theme 2

Evidence of the past

pictures

tomb
flint javelin
portal grave
new
stone age

palstave
summit cairn
copper
gold
bronze age

iron
horse bit
bracelet

iron age

round tower
crosses
church
early christian

viking boats
fjords
raid

viking

castle
tower
defend

medieval

TIMELINE

KEY STAGE

KEY

STAGE

1

Evidence of the past

4000BC 3000BC 2000BC 1000BC 0 1000AD 2000AD

New Stone Age
Bronze Age
Iron Age
Early Christian
Viking
Medieval
Normans & Planters
Millennium Celebrations

Evidence of the past

Evidence of the past

Evidence of the past

Evidence of the past
Evidence of the past

Archaeological Evidence The Mournes area has many historic monuments and features from different ages. Some are protected sites with visitor facilities. Local and imported stone has been used to create structures for defence and shelter. Other clues of past generations can be seen in the landscape such as the "lazy beds" in the Slieve Croob area shown in the right hand photograph.

Artefacts and Collections Some of the key sites in Mourne have been excavated revealing collections of artefacts. The photographs illustrate the type of items that have been found from the Mourne area to include clay bowls, crafted metal weapon heads and a bell from the Bronze Age and a bracelet from the Iron Age. Most of these can be viewed at the Ulster Museum, the Down County Museum or the National Museum Dublin.

7000 years of history The pattern and distribution of monuments, with excavated artefacts, provides an idea of how the settlers arrived, how they shaped the landscape and how they transformed sites into spiritual landscapes. Pictures include Narrow Water Castle, Drumena Cashel and St Mary’s Chapel. There are still many sites which have not been fully excavated.

What is an Archaeologist? The study of previous ages through excavation and a detective mind is called ‘archaeology’. Trained staff undertake excavations, determine where sites of interest might be, carry out scientific testing to determine dates and collate information to put together a picture of the past.

Protecting Monuments Many historic sites need to be protected and managed so that they will be there for future generations. A number of the sites have visitor facilities and information about their history. Maintaining the fabric of the structures is also crucial. Some of the important sites in Mourne include Maghera Round Tower, Kilbroney Cross, Longstone Standing Stone and Legananny Portal Grave.
<table>
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<th>Teachers Resource Sheet</th>
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<td><strong>theme 2 - Evidence of the past project ideas</strong></td>
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**KEY STAGE 1**

**Literacy**
- Choose a picture of an artefact from a particular age and write a story about the people that used it.
- Using the timeline put the different ages in sequence.
- From the Ulster Museum find out more about the peoples of different ages – what they wore, what they ate and how they defended themselves.

**Numeracy**
- Count the number of large stones from a dolmen or portal grave.
- Use the timeline to put the different time zones in sequence.

**World Around Us**
- Compare lifestyle of Bronze Age and today.
- Compare the different artefacts from Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age.
- Compare Dundrum Castle with Green Castle – shape, size and location.
- Visit a historic monument – what would it have been used for, why was it built there and did it link with another in the area.

**Creativity & Expression**
- Use clay and paper mache to make your own sword, jewellery and pots.
- Design and make your own costume from one of the main time zones.
- Create a collage of a scene when the first settlers arrived in the area.
- Make a model of an ancient vessel from clay then break it up and rebuild using the pieces.

**Information Communication and Technology**
- Explore websites on living archaeology to find out more about the people that lived in the Mournes based on research.

**KEY STAGE 2**

**Literacy**
- Create a story about living in one of the time zones in the Mournes - e.g. Bronze Age.
- Research an aspect of the history of the Mournes using the local archive section of your library.
- Use some of the education material from Ulster Museum to understand about the changing times of the Mournes area and the impact on the landscape.
- Research some of the myths from the Mournes – characters and names.

**Numeracy**
- Use the timeline to put the different time zones in sequence and work out the length of each time zone.
- Learn about the Neolithic and Bronze Age summit cairns and passage tomb. Find out about other passage tombs and how the stones were set to capture mid-winter sun.

**World Around Us**
- Find out about the main time zones represented through monuments and artefacts discovered in the Mournes.
- Research the different ages of the Mournes through the monuments, artefacts, myths and place names.
- Study the different materials used by different time zones to make artefacts – weapons, tools, pots and jewellery. Was the material local or imported.
- Study how the landscape has changed since the Ice Age with the arrival of the first settlers.
- Study the millstones and their use – the stone, where the stones were cut, how they were transported and what they were used for.
- Grind your own corn and make a flat cake.

**Creativity & Expression**
- Design your own jewellery based on styles used in the past. Refer to Museum collections.
- Create your own portal tomb and use torchlight to recreate mid winter light.
- Find out about what the Early Christians would have eaten and how they cooked it.
- Recreate your own meal.

**Information Communication and Technology**
- Research suggested websites to find out more about archaeology and how information is gathered from excavating a site.
theme 2
Evidence of the past

Summary Information

Theme 2 focuses on how man has had a connection with the Mourne area over the last 5000 years and more. There is a rich variety of evidence of past generations to include sites, monuments, standing stones, artefacts, names, myths and stories. These education sheets start you off on a process of finding out more about the complex and sometimes uncertain history of the region. Professional archaeologists will admit there is still much more to be discovered about the Mourne area.

Over 5000 years ago, immigrants arrived at key points around the Mourne coast - inlets and bays provided shelter and safety or a place to raid. They cultivated cereals and introduced roving herds of the first farm animals - cattle and goats. The landscape of the Mourne has changed over the years - shaped by successive generations. The majority of the evidence has been discovered on the flanks of the mountains. It is understood that some of the summit peaks were the sites of ritual and ceremony. It is thought that a passage tomb was built on Slieve Donard to allow the light of the mid-winter sunrise to shine into it's inner chamber. There is little evidence left but other examples where remains are still evident include Slieve Gullion and New Grange near Drogheda.

Over 350 historic monuments from the different ages have been discovered around the Mourne area. There are a limited number of remains from the Middle and New Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age to include Portal Tombs or Dolmens (as they were referred to), Passage Tombs and Raths. The Ulster Museum and the National Museum Dublin hold collections of finds to include a number of artefacts from these ages to include flints, pottery, and jewellery.

Prehistoric remains include megalithic tombs built of large stones. These are the most prominent and best studied Stone Age field monuments. These tombs are found in the Mediterranean region, the Atlantic Coasts and islands of Western Europe and Scandinavia. Several different types are recorded in Ireland to include Court and Portal Graves. In the Bronze Age, bodies were burnt and the remains put in an urn. Pottery, heads, daggers and fragments of gold and necklaces of jet accompanied the burial. A Palstave is a bronze axe-head of middle or late Bronze Age date in which the side flanges and the bar/stop on both faces are connected, forming a single hafting aid. Some types feature a side loop to further assist hafting. Prehistoric sites in Mourne include Sidleyeford Dolmen, Dunnamann Court Grave, Kilteagan Dolmen, Kilbroney Standing Stone, Goward Dolmen, Legannay Dolmen, Drumadonnell Cross and the burial sites on Sleave Donard and Sleave Croob.

Sites in Mourne from the Early Christian period include Drumena Cashel (a farmstead enclosure with a stonebuilt underground passage or souterrain) and Maghera Church and Round Tower (a site of an early monastery founded by the 6th century St Domognant).

The Vikings raided Strangford and Carlingford Lough and a recent archaeological survey has revealed Viking remains on Strangford.

The 12th century or Medieval time, was a period of transition and major change. The Anglo-Normans built castles - Clough, Narrow Water, Dundrum and Greencastle. They provided a lookout, defence and a home. Most sites have visitor facilities and are well worth a visit.

Resources and Websites

‘Mourne Country - Landscape and Life in South Down’ E Estyn Evans, 2005, Dundalgun Press, Dundalk
‘A Story through Time-The Formation of the Scenic Landscapes of Ireland (North)’. McKeever, P. J. 1999
Geological Survey of Northern Ireland, Belfast

‘The Mountains of Mourne A Celebration of a Place Apart’David Kirk. Appletree Pres
‘Archaeological Survey of County Down’ HMSO 1966 Out of print but worth referring to ‘Place Names of Northern Ireland Volume 3 The Mournes’ (Institute of Irish Studies, QUB 1993)

www.mournelive.com
www.ehsni.gov.uk/education/archaeology.shtml
www.downcountymuseum.org
www.ulstermuseum.org.uk
www.arglassvikings.org.uk
www.bbc.co.uk/northernireland/schools
www.mosaic-ni.gov.uk/docs

local information, an interactive map, information about historic monuments local information, collections and education resources archaeological collections and education resources information about local festivals celebrating the Vikings in Co. Down programmes on archaeology in Northern Ireland and other local history issues project about place names in NI.

Check details of facilities at historic monuments (access, interpretation, car parks and toilets) through the local tourist information centres:

Banbridge TIC 028 4062 3322 Downpatrick TIC 028 44612233
Kilkeel TIC 028 4176 2278 Newry TIC 028 3026 8877
Warrenpoint TIC 028 4175 2256

This is Sheet 2 of a series of 7 themes - Mountains of Mourne, Evidence of the Past, Food from the Mournes, Living in the Mournes, Biodiversity in the Mournes, The Mourne Coast and The Mournes - A Place to Visit.

The education sheets should be used in conjunction with Mourne Heritage Trust Facts Sheets to be found in the education folder. Additional information about the Mourne Heritage Trust and it’s activities is available on the mournealive.com website. More copies of these sheets (and CDROM version) can be obtained from the Mourne Heritage Trust. This includes an electronic version for a classroom whiteboard education system.

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