

Wild Ireland Lesson Plan For Secondary Schools: Fifth and Sixth Years (Adaptable for Transition Years)



Educational Programmes at Wild Ireland are designed to be fun, interactive and informative with many embedding elements of the subject curriculum areas for both R.O.I and N.I students.

Leader(s): Killian McLaughlin/ Anna Graham

Subject Area(s) / Réimse Ábhair: (integration of strands and strand units/themes/elements)

- ★ English: oral language development based on thematic terminology, also linkage to a few Irish texts e.g. The Children of Lir
- ★ Gaeilge: translating the animal breeds to Gaeilge, a few additional phrases and seanfhocail
- ★ History: curricular links to Irish History through dates and how many years ago some of the animals would have been in Ireland and also through people e.g. Neolithic farmers, Saints, The Fianna, Ringforts, Oliver Cromwell and the animals own past
- ★ Geography: looking at different climates and the regions that the animals are found outside of Ireland, also looking at the geography of our own country in the past and present e.g. how bear remains were found at the Ailwee caves in Clare and our woodlands and terminology e.g. deforestation
- ★ Agricultural Science: linkage to farm animals e.g. how the wild bear is a descendent of the domestic pig and we also have sheep so we mention things like the gestation period and weight at birth and definitions e.g. landrace etc
- ★ Home Economics: looking briefly at cotton and its use, also looking at different dynamics e.g. size in litters of animals/ how the bears are brother and sister etc.
- ★ Biology: the topic of genetics and ecology through our animals', their adaptations and habits, also recapping some of the key definitions like omnivores, invasive, mutations, hybridisation.
- ★ Chemistry: the exploration of filtration through our reed bed ecosystem
- ★ Physical Education: Outdoor and adventure activities
- ★ S.P.H.E.: looking after the safety of ourselves and the the animals around us, also raising awareness of ourselves and the wider world through highlighting environmental and animals awareness and care

Lesson Topic / Topaic an Cheachta: An outdoor informational guided tour around the Wild Ireland Wildlife Sanctuary environment and its animals based on adaptations, characteristics, backgrounds and conversation with appropriate questioning and curricular links.

Lesson Duration / Fad an Cheachta: 60 minutes

Skills and Concepts / Scileanna agus Coincheapa: information processing, communicating, working with others, critical and creative thinking and being personally effective.

Organisational Strategies for Teaching and Learning / Straitéisí Eagrúcháin don Teagasc agus don Fhoghlaim: A mixture of active and passive engagement through whole group observation, listening and questioning.

Learning Outcomes / Torthaí Foghlama:

- The exploration of many different animals, their habitats and backgrounds with a biological, historical and geographical focus
- Identifying the needs of these animals in the wild and considering how to meet these needs when they are in human care.
- Highlighting mistreatment of our animals prior to coming here and comparing to adequate/ exceptional care
- Comparing size and strength of these animals compared to humans or household objects and the importance and health and safety.
- Highlighting the hunting style of some of the animals in general then focusing specifically on how they hunt their prey.
- Discuss the typical differences and similarities between some of the animals/ compared to household pets/ more common animals that the young adults already know.
- Raising awareness about the IUCN and other animals rights/ protection organisations.
- Highlighting the previous existence these animals in Ireland and why some of them are a protected species in their natural habitat etc
- Explaining the importance of conservation and increasing knowledge on habitat loss/fragmentation.
- Discussing and distinguishing between definitions e.g. albinism v melanism
- Developing their understanding of curricular areas through this meaningful context

Resources / Acmhainní: /

Assessment Strategies / Straitéisí Measúnaithe: Through leader questioning and observation and self assessment.

Introduction / Réamhara: 5mins

- During the meet and greet go through the rules, safety and Covid-19 guidelines with the young adults and highlight the fact that this is the animal's home so it must be treated with respect.
- Share the slogan 'They're back' with them and have a short discussion
- Explain where the toilets are and allow appropriate time to go before starting the tour.

Development / Forbairt: 50mins

- The guided tour adapted for their age groups of 'Wild Ireland' ranging from small to large animals through a mixture of ones that are native, invasive, extinct etc and their

importance in Irish society now or in the past, looking in detail at animal specific things e.g. the animals pasts/ historical importance to Ireland and covering other curricular links along the way. E.g. our filtration system

- Starting at birds to ferrets and red foxes, then to rabbits, guinea pigs, another avery, the grey squirrels, shunk and american minx, the pond life and our eco-friendly- reed bed filtration system, the final avery, snowy owls, arctic foxes, canes, sheep and deer, a golden eagle, capercaillie, duck and swans, monkeys, lake birds, goats, otter, wild boars, lynx, wolves and finally the bears.

Closure / Críoch: *5mins*

- Ask the learners questions about what we discussed throughout the tour. Ask them if they remember any key facts.
- Answer any overall questions/ queries that they may have.