



## Voices of the Waterways Lesson Plan 5

# Memories, Stories and Oral Histories

### Subject

History

**ROI:** Strand: Change and Continuity (Strand Unit: Continuity and change in the local environment).

**Northern Ireland:** The World Around us (including interdependence, place, movement and energy and change over time).

### Grade level

5th & 6th Class ROI/ P6 & P7 NI

### What you Need

Teachers will need an Internet Connection, Whiteboard/Computer, amplification and printout paper.

### Preparation

Teachers should make sure that Waterways Irelands Archive website is accessible within the classroom and that the oral history selections are playing through your speaker system/whiteboard.

### Aims of Lesson

This Lesson Plan will introduce students to the idea of oral history and encourage them to engage with story and memory. It will also familiarize students with sites such as Waterways Irelands Archive website and help them develop a better understanding of Waterways heritage.



### Getting Started

To begin, pupils need a basic understanding of what the term oral history means. Write the term 'oral history' on the board and invite them to explain it.

Oral history is 'the recording of people's memories and experiences and using those oral sources to better understand the past. It can be divided into two categories:

- Oral History – The direct memories of a speaker
- Oral Tradition – Stories passed to the speaker from a previous generation

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# Activity

Divide the students into groups of four. Each group will appoint a speaker and three note takers. Play the three selected pieces of memory to the group. Each group will then be asked to answer the following questions (See page 3 for answers).

- ✓ In the Edward Montgomery memory, how far do the salmon travel before returning to their native water source?
- ✓ In the Liam Gleeson memory, list two things that changed in Shannon Harbour?
- ✓ In the Brian Cassell's Memory, what was the main reason for the building of canals in Ulster?
- ✓ In the Brian Cassell's Memory, what was the main reason for the decline of canals in Ulster?

### Assessment

The students will be asked to demonstrate the key learning outcome from their engagement with the memory through their answers. Ask the students to explain how they would tell others (outside the classroom context) about the memory they have heard.

Remember: The stories you will hear are told in a variety of different accents from across the island of Ireland, so listen carefully!

### Waterways Audio Samples

#### Edward Montgomery



In this piece of audio, you will hear Edward Montgomery, Representative in Ireland for the Honourable the Irish Society since 1996 and also managing director of Bann System Ltd, its fishery subsidiary. Here, Edward speaks about the decline of the salmon population since the 1960s.

#### Liam Gleeson



Here Liam Gleeson who ran a business in Shannon Harbour, in county Offaly for many years and speaks about the change he saw in the area over the years.

#### Brian Cassells



Brian Cassells, a historian from Lurgan who was born 'within a stone's throw of the Lough' (Neagh) outlines the historical development of Canals in Ulster and speaks about their historical importance and later decline.

