



Voices of the Waterways Lesson Plan 4

Remembering Snow Falls

Subject

English

ROI: Receptiveness to Language (Strand Unit: Oral language: developing receptiveness to oral language).

Northern Ireland: Language and Literacy in Developing pupils' knowledge, Understanding and Skills, listening actively and reporting back & Cultural Understanding

Grade level

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

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.

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 assist Emotional and Imaginative Development Through Language by encouraging the recollection and description of their own memories of the heavy snow of 2018.



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 memories to better understand the past.'



Activity

Divide the class into pairs. The students will be played the memories of two men who remember the 'big snow' of 1947. Play each of the audio clips consecutively (twice). Ask the student groups to discuss the audio segment they listened to. Each pair of students should be expected to (1) Demonstrate 'active listening' by summarizing what was said in both segments and (2) prepare and write their own memories of the heavy snowfalls of March 2018.

Note: Students should be encouraged to describe their memories and experiences of the snow, how they felt, the games they played etc.

Waterways Audio Samples

Tommy Holland



Tommy Holland from Nutgrove in Whitegate, County Clare recalls his knowledge of freezes on Lough Derg including 1917, 1947 and 1963-63.

George Morrissey



George Morrissey, a historian from Belturbet in County Cavan recalls 'The big freeze' of 1947.



Assessment

The students will be asked to demonstrate the key learning outcome from their engagement with the memory and by showing the ability to recall and communicate their own memories and feelings from the 2018 'big snow'.

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