



# Historical Overview of Ireland

## Education Module

### Activities Guide

#### Individual Activities



#### Follow Along

Use the Follow Along page for students to complete during the slide show. Review the answers after to ensure all students understood the material, or use it later as a test.

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#### Rising Ocean Story

Create a story from an ancient human's point of view: watching the sea rise and having to move to higher ground that is now Ireland.

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#### Megalithic Art

Using clay, each student shapes the clay into rock forms and then carves designs as the ancients did.

Option: Use sandstone instead of clay.

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#### Draw a Norman Castle

Draw plans for a Norman Castle – include the keep, outside buildings, armory, walls, outlooks, gates, etc. Label each building.

#### Additional Options:

Use additional handout for students to describe the purpose of each structure.

Have students write a story about living in the castle to include current events in history.



## Individual Activities, cont.



### Create a Settlement

Draw out a settlement that could have been in what is known today as Ireland, to include all aspects of living. Students can research online for more information about each era. Choose from:

1. Early Irish Stone Age
  2. Celts Bronze Age
  3. Monastic Era
  4. Viking Era
  5. Norman Era
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### Creative Writing – A Character Story

Write the story of a person living in one of the era's below.

1. Early Irish Stone Age
2. Celts Bronze Age
3. Monastic Era
4. Viking Raids
5. Norman Invasion
6. English Invasion
7. Famine Time/Emigration
8. Independence

Option: Write a free form character story that includes three differences and three similarities to living in modern times.

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### Illuminated Manuscript

Using the template provided, create a one page illuminated manuscript complete with drawings and writing focused on one of the following topics:

1. Learnings from the module
2. Short history of person living in Ireland during one of the time periods in the module
3. Thoughts/ideas as a result of module
4. Personal story



## Individual Activities, cont.



### Celtic Hut Model

Using only materials that can be found in nature (stones/rocks, twigs, grasses, etc.) and glue, construct a Celtic hut. Students can build a complete hut or cut away (half). If cut away, add interior (beds, baskets, etc.) Students can use internet for additional research on Celtic living to add in interiors and learn what building materials were used.

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### Celtic Cross Panels

Using the template provided, students create their own stone panels that tell a story either of their life or a section of it. Students can incorporate symbols from their own heritage or use Celtic symbols in the panels.

Option – Carve panels out of clay or soapstone

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### Celtic Knot

Create a design inspired by Celtic knot work. Design can represent family, self, an idea, or simply an abstract original. Showcase work around the class when complete.



## Small Group Activities

### Ten Questions

Assign each student a character during one of the time periods covered in the module. Give them time to research the character. No one is to know who they are except the student. When you say go, students try and guess who the other characters are in their group by asking up to ten yes or no questions. After ten minutes, see which group guessed the most characters.

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### Celtic Settlement

Divide the class into groups. Using only materials that can be found in nature (stones/rocks, twigs, grasses, etc.) and glue, construct a complete Celtic settlement. Students can use internet for additional research on Celtic living to add in details.

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### Acting/ Story

Divide the class into groups and have each come up with a story to act out in front of the class. The stories must be from one of the eras found in the module:

1. Early Irish - Stone Age
2. Celts – Bronze Age
3. Monastic Era
4. Viking Raids
5. Norman Invasion
6. English Invasion
7. Famine Time/Emigration
8. Independence

Option: Include all eight eras listed and have students present/perform in time order.

Option: Have each group create a short movie complete with characters and costumes. Students can film their movies with smartphones.

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## Entire Class Activities

### Have an Irish Banquet

Have each student bring either an Irish dish, music, or support products (plates, napkins, etc.).

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### Create a Class Version of Illuminated Manuscript

Each student creates a one page illuminated manuscript complete with drawings around the outside a large letter to start their manuscript. When complete, compile all pages together in a single tome or display around the room. Ensure one or more students create a jeweled cover.

Writing focused on one of the following topics:

1. Learnings from the module
  2. Short history of person living in Ireland during the time of the module
  3. Thoughts/ideas as a result of module
  4. Personal story
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### Vignettes in Play or Movie

Put on a play with vignettes of each part of Irish history – divide class into groups and give each a time period to portray. Each group presents in the order of the historical time frame.

Option: Have each group video their portion. Combine the entire presentation into a movie and present to the class, complete with popcorn and drinks.

Completed movie can be also be featured at open house or shared with other classrooms.