



PUPIL WORKSHEETS HISTORY

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Module

4

WORKSHEETS 4A to 4G



Worksheet 4A: Footballers in Action... Then and Now



Worksheet 4B: Croke Park... Then and Now



Worksheet 4C: Founding The GAA

On November 1st 1884 seven men met in Hayes` Hotel in Thurles Co. Tipperary to form the Gaelic Athletic Association. The seven men were Michael Cusack, Maurice Davin, John Wyse Power, John McKay, J.K Bracken, Joseph O Ryan, and Thomas St. George McCarthy. The famine in the 1840`s had led to massive emigration and poverty and a revival of Irish customs and traditions was much needed.



Michael Cusack

The meeting, which was organized by Michael Cusack, elected Maurice Davin as the GAA's first president and resolved to bring order and structure to Gaelic games. Within six months of this important meeting, clubs began to appear all over Ireland as the people began to play hurling and Gaelic football and take part in athletic events while representing their parish. At a meeting in January 1885 a set of rules for hurling and Gaelic football were drafted and then published in a newspaper called *The United Irishmen*. The first All-Ireland Championships were held in 1887 with five counties competing in the hurling competition and eight in the football. Tipperary won the first hurling championship and Limerick were the first football champions. Archbishop Croke of Cashel, Michael Davitt and Charles Stewart Parnell became the first **patrons** of the GAA. The GAA organized athletic events all over the country until 1925 when control was handed over.

The founding of the GAA **ensured** that Ireland's **indigenous** sports became hugely popular. In 1893 The Gaelic League (Conradh na Gaeilge) was set up to revive the Irish language as well Irish music and dancing. Today the GAA has over 20,000 teams all over the country as well as many clubs throughout the world. Irish emigrants who settled in the various countries set up these clubs to help them keep their Irish heritage while living abroad.

Questions

1. Who organized the meeting in Hayes Hotel? _____
2. Which other men attended the meeting? _____
3. Who was the first president of the GAA? _____
4. Name the first Patrons of the GAA. _____
5. How are Michael Cusack and Archbishop Croke remembered today? _____
6. When were the rules of the GAA drawn up and how were they published? _____
7. Who were the first All-Ireland football champions? _____

Find Out

1. Who is the current president of the GAA? _____
2. Who won the All-Ireland championships in 1888? _____
3. Who were Charles Stewart Parnell and Michael Davitt and what role did they play in Irish history? _____
4. Who organized athletics in Ireland after 1925? _____
5. Find out the meanings of the words in **italics**. _____

Worksheet 4D: How did hurling begin?

Long ago, there lived a blacksmith called Culann and a King called Conor. One day the blacksmith decided to hold a big feast. He invited the King and many other friends. A young boy called Setanta worked for the King. He too was invited to the feast. However, Setanta was playing a game of hurling and so he would be late.

When King Conor arrived at the feast there was a wonderful display of food. There was bread, turkey, meat, fish, wine and much more. The King was so pleased that he forgot all about Setanta. When Culann asked his guests was everybody there, they all replied "yes". With hearing that, Culann put his finest guard dog at the entrance.

Some time later Setanta's match ended. Setanta's team had been victorious and he skipped along to Culann's feast while bouncing the sliotar on his hurley. Along the way Setanta caught some fish for the feast and a chicken. But when he arrived at the entrance the huge guard dog was waiting. Suddenly, the dog leaped at Setanta and tried to attack him. Setanta grabbed his sliotar, threw it up into the air and struck it with all his might. The sliotar went straight into the hound's throat and killed him.

When the guests heard the noise they rushed out to see what had happened. Culann was thrilled that Setanta was safe, however, he was sad that his hound had died. Setanta said that HE would guard Culann's castle until Culann got another hound. The Irish for a hound is Cú (Coo), so Setanta became known as Cúchulainn (The Hound of Culann) from that day onwards.

1. Make a list of feelings that Setanta had at different times in the story. Write down what event in the story made him feel this way and why.

2. Illustrate your favourite scene from the story and say why this is so.

3. Make a storyboard to represent the above legend: Fold your page into eight sections, draw a picture and write one sentence under each picture.

4. Re-tell the story in your groups.

5. Find other stories of Cúchulainn and read them.

Worksheet 4E: Bloody Sunday

The 1920's were a time of unease in Ireland. Due to the troubles many competitive G.A.A. matches had been suspended. Tipperary had heard rumours that Dublin considered themselves to be a superior football team. The Tipperary football team decided to challenge the Dublin football team to a match. The match was to be played on Sunday 21st November 1921.

However, events were to happen that would ensure this date would not be forgotten for another reason. Michael Collins, a leader of the Irish revolutionary forces had ordered the assassination of the 'Cairo Gang', The Cairo Gang consisted of fourteen British intelligence officers that had been sent to disguise themselves and spy on Collins' organisation. On the Sunday morning they were murdered at different locations around Dublin.



Michael Hogan

The British Army were furious and promised immediate revenge. One of the officers tossed a coin to choose whether to inflict their revenge by going on a killing spree in Croke Park or O'Connell Street. Ten thousand people attended Croke Park for the match. Mick Sammon from Kildare was referee and threw in the ball at 2.45pm. As planned by the British soldiers an aeroplane flew overhead and shot out a red flare. This signalled to the Black and Tans to make their attack.

The crowd and players fled in panic away from the gunfire. However, one of the Tipperary players called Michael Hogan was shot and killed. A young Wexford man who attempted to say a last prayer into the dying player's ear was also shot dead. Other fatalities were a girl, Jeannie Baker, due to be married 5 days later, who had attended the match with her fiancée, a 14-year-old John Scott, and another two children 10 and 11 years of age. There were fourteen people killed in Croke Park in total with another sixty-three injured. This day was to become known as 'Bloody Sunday' due to the number of people killed on both sides.

1. What were the actions that caused Bloody Sunday?

2. How might such a tragedy have been prevented?

3. How would the fiancée of Jeannie Baker have felt?

4. How is Michael Hogan remembered in Croke Park today?

5. Discuss how others may have perceived the actions of Michael Collins after Bloody Sunday

6. Research information about Michael Collins and record significant events on a timeline

7. Find another account of the Bloody Sunday event and compare it to the above

Worksheet 4F: Timeline of Hurling

11th century: Myth of Setanta (first written record of hurling)
Very popular among all the kings and noble families.

Task: Can you find another myth or legend that mentions hurling? Record this in your copy.

12th century: Normans arrive and adopt the game of hurling with great enthusiasm

1366: Hurling banned under the Statutes of Kilkenny

1631: Hurling had become so common that in the streets of Cork a 40-shilling fine was imposed on anyone playing hurling in the streets.

Task: Can you find a picture of a shilling? What coins would have need to be used to make 40 shillings?

17th century: Little mention of hurling due to heavy battles such as that of the Battle of Kinsale and the Battle of the Boyne

Task: Can you find out about the Battle of Kinsale and the Battle of the Boyne? Can you label where they happened on the map?

18th century: Golden Age of Hurling. Matches were now advertised and prize money was often given to the winners.

1798 Rebellion: weakens hurling

1800 Act of Union: sees hurling lose further financial and social support.

19th century: Ulster was so strict on the Sabbath that this brought an end to hurling on a Sunday. In the south the game continued to be played but only by small groups of people.

Task: Locate the province of Ulster on a map. Label it.

The great Famine 1845: starvation and emigration dominated. Sport was no longer important.

1869: This was when the first set of rules was established to try and keep the game alive. A man named Pat Larkin of Kiltormer set out the rules.

Task: Kiltormer is located in Killimor in Co. Galway. Can you locate this on a map of Ireland? Label it.

1879: The Irish Hurley union was established in Trinity College Dublin. Michael Cusack a teacher from Clare, living in Dublin became interested in the revival of hurling.

Task: Locate Clare and Dublin on a map. Label them.

1883: Michael Cusack began organising matches in the Phoenix Park and the Metropolitan Hurling Club was set up.

1884: G.A.A. Gaelic Athletic Association was set up

1885: The first draft of rules for hurling was adopted by the G.A.A.

1904: Camogie Club in Ireland was set up. An Cumann Camógaíocht

Worksheet 4G: Timelines

Task: Design a timeline illustrating the important dates and events in G.A.A.history.

Date

Event