



Voices of the Waterways Lesson Plan 3

My Favorite Place

Subject

History

ROI: Strand: Local Studies (Strand Unit: My Locality Through the Ages).
Strand: Story (Stand Unit: Stories from the lives of people in the past).

Northern Ireland: The World Around Us (including Place: How place influences the nature of life; Change over time in places).

Grade level

4th Class ROI/P5 NI

Aims of Lesson

This Lesson Plan uses the memory of Galway historian James Scully, who reflects on his favorite place. The lesson will show how memory can help better understand our surroundings as well as engaging in language, memory and geography.



What you Need

Internet Connection, Whiteboard/Computer, amplification and printout paper.

Preparation

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

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.

Note: Oral history is 'the recording of people's memories and experiences and using those memories to understand what life was like in the past.'



Activity 1

Play the clip of James Scully twice. Ask the students to write down the following:

- ✓ Where does James Scully say his Favorite Place is?
- ✓ What year does James say the sign states the Grand Canal was opened?
- ✓ What three rivers does James mention at the end of the segment?

Activity 2

For **homework**, the students should be encouraged to ask a parent/guardian what their favourite place is. Write down where and why this is their favourite place.

Activity 3

Students write a short paragraph on what their own favorite place is and why it is important to them. They should also describe their favorite place, noting any landmarks, like large trees, buildings, rivers, lakes etc. Ask them to find out from their parents/guardians where the place is geographically and include this.

Activity 4

The descriptions could become the basis of an art project, with (A) students asked to draw their favourite place or (B) the descriptions are shared and other students attempt to draw them on the basis of the descriptions.

Waterways Audio Samples

James Scully



In this piece of audio, you will hear James Scully, a historian originally from Tullamore in County Offaly. James has spent many years researching the Grand Canal and waterways heritage in general. In this clip, James speaks about his favourite place on the Grand Canal.

Answers

Answer 1: Shannon Harbour

Answer 2: 1803

Answer 3: River Shannon, River Brosna, Grand Canal



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