

Primary School Workbook

Craggaunowen The Living Past Experience

Welcome to Craggaunowen –
The Living Past Experience.
We hope you enjoy your visit!

Have you ever thought about how people lived in
Ireland over a thousand years ago?

Some of the homesteads and other features of
daily life you could have seen in Ireland more
than a thousand years ago have been recreated
at Craggaunowen. Craggaunowen gets its name
from two Irish words, Craggan, meaning a rocky
outcrop, and Eoghan, presumably the name of the
man called Eoghan or John who built the Castle.



1. Craggaunowen Castle

Craggaunowen Castle is a tower house and was one of more than eighty tower houses erected by the MacNamara and other clans in the south-east Clare area alone. John MacSheeda MacNamara built this one about the year 1550.

In what year was the castle built? _____

Who built it? _____

Why do you think people lived in Castles?

Can you name any castles in your locality.....?

How might the castle be defended against attack?

2.The Teeranea Dug-Out Canoe

This canoe was found close to the shore of nearby Cullane lake in 1989 on the lands of a local farmer. The canoe has been dated using the Radio-Carbon method and this indicates a date of 1500BC which would have been the early Bronze Age. Radio Carbon dating is a method of finding the age of ancient objects by means of measuring the amount of carbon-14 there is left in the object.

Activity Questions

How old is this canoe ? _____

Why is it preserved in sand ?

3.The Crannog

What is a Crannog?

This is an ancient place where our ancestors lived. It is a man made Island on a lake. The name crannog is related to the Irish word 'crann', a tree.



Activity Questions

This gives us a clue to the most important building material used in its construction. This was T _ _ _ E R

Why do you think this was a good place to live?

If you were the enemy, how would you attack the crannog ?
(remember that there was no bridge connecting it to the mainland as there is now)

Crannogs were occupied continuously by people for centuries. From the late Bronze Age (about 1,200 B.C.) to, in some instances, the 1600's.

Approximately how many years were people living in Crannogs? _____

Exploring the Crannog

What shapes are the houses on the Crannog ?

One is REC _ _ _ _ _ ,

the other is CIR _ _ _ _ _ .

What materials were used on the roofs?

What do you think the people living here would have eaten ?

Describe what you feel conditions would have been in a Crannog?

Circle any of the words below which you think describe it?

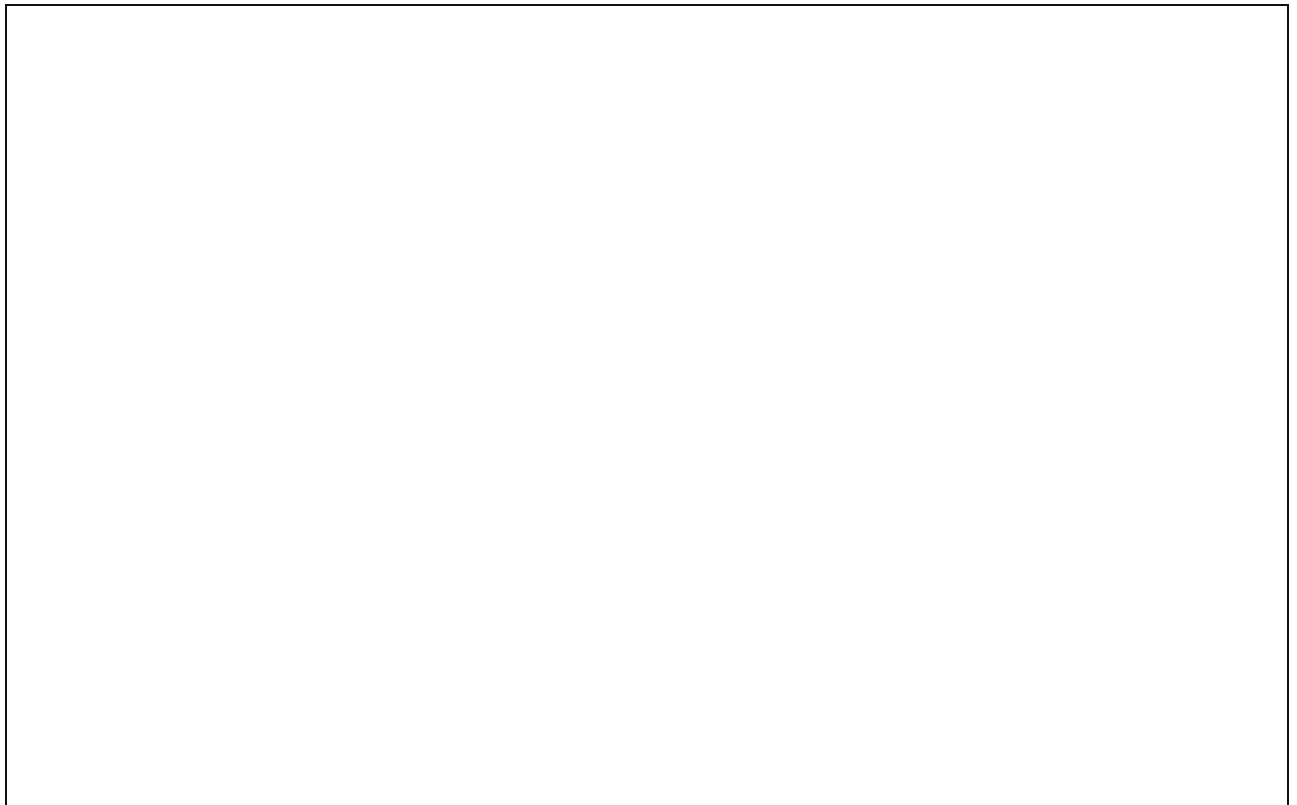
Dark	Clean	Light	Warm	Smelly	Damp
Crowded	Safe	Cramped	Cold	Dirty	Dry

Everyday life on a Crannog

Information on the people who lived on Crannogs comes to us from archaeologists. They have recovered ornaments, weapons, tools and implements which help us to piece together the everyday activities of Bronze Age people.

Many of these weapons, tools and jewellery were very well made. They were of great beauty and outstanding craftsmanship. The metals used were bronze, copper, tin and gold.

Draw a Crannog in the space provided below ..



4. The Togher - Iron Age Road

This Iron Age Road at Craggaunowen is one of those old trackways trodden by the feet of men and women of the Iron Age. Horses were also used to pull small carts or carry baskets on their back. Only the most important people rode on horseback, most people walked.

Activity Questions

Where was this Iron Age Roadway found?

What type of transport did the people use?

What material was used to make these roads?

What materials are used to build modern roads?

5. The Fullacht Fiadh

A Fulacht Fiadh is a pit dug in marshy land, lined with stone flags or timber slabs, and filled with water. This Fullacht Fiadh was used to cook meat.

They were used over a long period of time, from the Early Bronze Age to the Elizabethan period, mainly by the members of hunting parties.



Activity Questions

How was the water heated.....?

What type of food was cooked here?

6. The Ring Fort

Ring Forts of which there are about 40,000 examples throughout Ireland, were in existence during the Early Christian period (5th - 12th centuries A.D).



Activity Question

Estimate for yourself the approximate diameter of our Ringfort, measuring from the bottom of the inner bank face?

Have a look at the entrance door to the Ringfort.

How high is it? _____

Do you think the people who lived there were tall or small? _____. Why?

Place Names and Ring Forts

Ring Forts in old Irish were often called rath, lios, dun, caher and caiseal. The rath and lios were often small earthen rings while the dun was a larger fortification. The caiseal and caher described stone wall forts. A number of Irish place names contain these words - Mountrath, Cahir, Cashel, Dunmore, Dundalk, Lisdoonvarna.

Activity Question

Name any town, villages or counties that use Lios, Rath, Dun, Mount in their names?

How many Ring Forts would have been built in Ireland? _____

Building a Ringfort.

The aim of the Ringfort builders was to create a structure within which the inhabitants and their animals would be protected from raiders and wild animals such as wolves and boars.

Craggaunowen's Ringfort gives you a good idea of what the dwellings of some Iron Age Irish farmers looked like.

Souterrains (Souterrains were underground passages.)

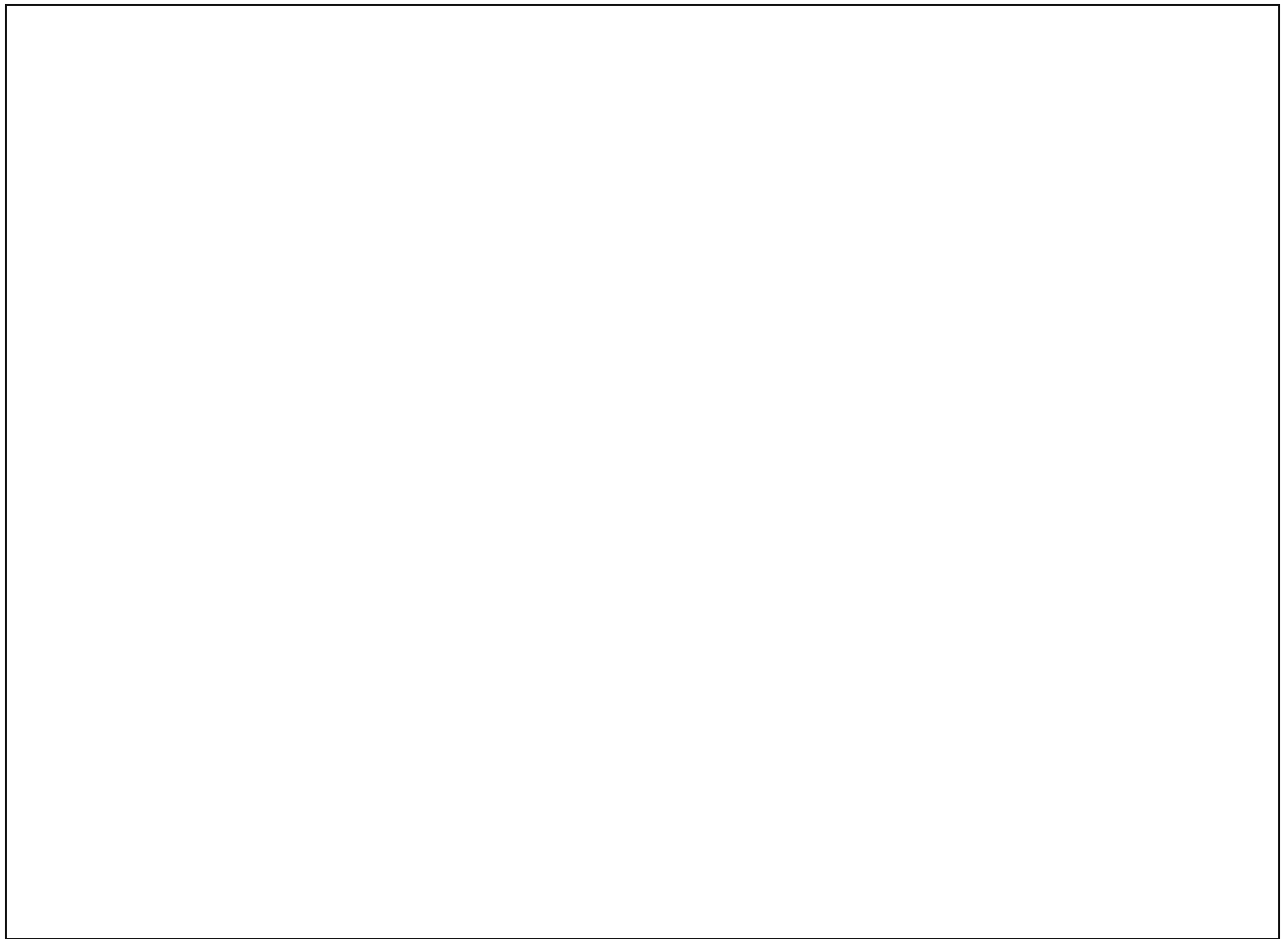
First and foremost, they were used as refrigerators - perishable foodstuffs such as milk, meat, eggs and poultry could be stored there until needed for cooking. A well built souterrain maintains a constant temperature of 4 centigrade year round.

Activity Questions

See what temperature is in your fridge at home and write it in here? _____

What other uses do you think it could have been used for?

Draw a plan of the Craggaunowen souterrain below



7. The Brendan Boat

This unique boat crossed the Atlantic ocean in the years 1976 and 1977, recreating the legendary voyage of St. Brendan the Navigator.

Columbus, we are told, discovered the New World in the year 1492. Irish legend insists that Saint Brendan reached America almost a thousand years before Christopher Columbus discovered it.

Tim Severin and his crew had many adventures and many narrow escapes – at one point they were holed by an ice floe and had to repair the hull by putting their hands into the frozen water and sewing a leather patch to keep the boat from sinking.

Read the Information Panels situated near the boat and then answer the following questions:



Activity Questions

Can you find the patch on the boat?

What materials were used to make this boat?

How long did the Brendan voyage take?

What places did the 'Brendan' boat visit on its way to America?

Imagine you are an explorer just like Tim Severin and you want to do a voyage of exploration to a far off place to show how such a journey could have been done in the past. Where would you go?

Why would you go there?

What items would you bring in the boat with you?

Circle any of the words below which you think describes Tim Severin's voyage on the Brendan Boat...?

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|---------|--------|-----------|------|----------|
| Comfortable | Crowded | Damp | Boring | Cold | Exciting |
| Safe | Cramped | Tiring | Dangerous | Warm | Hunger |

Name the ways we might travel to the United States today...?

8. The Woodlands Park

Craggaunowen is situated in a wooded area.

Activity Question

Name three different types of Trees you see?

The Celts grew crops and raised animals for food. Hunting was also a very important activity. Name the different types of animals that you see in Craggaunowen.....?
