

Worksheet 5A: My Local Club

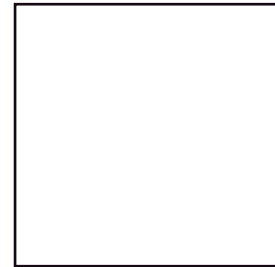
If you travel around Ireland through cities, towns, and villages you will notice that there is a GAA club in almost every parish. There are over 2,000 clubs in the 32 counties of Ireland. The GAA club is very important in the parish as it is a place where you can go with friends and have fun. There is local pride when you travel to another club to play games or when a player from the club is chosen to play for the county team.

Fill in this profile of your local club.

Club name: _____

Parish: _____

Manager: _____



Club colours

List the people who organise matches for your team:

Club chairperson: _____

Name of club pitch: _____

Clubs you have played against: _____

Why do you like your club? _____

Famous players from your club: _____

When was your club founded? _____

Write about a time when you enjoyed playing for your club:

To do: Find out more about the history of your club.



Worksheet 5B: County Profile

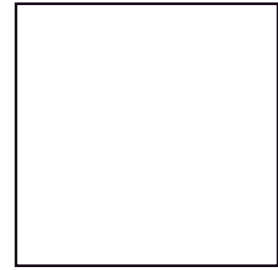
County name: _____

Main towns: _____

Rivers: _____

Mountains: _____

Lakes: _____

**County colours**

County colours: _____

Headlands and bays: _____

County ground: _____

Famous players from the past: _____

Last All-Ireland win: _____

Famous current players: _____

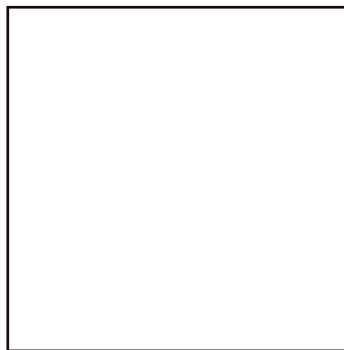
Current captain: _____

Manager: _____

Rival teams: _____

Tourist attractions: _____

Famous song: _____

You can find lots of county information at www.cul4kidz.com**County crest**

Worksheet 5C: DVD - Tall, Dark and Ó hAilpín

Watch the short documentary about Seán Óg and complete the tasks below:

1. What county does Seán Óg play for? _____
2. What cup did this county win at the start of the programme? _____
3. Finish this sentence from Seán Óg`s speech. "Is fada an turas é ó _____"
go _____ agus ó _____ go dtí _____
4. What country did Seán Óg visit in this film? _____
5. What was the name of the island Seán Óg visited? _____
6. How long was it since Seán Óg had been in this country? _____
7. Who greeted Seán Óg on his arrival? _____
8. Why did he not recognise these people? _____
9. List some of the cultural traditions which you saw on this film.

10. How did the local people welcome Seán Óg to the island?

11. What sport did Seán Óg demonstrate on the DVD? _____
12. Seán Óg said that his trip helped him understand his roots and appreciate other cultures. Do you think it is important to respect other cultures? Why?

In your copy draw a picture of Seán Óg during his visit to Rotuma.



Worksheet 5D: A GAA Story from Abroad

Hi my name is Kennedy John Patrick McGuigan and I am 11 years old. I live in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in the United States of America. Milwaukee is just north of Chicago, in the middle of the country. My ancestors come from Ireland (my dad's great-grandfather emigrated out of Belfast), Poland, Luxembourg and Germany.

The United States of America is in North America. The most popular sports in America are baseball, basketball and American football. I've played American football for one year, I am a running-back. I've played hurling with the Milwaukee Hurling Club for three years.

I am in fifth grade which is the fifth year of school for us in America. I am in middle school which is just between elementary school (kindergarten to fourth grade) and high school (ninth to twelfth grade). I start school at 8:00am and end at 3:04pm. I go to a publicly-funded school, and we do not wear uniforms. I can wear whatever I want, as long as it's in good taste. I either walk to school (it is close to my house) or my mom drives me to school (especially when it is cold).

The climate in Wisconsin varies a lot. It is cold and snowy in the winter (the snow falls between December and April). It is really hot in the summer (which can last from June to September). The spring and fall are very short.

I went to Ireland with my family (my mom and my dad) in November and December of 2005. We travelled throughout a lot of the southern part of the country, concentrating on the west coast. We did go to Dublin, though, just to see the GAA Museum and Croke Park. It is a beautiful park. I went to Ireland again with my youth hurling team in April 2007. We saw Croke Park again, and practiced with teams in Annaghdown (outside of Galway) and Clarecastle (outside of Ennis).

I thought Ireland was cool. There is a lot of really old stuff there; we don't have any old, medieval stuff like that in the United States.

I started hurling on my own when I was three. There weren't any hurls small enough for me, and no youth leagues, so I practiced by myself with a hurl that my dad made



for me out of pine. The adults were surprised by how well I did, even then. They said the hurl seemed like an extension of my arm. Three years ago, the Milwaukee Hurling Club started a youth league, which was great. Now, I can play with a team and practice with lots of other people. It is impossible to find any hurling matches to watch on TV here. Sometimes, local Irish bars (pubs) will have some of the bigger matches on TV, but I am too young to go into the bar to watch them.

I think hurling is fun. When you play it, you use many body parts, not like soccer which only uses your feet. There are lots of big actions in hurling. It is hard to be an outstanding soccer player, but when you solo down the length of a field, everyone notices. It is also cool to play a game that other people (in America) don't know about.

I've played lots of positions, but my favourite is midfield. My favourite time playing midfield was when I was visiting Clarecastle in April 2007. I was invited to play with their under-12s in a Go Games blitz. After a lot of convincing by me and my coach, the Irish coach agreed to put me in at midfield for the third eight-minute quarter.

I felt great when the Irish coach gave me the midfield jersey to wear. I knew that this was what I had to do. I felt a little like I needed to show something to the Irish because they didn't think an American could be good enough to play midfield. Once I got the ball, it felt just like a game in Milwaukee. I ended up scoring four points and four skill points in that eight minutes. I'll never forget it.

My favourite thing about Ireland was that so many people know what hurling is and play hurling. In America, it isn't like that. It would be great if we could do hurling at school.

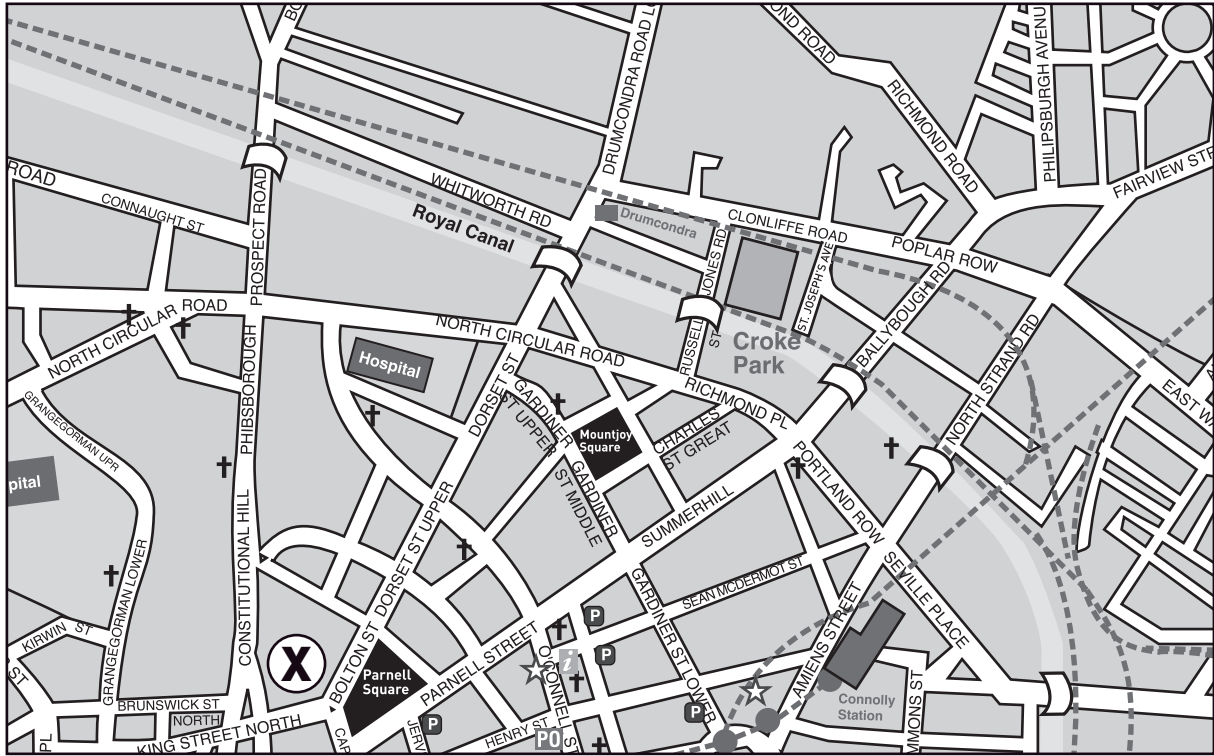
I also like, and I know this is funny, hanging out in the pubs with my parents after dinner. In America, pubs (which we call bars) aren't really a place for kids. People smoke in the bars, and they drink and do adult stuff. But in Ireland, I could sit at the pubs and watch football on the TV, drink my Club Orange (which they don't have in America) and talk with people about America and Ireland. It was a lot of fun.

Tasks:

1. Find Milwaukee and Clarecastle in your atlas.
2. Where did Kennedy's ancestors arrive in America from?
3. List some differences between Kennedy's school and your school.
4. What did Kennedy like about Ireland?
5. Why does Kennedy enjoy hurling?
6. Describe Kennedy's trip to Clarecastle.



Worksheet 5E: Mapwork



Section 1

Use the information on the map to judge whether the following statements are true or false.

- 1. Parnell Square is closer to Croke Park than Mountjoy Square. True False
- 2. The Royal Canal runs alongside Croke Park. True False
- 3. Jones Road and St Joseph's Avenue are the streets either side of Croke Park. True False

Section 2

How many bridges over the Royal Canal are shown on the map?

Write down the name of the four roads which cross the canal.

Section 3

If you were at the spot marked X, how would you get to Croke Park?

Firstly mark in your route on the map in pencil, then write down the directions in your copy.

Section 4

Draw a map similar to the one above showing the roads running around your school.

