

Lesson Plan 3 - Place Names

Activity 1 (5 minutes)

Alphabet Islands

Put all the letters of the alphabet around the room on the floor. Ask the children the following questions and have them stand by the appropriate letter.

- What is your street called?
- Where would you like to go on holidays?
- Where is your favourite place in the world?
- Where would you like to live when you grow up?

Activity 2 (5 minutes)

What does ... mean? & John Hewitt Poem

Using a well-known local place name, explain the ways in which Irish place names were changed to their English forms. Explain the difference between transliteration (*translating sounds*) and translation (*translating the meaning*).

Find an old picture that represents the place name, and superimpose modern landmarks in a PowerPoint presentation.

John Hewitt's *Ulster Place Names*. Read out the 4 line extract from the poem. Discuss the importance of each line with the pupils and explain the line "You say the name, and I see the place". Bring attention also to who John Hewitt was.

Activity 3 (10 minutes)

From Irish or not?

Find 10 local place names and write them on the board. Teach the numbers 1-10 at this point. Every place name must be from Irish, or have a Gaelic element and be recognisable to the children. Ask them how many of the place names come from Irish. You will call out the numbers and they will put their hand in the air and repeat the number they believe is correct. This game when done effectively will surprise the children. It will also get them thinking of the Irish that is all around them that maybe they have not noticed until now.

Activity 4 (10 minutes)

Your own street

Put the Irish versions (or your own translations) of the children's street names on the board. Allow them a few minutes to see if they can pick out their own street name. Explain what some of the street names mean – that some are direct translations and that some are untranslatable. Read out the street names so that the children get to hear the Irish versions.

Activity 5 (10 minutes)

Place names competition

Divide the class into groups and give each group an Irish language map. Allocate each team an Irish place name element (Baile, Ard, Cluain etc). Have the English and Irish versions of these elements on the board. Ask the children to make a list of place names they already know with these elements in them. Ask them to add to the list with place names from the map in Irish.

The pupils will see that there is a connection between their previous knowledge (of place names in English) and the new knowledge that relates to the Irish language.

Activity 6 (10 minutes)

Revision, homework

Ask the children some true and false questions. Have them raise the *true/fíor* or *false/bréagach* cards as they see fit.

What did you learn today? Did you learn anything that surprised you?

Did we cover anything that you already knew?

H/W, draw a picture based on ...

- a) The name of your street, using the new information you have about it , or
- b) The word you had to search for on the map.

Resources

A-Z on 26 A4 sheets

Green and red true and false cards

10 local place names

Maps of Ireland, in Irish

PowerPoint presentation