1958. Today the base is part of Castle Archdale Country Park. The slipway remains in use and the concrete stands for parking the Catalina aircraft are now part of a caravan site. Other buildings lie derelict and overgrown in the surrounding forest. A museum in the park grounds has a section devoted to its role during the Second World War

This poem by Helen Turner was placed at the Lough Navar memorial stones by a kind and unknown person.

Short Sunderland.

IN MEMORY OF THE AIR CREWS

Canadians from a far off land
Extended to us a helping hand
Catalina's set forth in the dead of night
Valiant men off to the fight.

For freedom and the defence of you and I
True heroes of land and sky
Sunderland's too, along the Donegal Corridor fly
Mighty thunder of the engines, through clouds high.

Called to arms to go and serve
With great courage and great nerve
What must have been a wonderful sight
To the early mist of morning light.

Ooh! What stories you could tell
As you flew into the jaws of hell
For some there will be no return
And those with regret we will mourn.

These men so generous gave their all
In answer to this national call
Who are now fleeting spirits passing through
Blessed by deeds they did do.

Crew and comrades in eternal sleep
At rest in Lough Erne waters deep
Who now await the trumpets roar
And will reply to the flag once more.

This memorial in your name
Enshrined in our hearts you will remain
So soft rain keeps green the fern
Another day dawns over the Lough of Erne.



The Donegal Corridor was a narrow strip of Irish airspace linking Lough Erne to the international waters of the Atlantic Ocean through which the Irish Government permitted flights by British military aircraft during World War II. This was a contravention of Irish neutrality and was not publicised at the time. When the Second World War broke out in September 1939, Ireland remained neutral, in accordance with its pre-declared neutrality policy.

The Battle of the Atlantic commenced soon after war was declared. German U-boats attacked Allied shipping convoys in the Atlantic Ocean, where hundreds of ships were sunk and thousands of lives lost, resulting in a very serious situation for the Allied forces.

In December 1940, a survey was carried out on Lough Erne with a view to having flying boat bases built there. This was the most westerly point in the United Kingdom from where planes could patrol the Atlantic and offer some protection to the shipping convoys against the dreaded U-boats. Early in 1941, the first flying boats were based on Lough Erne. They were not permitted to fly over the territory of Ireland. This meant that they had first to fly northwards, then change their flight path and go west.

Some limited protection could be given to the convoys coming to the UK from the US and Canada, the same protection could be given by American-based aircraft. Still, there was a gap where the U-boats could create havoc unhindered.

This mid-Atlantic area was known as The Black Gap. Ireland came under extreme pressure from the British and even the USA, who at this time were themselves neutral, to dispense with its neutrality

policy and join with the Allies. A meeting took place in January 1941 between Eamon De Valera, and Sir John Maffey, the British representative in Dublin. An agreement was reached whereby the Lough Erne-based flying boats were permitted to fly across a 4-mile (6.4 km) stretch of neutral territory from Belleek in County Fermanagh to Ballyshannon in County Donegal and thereby gain access to the Atlantic Ocean. This agreement was concluded in The Cranborne Report.

To pacify the Germans, these aircraft were supposed to follow a defined route and then only on air/sea rescue missions. This flight path became known as 'The Donegal Corridor'. The original agreement and rules were soon changed, and the flying boats went on missions to the mid-Atlantic, to the west coast of France and to Iceland to protect convoys on those routes.

This was a turning point in the Battle of the Atlantic which was the longest battle of the Second World War. Some nine U-boats were confirmed as having been sunk by the Lough Erne Sunderland and Catalina flying boats and many others so badly damaged that they had to return to base in France.

The first official flight along the Corridor was on 21 February 1941 by No.240 Squadron RAF's Supermarine Stranraer flying boats. Conditions of the concession included that flights should be made at a "good height" and that aircraft should not fly over the military camp at Finner; these conditions appear to have been ignored by both sides.

A notable episode was when a Consolidated Catalina flying boat from No. 209 Squadron RAF based at Lough Erne observed and pinpointed the German battleship Bismarck in 1941, a stroke of tactical intelligence that helped lead to the warship's destruction.

By the end of the war, 320 men had died in 41 missions by flying boats based at Lough Erne. In 2007, memorial plaques were unveiled in Counties Donegal and Fermanagh. Many of the graves of those who died can be found in Irvinestown's graveyard.



WORKSHEET 13

Poet, Writer and War Veteran - The Derrylin Postman, Matt Duggan

by Linda Swindle

WINTER SOLACE

By Matt Duggan

In winter, when the skies are grey,
And the Lough sits high on Geaglum Quay,
While Innisrath across the bay,
Into the flood, retires.

When swans seek shelter in Kilmore,
Or the sheltered caves of Derryvore,
While arctic winds assail Teemore,
The people haunt their fires.

Warm in the glow from hearth and grate,
Relieved of care for church or state,
Relaxed and free, they ruminate,
In pensive meditation.

Outside the winter storms may blow,
From Corrislough to Cornaoe,
Bearing a freight of blinding snow,
Inside there's no privation.

The politicians feel the strain,
Cajoling, threatening, all in vain;
We share their views but not their gain,
And so are unperturbed.

If winter were to last all year,
With ruddy fire to bring us cheer;
Would strife and discord disappear
And life be undisturbed?

Matt Duggan was born in Maguiresbridge, Co. Fermanagh in 1914 where his parents Joe and Julia Duggan owned a pub in the village. Sadly in 1920 a fire totally destroyed the pub and consequently the Duggans sold up and moved away to Glasgow in Scotland.

In 1923 Matt returned to Ireland to live with his Uncle Michael and Aunt Jane Duggan at Mullyneeny, Derrylin. He completed his education at age 14 as was customary at that time. He continued to assist working on his uncle's farm until 1938, when he left to seek his fortune in London. He got work as a bread server and while in London he met local girl, Rosaleen McBrien from Doon, Derrylin, who later became his wife.

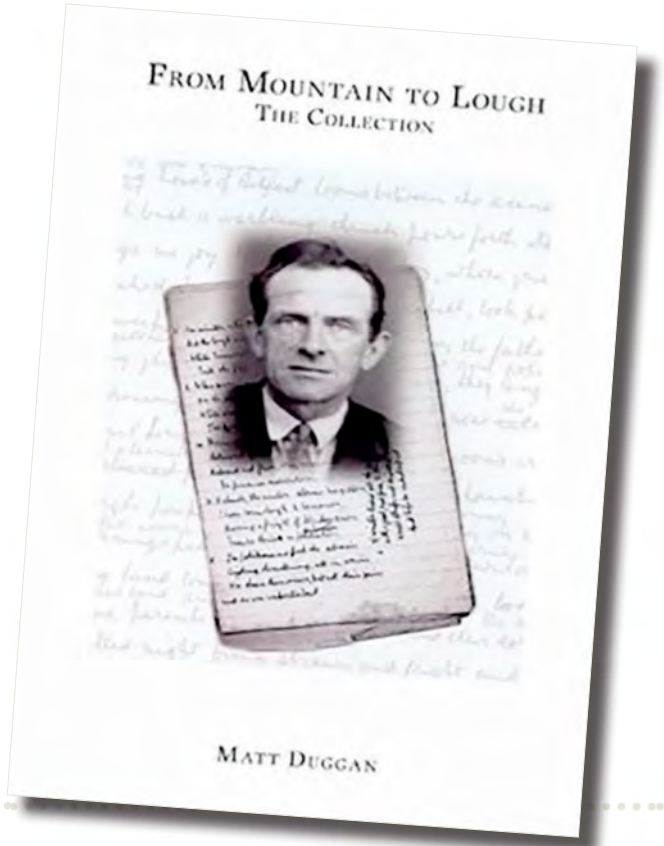
At the outbreak of World War II on 1st September 1939 Matt enlisted and was promptly posted abroad. He served at Dunkirk in June 1940 and at many other battles during the war. Whilst in the North African Campaign Matt's unit got caught in a desert sandstorm and when it was over, it was to find they had advanced too far forward and were amidst enemy territory. Despite their efforts to defend themselves, Matt and his unit were forced to surrender and so he became a Prisoner of War (POW), living in basic and poor conditions there.



In 1945 with the war finally over, Matt and his wife returned to Derrylin and after a while working on a milk lorry, Matt got a job he was to love for many years, as postman for Derrylin and Teemore areas.

Not surprisingly, like many war veterans, he did not want to dwell on or recall his time at war. It was his home county and the areas in and around Lough Erne he loved most which as postman he walked, cycled, and drove his van around. It was these that Matt began to write short stories and poems about , and many were published in various mediums.

Matt died in 1979 but his legacy lives on in his writings. A collection of his work has since been published as a book 'From Mountain to Lough' The Collection. I have chosen to share here the poem 'Winter Solace' as it embodies his joy in nature, his love of his home area around Lough Erne and his use of words, bringing the scenes to life for us.



Q1. Where was Matt Duggan born? _____

Q2. What was his main occupation? _____

Q3. Matt mentions many placenames or townlands in this poem.
How many can you locate on a map? _____

Q4. What age did he leave school at? _____

Q5. What is a POW? _____

See if you can find out what conditions were like for POW's on the internet.

Find out more about the places named at www.townlands.ie and www.placenamesni.org

You can find more about this Fermanagh Poet and Writer by searching online as well as at -
Facebook page - Matt Duggan Remembered
YouTube - Fermanagh Poet Matt Duggan.

FERMANAGH AUTHORS' ASSOCIATION

The Fermanagh Authors' Association was founded in 2005 to promote Fermanagh writers and their work as well as writings by others about Fermanagh.

The group publishes Fermanagh Miscellany, a yearly anthology which showcases new writing by members of the association.

A selection of individual members' writings can be found at www.erneheritagetours.com/bookshop.html.

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acknowledge that this project was supported by the
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from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

John B. Cunningham, Chairman.

