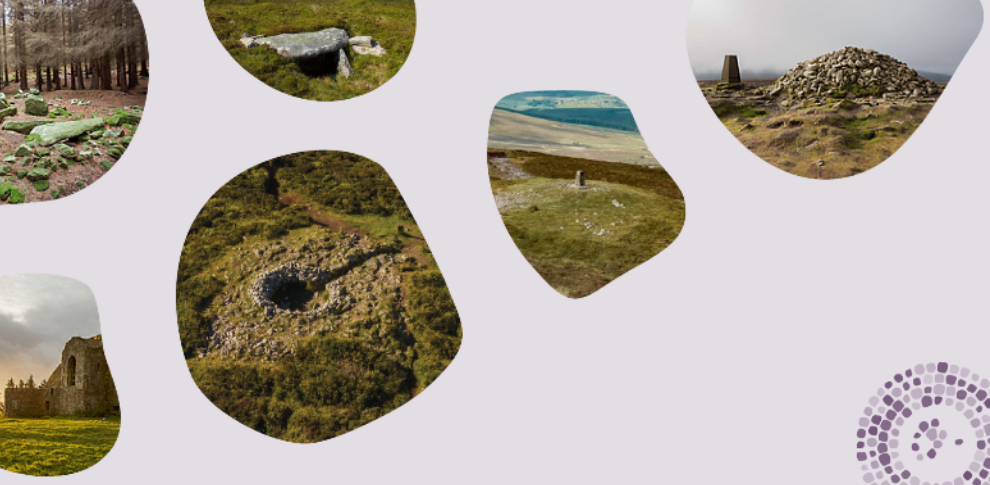


Seandálaíocht Phobail
Shléibhte Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin Mountains
Community Archaeology

Dublin's Monumental Mountains

Lesson Plans

Archaeology and Built Heritage

ABARTA HERITAGE

dlr Comhairle Contae County Council

Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

Overview

These lessons are designed to support the teaching of information about the creation and archaeology of the Dublin Mountains to senior primary school students. The lessons can be taught individually or in blocks and accompany Dublin's Monumental Mountains booklet (available here) and StoryMap which can be accessed here.

These lesson plans are an output of the Dublin Mountains Community Archaeology Project 2023 which is an initiative of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, South Dublin County Council and the Dublin Mountains Partnership, supported by The Heritage Council. It is delivered by Abarta Heritage and ABH Ltd.

Lesson One
The Creation of the Mountains

Resources

- Dublin's Monumental Mountains booklet pages 10-14
- Dublin's Monumental Mountains interactive StoryMap

Lesson Overview

This lesson is designed to introduce children to depth of time and the creation of the Dublin Mountains. Children will learn about how old the mountains are in relation to other major events, such as the extinction of the dinosaurs.

Introduction

- Bring in string and clothes pegs and print major events cards for the string timeline to illustrate how far the Dublin Mountains go back in time.
- Bring in examples of sedimentary (limestone), igneous (granite) and metamorphic (schist) rocks.

Lesson Body

- Ask the students to guess how old the mountains are. Are they older than humans? Are they older than the dinosaurs? Are they older than Newgrange?
- Ask the children to stand up and pull the string taunt, then get them to add key events using cards and pegs.
- Discuss how the mountains were formed (see page 13 of the Dublin's Monumental Mountain's booklet and the StoryMap). Show the students the types of rocks the mountains are made up off.

- Ask the students to point out where they live on page 12 of the Dublin’s Monumental Mountain’s booklet to see the type of geology in their area.

Additional Resources

String length

The string length can be adjusted to the size of your classroom and the number of students you have. The '21st century' and 'Dublin Mountains' cards should be on either end of the string. The 'dinosaurs evolved' card should be about halfway along this string. Measure the distance between the '21st century card' and the 'dinosaurs evolved' card. The 'dinosaurs became extinct' card should be added one-third of the distance from the '21st century' card. The final two cards about 'human evolution' and the 'last ice age' should be beside the '21st century' card’.

The dates listed below are approximate based on current research but may change as new theories and evidence comes to light. Other cards featuring events like the construction of Newgrange (approx 5,500 years ago) could also be added to the timeline.

21st Century
Present Day

73,000-10,000 Years Ago
Last Ice Age

200,000 Years Ago
Homo sapiens evolve in Africa

65 Million Years Ago
Dinosaurs go extinct

250 Million Years Ago
Dinosaurs evolve

500 Million Years Ago
Dublin Mountains formed

Lesson 2
The Dublin Mountain's Timeline

Resources

- Dublin's Monumental Mountain's booklet pages 10-49.
- Dublin Monumental Mountain's StoryMap

Lesson Overview

- This lesson is designed to introduce children to some of the key archaeological sites in the Dublin Mountains. It will demonstrate how nature and society have changed over time.

Lesson Introduction

- Before beginning, print the Dublin's Monumental Mountain's timeline (pages 10 & 11)
- Print out the word search.

Lesson Body

- Take a look at the Dublin's Monumental Mountain's StoryMap
- Ask the students if they have been to any of these sites and describe their experiences.
- Get the children to pick which time period they would most like to live in and write a story about them travelling back in time. What would they see? What would they do?
- Ask the students to fill in the word search, which contains words and place names from the Dublin Mountains.

Extension Activity

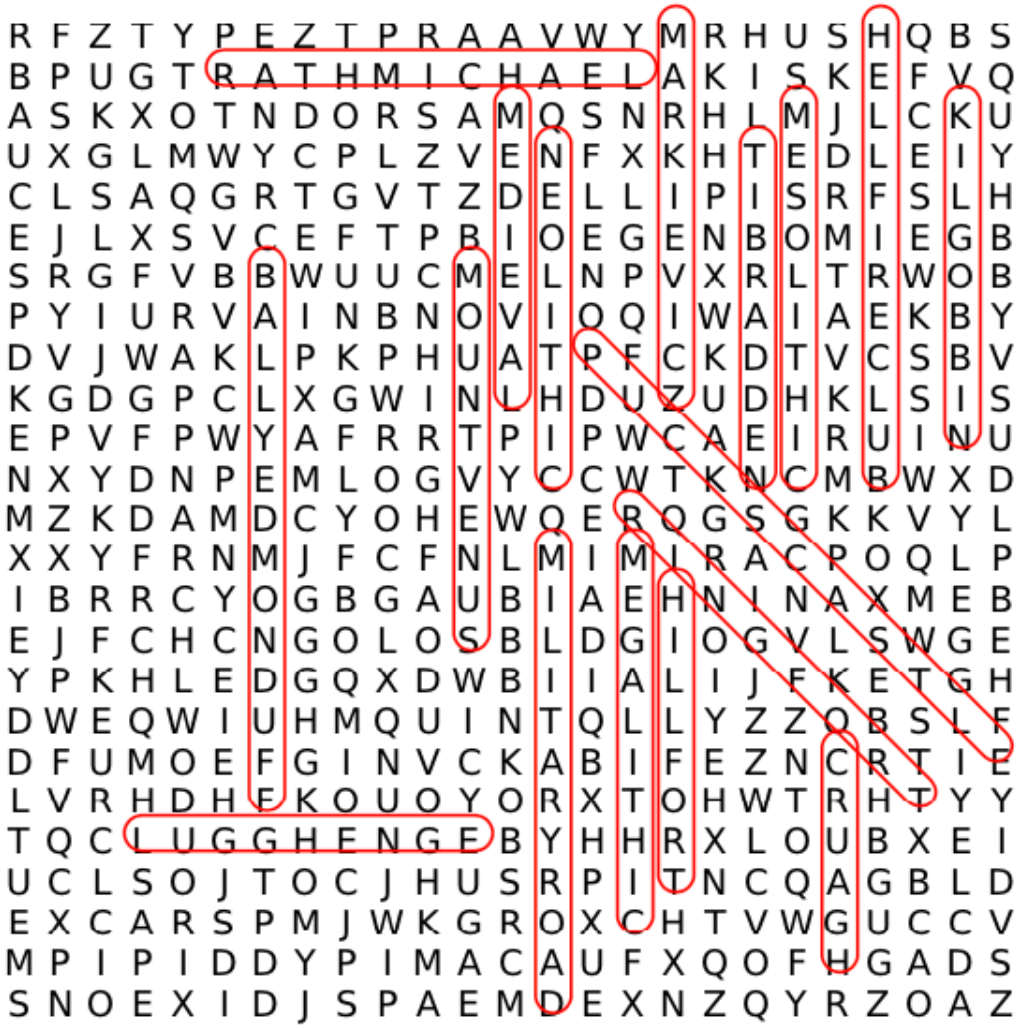
- Visit the National Museum of Ireland-Archaeology to see artefacts connected to these time periods.
- Visit some of the easily accessible sites in the Dublin Mountains such as the Hellfire Club.

Dublin's Monumental Mountains Word Search

R F Z T Y P E Z T P R A A V W Y M R H U S H Q B S
B P U G T R A T H M I C H A E L A K I S K E F V Q
A S K X O T N D O R S A M Q S N R H L M J L C K U
U X G L M W Y C P L Z V E N F X K H T E D L E I Y
C L S A Q G R T G V T Z D E L L I P I S R F S L H
E J L X S V C E F T P B I O E G E N B O M I E G B
S R G F V B B W U U C M E L N P V X R L T R W O B
P Y I U R V A I N B N O V I O Q I W A I A E K B Y
D V J W A K L P K P H U A T P F C K D T V C S B V
K G D G P C L X G W I N L H D U Z U D H K L S I S
E P V F P W Y A F R R T P I P W C A E I R U I N U
N X Y D N P E M L O G V Y C C W T K N C M B W X D
M Z K D A M D C Y O H E W Q E R Q G S G K K V Y L
X X Y F R N M J F C F N L M I M I R A C P O Q L P
I B R R C Y O G B G A U B I A E H N I N A X M E B
E J F C H C N G O L O S B L D G I O G V L S W G E
Y P K H L E D G Q X D W B I I A L I J F K E T G H
D W E Q W I U H M Q U I N T Q L L Y Z Z O B S L F
D F U M O E F G I N V C K A B I F E Z N C R T I E
L V R H D H F K O U O Y O R X T O H W T R H T Y Y
T Q C L U G G H E N G E B Y H H R X L O U B X E I
U C L S O J T O C J H U S R P I T N C Q A G B L D
E X C A R S P M J W K G R O X C H T V W G U C C V
M P I P I D D Y P I M A C A U F X Q O F H G A D S
S N O E X I D J S P A E M D E X N Z Q Y R Z O A Z

Ballyedmonduff
puckscastle
mesolithic
kilgobbin
ringfort
hillfort
militaryroad
Rathmichael
mountvenus
neolithic
tibradden
cruagh
hellfireclub
megalithic
Markievicz
lugghenge
medieval

Dublin's Monumental Mountains Word Search



Ballyedmonduff
puckscastle
mesolithic
kilgobbin
ringfort
hillfort
militaryroad
Rathmichael
mountvenus
neolithic
tibradden
cruagh
hellfireclub
megalithic
Markievicz
lugghenge
medieval

Lesson 3

Megalithic tombs in the Dublin Mountains

Resources

- Dublin's Monumental Mountain's booklet pages 16-20
- Dublin Mountains Archaeology Videos

Lesson Overview

- This lesson is designed to introduce children to some of the key megalithic archaeological sites in the Dublin Mountains.
- This lesson will demonstrate how communities had to work together to create these colossal monuments that are a powerful legacy on the landscape.
- It will also give children a chance to think about how the monuments have survived for so long and how we can help them to survive for future generations if we act as caretakers.

Lesson Introduction

- Bring in resources needed for students to draw a portal tomb and stick the drawing into their copybooks.
- Bring a bag of flour, a tray, sand and small stones.

Lesson Body

- Watch Dublin's Megalithic Monuments video on the Dublin Mountains Partnership website here: https://www.dublinmountains.ie/archaeology/archaeology/
- Ask the students if they have been to any of these sites and to describe their experiences.

- Get the students to lift the bag of flour (2kg) and explain how the capstone in Mount Venus could be around 22,000 times this weight.
- Read the accompanying description of a portal tomb to the students and see if they can draw the site based on your words.
- While most of the class is working on this, small groups of children could start making a 3D tomb using modelling clay or with stones in a tray of sand.

How to build a tomb

Fill a tray with high sides or a lunch box with sand (or flour); this will act as the ground and a foundation to stabilise the stones. Students have the option to build a portal tomb like the one they drew (this will require a large flat stone to act as a capstone, two equally sized rectangular stones to act as the portal stones and some smaller stones for the tomb's back stones). Or they can use a collection of smaller stones to recreate the aerial view or plan of Ballyedmonduff Wedge Tomb (image below) which can be found below and on page 17 of the *Dublin's Monumental Mountains* booklet.

This exercise helps students to understand how the tombs were made in 3D. It will also show how difficult it was to build without cement, how tough it would have been to move large stones without mechanical aids and how impressive it is that the tombs still stand today.

Extension Activity

- Visit the National Museum of Ireland-Archaeology to see objects connected to the Neolithic people and their megalithic monuments.
- Visit some of the easily accessible megaliths in the Dublin Mountains such as Ballyedmonduff wedge tomb (image below).

Discussion & Drawing Activity

You are living in the Dublin Mountains in the Neolithic period. An elderly member of your community has died, and your chieftain demands that

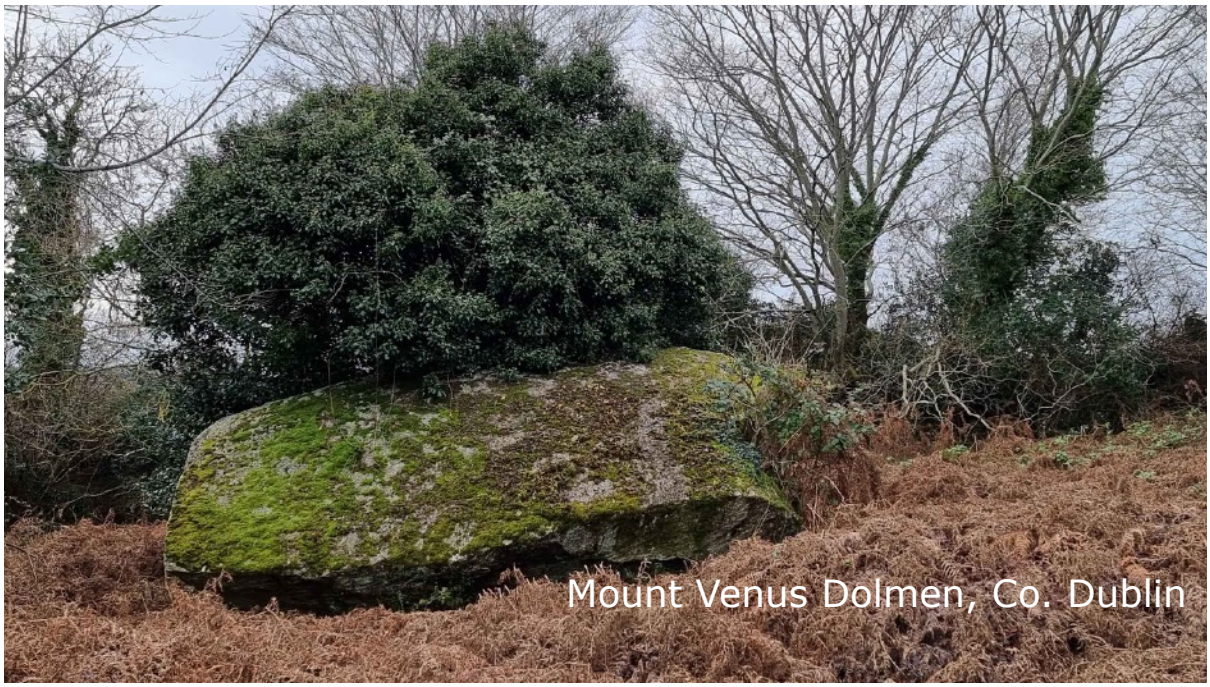
you build a portal tomb for their remains. Before you can make it, you must draw it.

The chieftain says you need two tall, rectangle stones of similar height. These must be placed in the ground vertically on either side of the entrance. Shorter stones can be placed directly behind these stones. The shortest stone must be at the very back. Then, a huge rectangular-shaped stone called a capstone must be placed on top. It has to lie horizontally on the two entrance stones and the short back stone, creating a roof.

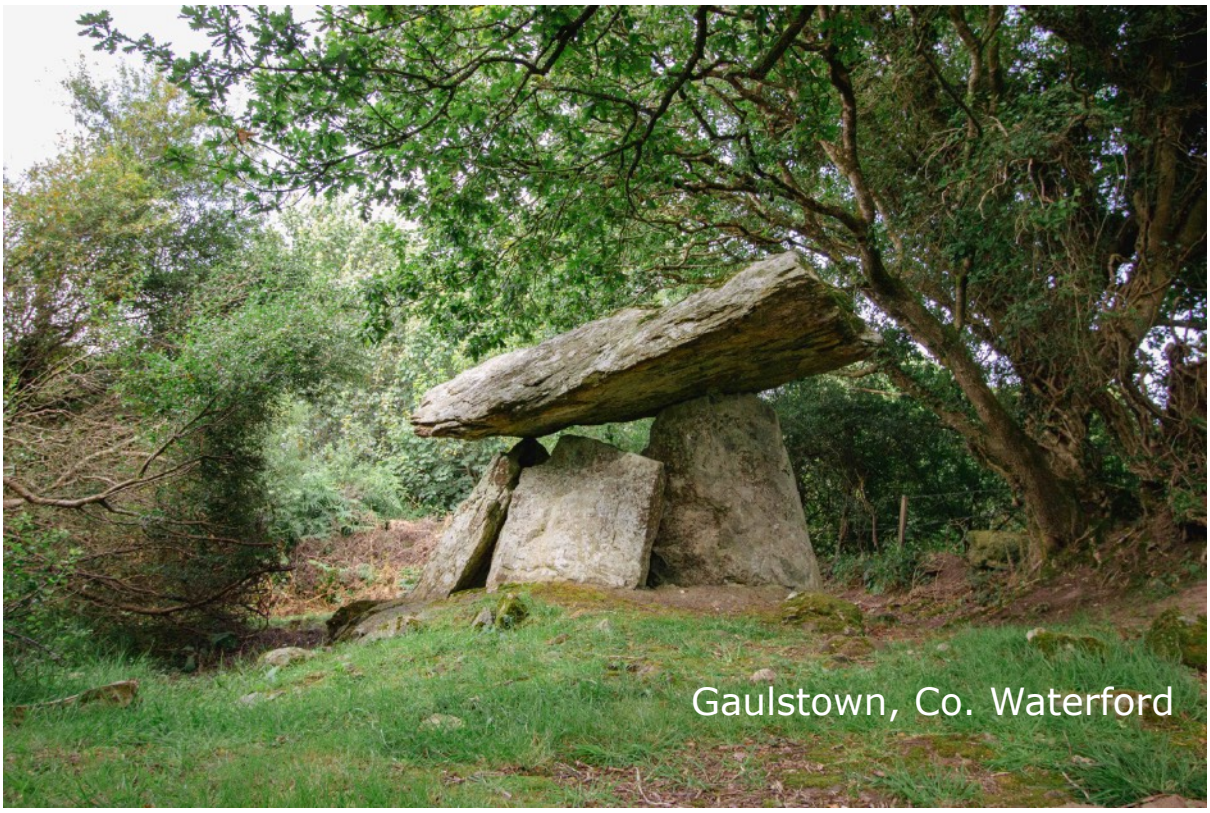
Now, draw all the people it would take to build such a significant monument. They have no hard hats for safety, only animal pelts and woollen clothes. They only have stone tools like axes, hammers and knives, no diggers or cement mixers!

Make sure to draw the enormous pyre or fire where the funeral will take place and all the mourners around it.

If the students are having trouble picturing a portal tomb, you can show them images of portal tombs at Mount Venus, Dublin, Gaulstown, Co. Waterford and Poulnabrone, Co. Clare.

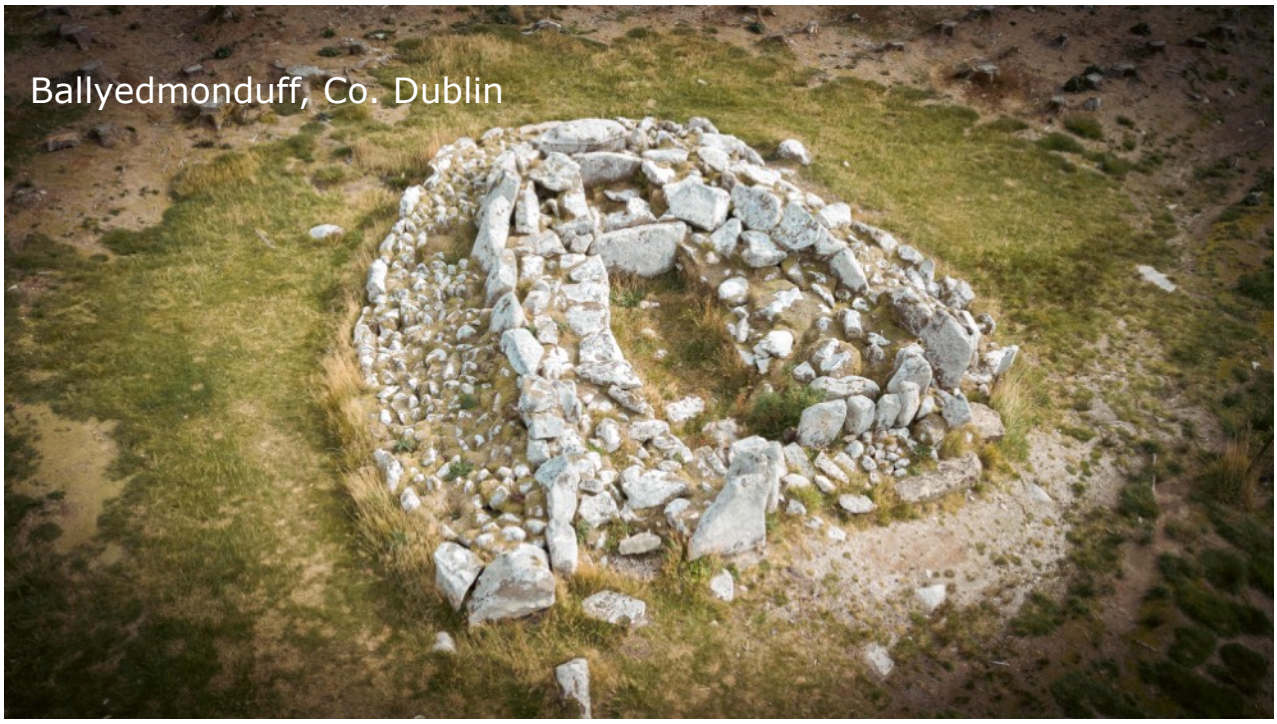


Mount Venus Dolmen, Co. Dublin



Gaulstown, Co. Waterford

Poulnabrone, Co. Clare


Ballyedmonduff, Co. Dublin

Lesson 4

Protecting the Past- You CAN make a difference!

Resources

- Dublin's Monumental Mountain's booklet (Protecting our Past Code) page 54
- Countryside Code: https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/countryside-code.
- Leave No Trace Principles: https://www.leavenotraceireland.org/education/education-introduction/.

Lesson Overview

- This lesson is designed to teach children about how their actions can make a real difference. By learning about and following the codes, they can help preserve the mountain's archaeology for future generations.
- This lesson focuses on care-taking, empowerment and intergenerational connectedness, e.g. the idea of generations being dependent on one another and what we do now will positively or negatively influence the lives of those who come after us.

Lesson Introduction

- Familiarise yourself with the different codes and principles.
- Paint and paper required to create vibrant posters.

Lesson Body

- Make a positive and negative list with the students, getting them to say what positive behaviour in the mountains looks like, e.g.,

closing gates after you, and what negative behaviour is, e.g., littering.

- Talk about the different codes with the children.
- Assign one of the 12 rules (Protecting our Past Code) to each student or let them pick the one that interests or annoys them the most. Ask the students to create a poster about that rule encouraging visitors to the mountains to behave. Or have the students write a letter to an imaginary person who has broken the rules and get the children to explain why it's wrong and what the person could do instead.
- Alternatively, the students could create a comic book strip about the 12 rules in the Protecting Our Past Code.