



Voices of the Waterways Lesson Plan 2

Childhood Memories of Waterways

Subject

History (SESE)

ROI: Strand: Local Studies (Strand Unit: My Locality Through the Ages).

Strand: Story (Strand Unit: Stories from the lives of peoples in the past).

Strand: Change and Continuity over Time (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

Internet Connection, Whiteboard/Computer, amplification and activity 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 will encourage them to engage with story and memory, will 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 sources 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.

Voices of the Waterways Lesson Plan 2

Activity 1

Divide the class into groups of three. Give each group a sheet of paper and appoint a writer. Explain to the students that they will all have to listen to two selected pieces of memory (selected by the teacher). Each piece should be played twice. The groups will then have to discuss the memory and do the following:

- ✓ Select one piece and explain in one sentence why they chose it.
- ✓ Explain in two sentences what the memory was about.
- ✓ Discuss with your group what changes in the world around you may have taken place, when you are older.

Activity 2

Ask the students to imagine they are being interviewed when they are older. Each group should list three aspects of life that might have changed in that time.



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

Choose from two of the following memories

Noel Spaine



Noel Spaine's early memories of the Royal Canal in Dublin take us to 'the Emergency' (World War II).

Fred Tiernan



Fred Tiernan from Kiladeas, Irvinestown, Co. Fermanagh explains how he was born on Innisconra Island on Lower Lough Erne, where he lived until he was 18 years old.

George Brierley



You will hear George Brierley, a retired Dock Master from Dublin. George speaks about his first job in 1944 at eleven years of age.

Jim Butler 1



Jim Butler 2

Jim Butler 3

Jim Butler, a retired lock keeper from Graiguenamanagh remembers his childhood business of selling worms, reflects on his schooldays and outlines his earliest memories of the waterways.

Michael Clarke



Michael Clarke, a maritime enthusiast from Larne in County Antrim recalls spending time on passenger boats and coal boats as a child.