



This year 2021 is the 1500th anniversary of the birth of St Columba. Columba had an enormous influence in the 6th century in both Ireland and Scotland and there are many references today to his legacy.

These activities in this resource are presented in 4 suites:

HOMEPLACE
ECO-CHALLENGE
RESOLUTION
STORIES

The resource has included with permission some materials from both CCEA and the Nerve Centre.

<https://ccea.org.uk/colmcille/introduction/index.php>

© CCEA 2021: Reproduced with permission of the Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment and the Nerve Centre

An interdenominational Churches Trust Columban message can be viewed from this link:

<https://youtu.be/7furRACxbku>





Saint Columba

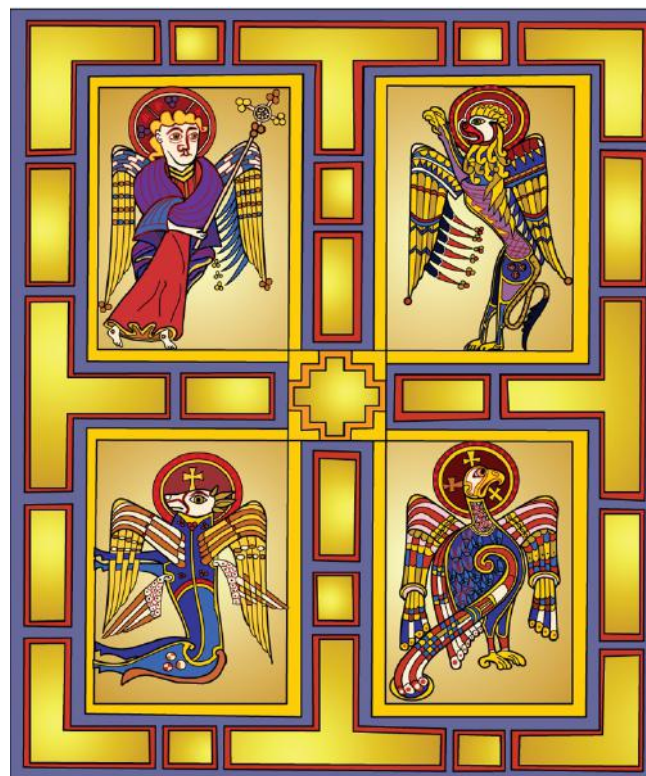
Themes from his life and legacy

These activities are based on a series of themes relating to the life and contribution of Columba, who was also known as Colmcille or Columbkille in Scotland. Due to the disruptive lockdown circumstances prevailing, the activities are designed to be used either in the classroom or from home with parental support.

We hope that some of you will take the opportunity to initiate a collaboration with other participating schools to engage on a distance / remote learning approach to the activities.

We appreciate that not every school intending to participate will have a distinct Columba association with their schools or areas, so we have broadened the scope of the activities to facilitate meaningful participation from every school.

HOME-PLACE





Colmcille: 521-597
1500th Anniversary Year



Columba was born in Gartan in Co. Donegal in 521AD and this year 2021 is the 1500th anniversary of his birth.

His father was Féilími, a chieftain and Columba was raised as a prince. Before he took the name Columba, which is Latin for 'Dove', he was called Crimthann, which means 'fox' in Irish.

His birth is said to have been foretold by both St Patrick and St Brigid and his mother Éithne, had a dream, just before he was born, where she learned that he was destined to do great work for God.

Columba's first teacher was a monk called Críomhthann, who taught him many things, including a deep love of God and a special love and appreciation for all the creatures and plants of nature.

When Columba decided that he wanted to become a monk himself, like his friend and teacher Críomhthann, he had to spend many years living among the 'holy men' in monasteries across Ireland, learning everything that they had to teach him, until finally he returned to Derry where his cousin Aed, a chieftain offered him the land to build his first monastery.

As a monk, Columba travelled widely throughout Ireland and then left to found a monastery on Iona, an island in the Inner Hebrides off the coast of Scotland, which he used as a base to bring the message of the Gospels to the peoples of Scotland.

We hope that you will enjoy doing these activities. They are prompted by the events from Columba's life and can be completed on your own or with a group of friends either from your own class or from a partner class.

If you prefer, you can also complete them with your parents at home



ACTIVITY 1: EITHNE'S DREAM

Eithne had gone to bed tired. She knew that her baby would be born soon and as she fell asleep, she hoped that all would be fine and that the baby would arrive safely.

She was wakened by the light of a very bright star shining through the window. As she gazed at the light, she saw a silver haired young man with a golden cloak stand beside her bed.

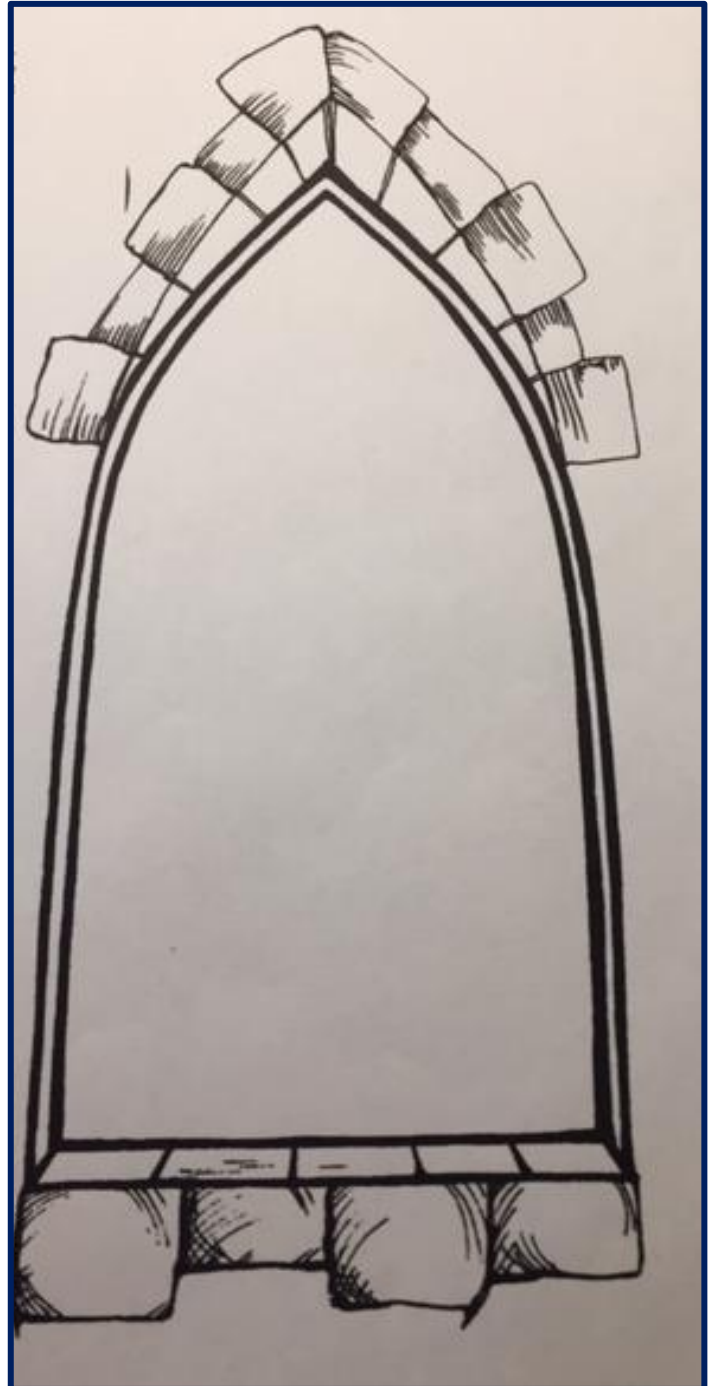
He said nothing, but took a beautifully embroidered cloth from beneath his cloak and spread it on the bed.

Eithne could see all the land of Ireland and Scotland spreading out across the cloth and gasped in amazement at the beauty of it.

In the morning when she woke, she remembered her dream and smiled realizing that her son would be a great leader. You can read the story from this link:

<https://colmaille.net/colmaille-1500/colmaille-stories/three-colmaille-stories/>

Can you create a stained-glass window using the blank shape to show Eithne's dream? (you can draw your own window if prefer)





ACTIVITY 2: BEFORE YOU WERE BORN

Waiting for a baby to be born is a special time. It is exciting and there are lots of things to do and get ready.

Ask at home about the days just before you were born as everyone was waiting for you to arrive.

What preparations were made? Was a name chosen? Was anything else exciting happening as the day arrived?

What things were said or seen? Who was so excited that they could hardly wait? Did anything unusual happen just before the time came for you to arrive?

Use the page panel to create a three-day diary for the two days before you arrived and then the day of your birth to describe the excitement everyone felt when you arrived.

	NOT LONG TO WAIT NOW....
-2	
-1	
0	





Colmcille: 521-597
1500th Anniversary Year

ACTIVITY 3: NAMES

Where Columba built his first monastery, became known as Doire Colmcille. (This means Colmcille's oak grove.) Today some people call the city Derry. Others who live here too call the city Londonderry; to acknowledge an association with the City of London from earlier times.

What are the most interesting pieces of information about your homeplace; the place where you live? Can you explain why this place is special for you?

If someone who had never visited your homeplace before, decided to visit you for the day, which two places should they see before they leave?

Use the blanks below to create a short bi-fold leaflet describing the places. Include any interesting facts. Make sure that you explain why the places are important for you and what they can reveal to a visitor about why your homeplace is special for you.

MY HOMEPLACE IS.....





ACTIVITY 4: TWO STARS; ONE WISH

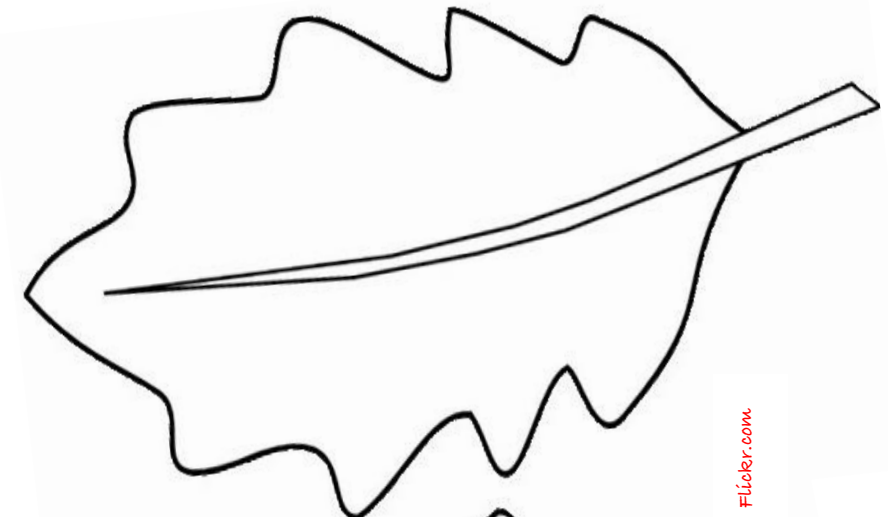
During his lifetime, Columba visited many places across both Ireland and Scotland. Perhaps, he even visited your home-place.

Imagine that Columba has been able to spend the morning walking through your area by himself. It has been almost 1500 years since he was last here and there have been many changes.

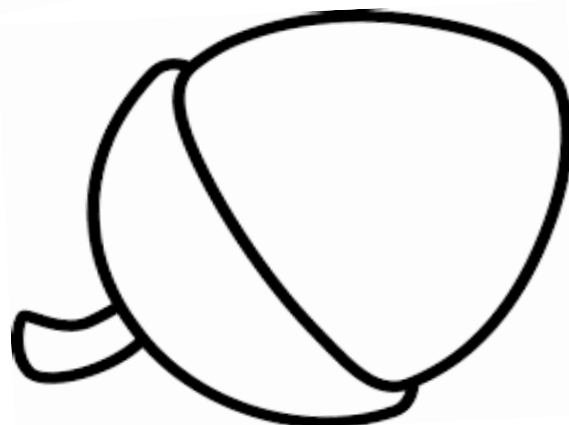
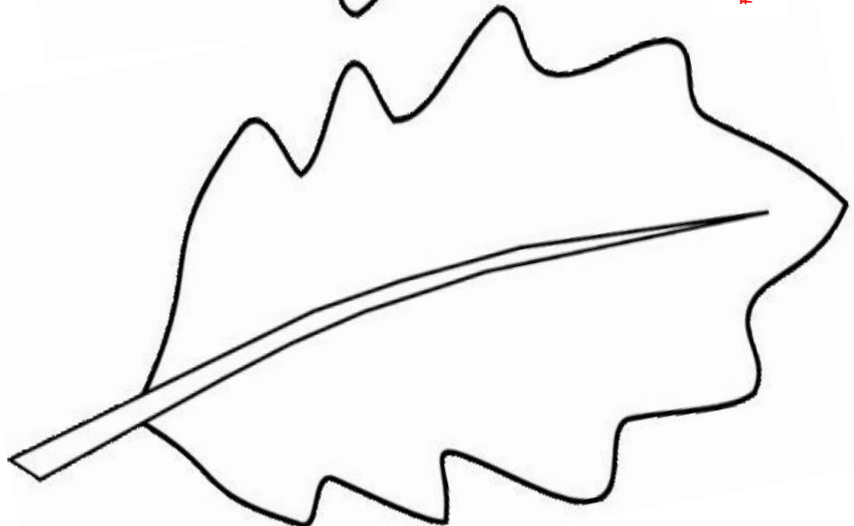
In the afternoon he will pay a visit to your class and report on what he has seen.

He has seen two things that have really impressed him and there is one suggestion for an improvement that he is going to make.

Can you use the blank shapes to explain what you think his thoughts on what he has seen might be?



Flicker.com



Pinterest.co.uk





ACTIVITY 5: OUR PLACE

The place where Columba founded his first monastery became known as Doire Colmcille. The word Doire has an Irish origin and refers to an oak wood.

Many places take their names from the Irish words for woods and types of trees. A common word for wood in Irish is coill and this appears in many names beginning with either Kil... or Killy...

You can use this link to find an explanation for the name of your townland.

<http://www.placenamesni.org/search.php>

You can also read about how Columba was involved in the founding of Derry from this link

https://ceea.org.uk/colmcille/docs/epubs/english/the_founding_of_derry.pdf

Can you research the name of your area, what it means, how you think it may have been founded and by whom?

Create a page using a comic book style to explain the story behind how your homeplace came to be and who was involved in founding it.



Let me tell you about my HOMEPLACE...



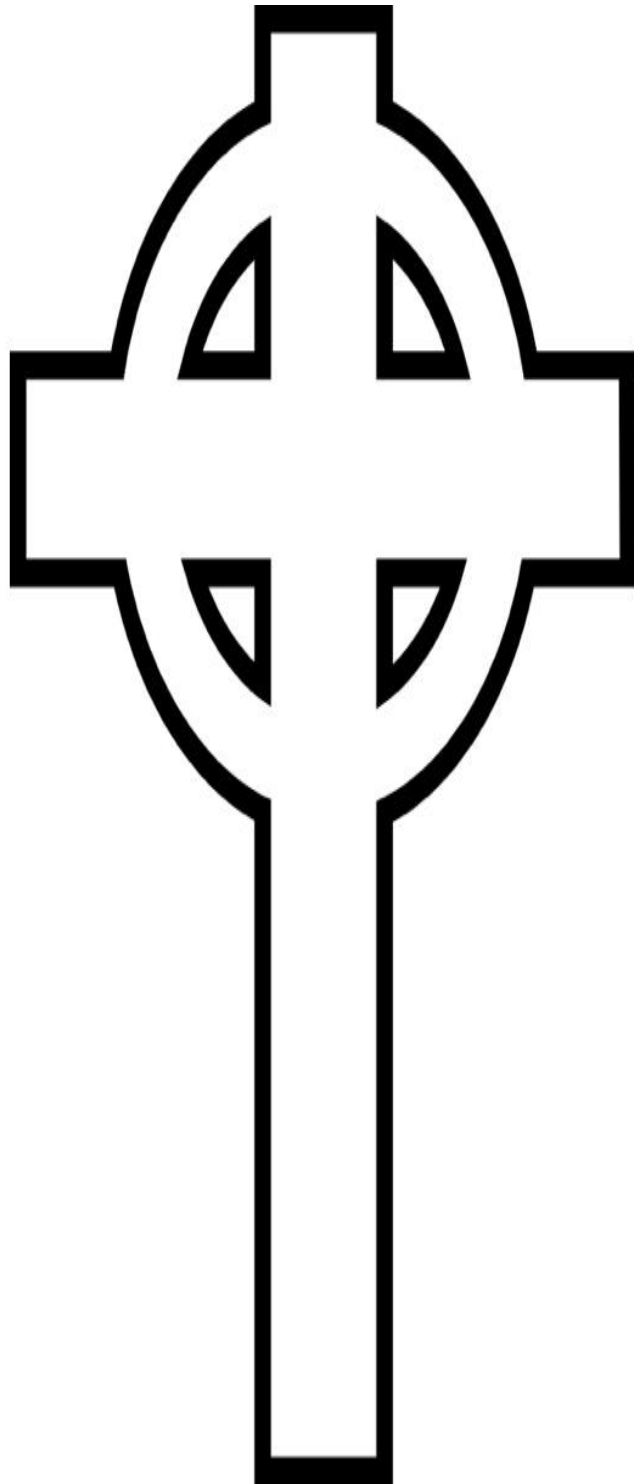
ACTIVITY 6: EARLY MEMORIES

Columba was born in the year 521AD in Gartan and built his monastery at Doire Colmcille in 546AD. That is a very long time ago; 1475 years to be exact.

This is a homeplace memory. It is one of the earliest events that we can remember from our homeplace.

In early Christian Ireland, many of these ancient memories were carved onto stone crosses (like early picture books). In this way, the memories and stories of past events could be read by everyone and were passed down through the generations.

Find the oldest memory from your homeplace and share the story in pictures on the blank stone cross. (you may need to draw a bigger cross for your story...)





ACTIVITY 7: CHRISTIANS

Where Columba first built his monastery among the oak trees, there now stands three different Christian churches associated with him.

Just outside the city walls stands the ancient church of St Columba, affectionately known as the Long Tower. Inside the walls, commanding a view of the river, its tower a landmark sits the majestic St Columb's Cathedral, while the Little Church on the Walls, St Augustine's nestles behind the city walls, reputed to have been built over the foundations of St Columba's original church Dubh Regles.

You can see some information about these churches from this link:

<https://ceea.org.uk/colmcille/introduction/index.php>

Many places have a number of different Christian places of worship.

In groups, think carefully about your homeplace. How many different places of Christian worship are there?

Create a trail that a tourist could use if they wanted to visit each of them. Draw a map and mark their position and include a little history for each of them, describing them in the warmest, most inviting language you can use.

In Columba's time, if a pagan wanted to join a Christian community, their choice was limited to only one. Nowadays, there are several choices of communities if they decide they want to become a Christian.

For each of the different Christian communities in your homeplace, create a brief welcome page that you could give to a pagan to allow them to make an informed choice about which community they might join. You'll have to make each statement appealing and explaining any differences or similarities between these communities.

CHRISTIAN CHOICE....





Columba was a missionary. He left his homeplace to spend a large part of his life living and working among the peoples of Alba (Scotland). He brought them the message that God loved them and cared for them. They could see this love God had for them through the things that Columba did and said there.

There is a great need for missionaries everywhere, in every
homeplace. Can you help?

The Columban Missionary Apprenticeship Adventure starts here

Can you help him to design a poster that would encourage **YOU** or **YOUR FRIENDS** to apply to join the scheme? What information could be used to persuade you?

DEAR COLUMBA...

HOME-PLACE



ACTIVITY 9: I APPRECIATE THAT

Prayer was very important for Columba. His relationship with God supported him when things were difficult. It helped to redirect him when he did things wrong and it allowed him to show his appreciation for the wonderful beauty of everything that he saw around him, both in his homeplace and also among the peoples of Alba (Scotland).

It is important for us all sometimes, to stop, wonder at and appreciate the amazing beauty of everything that surrounds us daily in our personal lives and homeplaces.

How could you show appreciation for the daily wonder you feel in your homeplace?

In groups think carefully about the beauty that you see everywhere around you.

Think about the people in your lives who make you feel joyful.

Think about the talents and skills that you have that make you feel worthwhile and valued.

On a large sheet, create an appreciation collage of all the things and people that you are glad are in your life and add a sentence to explain what they are and why you have included them.

Use your iPad, create a photo clip to show what **YOU** appreciate. Add text to explain each photo and add some music to create a joyful atmosphere.

Christians call, trying to appreciate and understand what God has done for us, **PRAYER**. Today, just like in Columba's time, there are many people living here who are not Christians. In a later activity you'll see how Columba defended the pagans at Drum Cett.

Can you create a prayer or expression of appreciation that everyone, including those who are not Christians could sign? Think carefully about the language you should use and then, who you should address it to?



JUST WANTED TO SAY

THANKS





Saint Columba

Themes from his life and legacy

There are many stories told about Columba, describing his love of animals and the care he took of the environment. He spoke many times of his beloved oak trees.

When he was granted the land to build his monastery, it was on a small hill overlooking the sweep of the River Foyle. It was and still to this day is, a very beautiful site.

It was customary for churches to be built on an East-West line, however Columba decided to build his church on a North-South line to avoid having to chop down any of the oak trees that were there.

Once when fire threatened the trees, Columba fell to his knees and prayed and the trees were saved.

These activities will explore the association with Columba and the animals and plants that were familiar to him. The activities are designed to encourage the children to explore both their physical and historical environment and then share their research where appropriate.

© CCEA 2021: Reproduced with permission of the Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment and the Nerve Centre

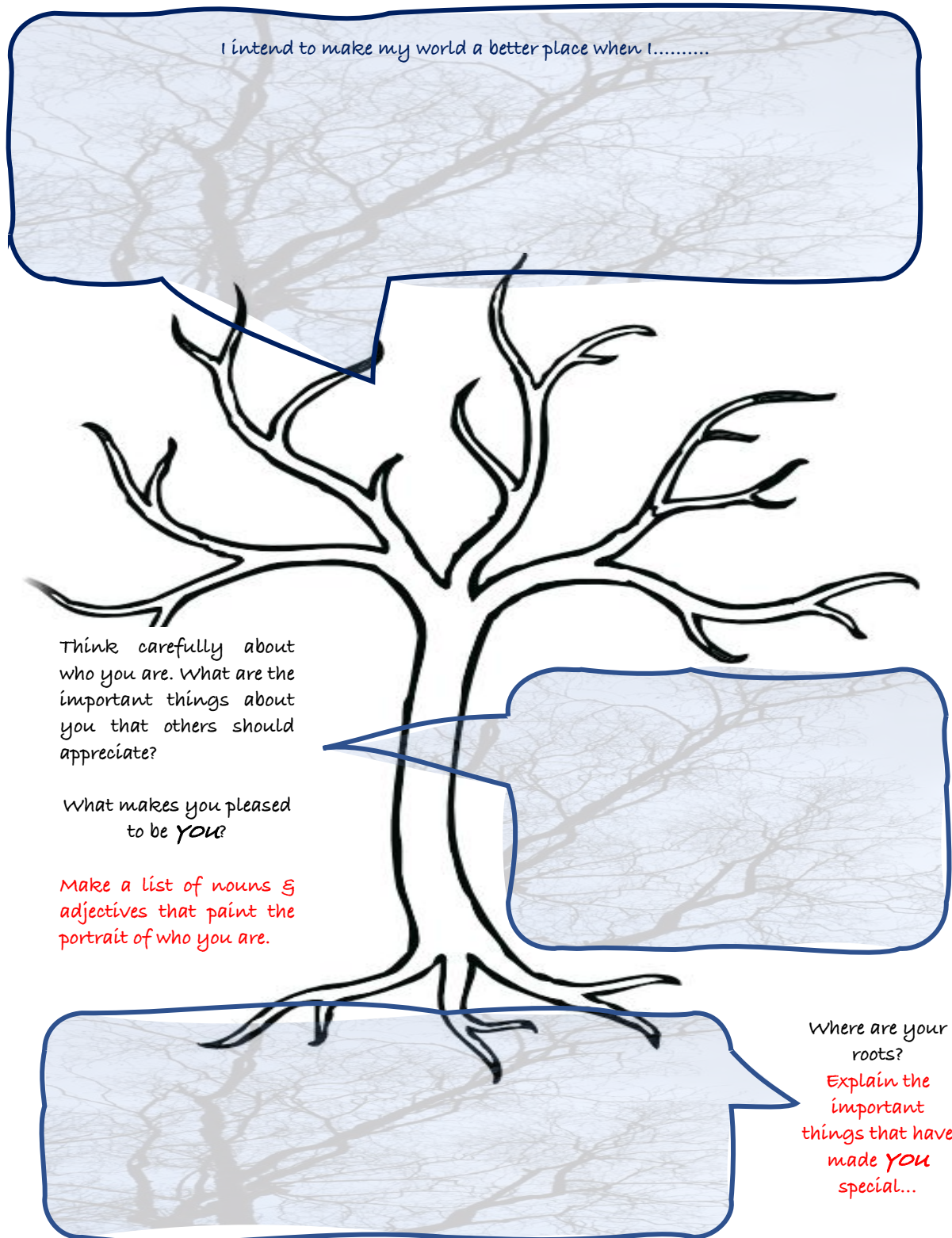
ECO-CHALLENGE





ACTIVITY 1: ROOT AND BRANCH

Columba was shaped by his love of God and his heritage. He was the descendant of kings and a poet with a great love for NATURE. Like his beloved oak trees, he was shaped by his roots, grew strongly, then made his world a better place. You can make your world a better place too.





ACTIVITY 2: TREE MEMORIES

Trees were very important for Columba, particularly oak trees. The tree discs in the picture are from a local oak tree that fell recently in a storm. There are 350 rings on each disc. This means that the tree has been growing, watching, listening and remembering for that time. That is many human lifetimes.

What interesting events might the tree remember from your family story?

Use the boxes to explore the tree's memory of your family events



What interesting events does the tree remember from my lifetime?

My parent's lifetime:

My grandparent's lifetime:

My great grandparent's lifetime:

Even further back:



ACTIVITY 3: CHAMPIONS

Trees were important to our ancestors, both Christian and pagan. Columba's site took the Irish word for oak for its name. There are many places where trees are special. Perhaps where you live has a special association with a particular tree? Some of these trees today are called CHAMPIONS and can be found all around the country. Details of some of them can be seen here:

<https://www.remarkabletrees.org/category/champions/>

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/act/your-school/green-tree-schools-award/tree-champion/>

If you were able to choose a special CHAMPION tree from your homeplace, what type of tree would you choose?

Would it be very old or very tall? Perhaps you might choose one with a special association for your homeplace.

Explore carefully and select a champion that you think represents what is best about your homeplace.

Champions come in different shapes and sizes.



Use this space or another sheet to create a profile of your special tree to convince others why it should be a champion. (don't forget to include a photo or drawing of your tree.)



ACTIVITY 4: TREE STORIES

During his lifetime, Columba always found peace during the times he spent among his beloved oak trees.

The birdsong and the gentle breath of the wind through the branches reminded him of God's love for all his creatures.

Surrounded by the peace of the woods Columba imagined that he could understand more clearly what God wanted him to do.

Use the space below to create the thoughts of Columba as he wanders quietly by himself through the trees.



As Columba walked slowly through the trees, he felt calm, the breeze hushed and a face gently floated into focus. He heard a soft voice in his head whisper, "Listen...
(Continue what you think he heard) ...





ACTIVITY 5: ALL GOD'S CREATURES

Columba had a great love for all God's creatures. His white horse was said to have cried when Columba died. A heron flew all the way from Ireland to visit him when he was on Iona and he cared for many sick and injured creatures. You can read the story from this link:

<https://colmcille.net/colmcille-1500/colmcille-stories/three-colmcille-stories/>

What advice might he give us on how we can respect all the creatures that we share the planet with?

In groups complete the scroll below with five main pieces of advice that you think he might offer.

1...

2...

3...

4...

5...



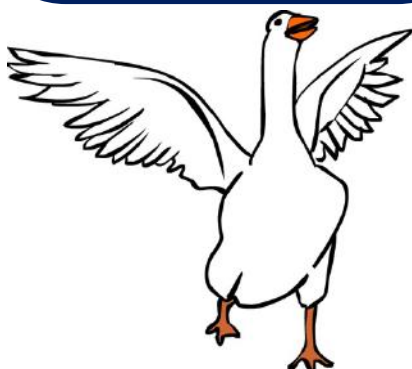


ACTIVITY 6: AMAZING PETS

One of the more unusual creatures that Columba was friendly with was a fly. It is said that the fly used to keep him company as he was reading and if Columba was called away from his book, the fly would buzz onto the page and remain on the last word that Columba had read until he returned. In that way he kept his place in the text.

Did this mean that the fly could read as well????

If you could have any creature in the world as a pet, which would you choose? Use the panels below to describe it; why you think you would enjoy having it as a pet and how you would look after its needs. Use the other panel to write the letter to your mum / dad to persuade them that it would be a good idea to have such a pet. What benefit would it bring to your family?



Mum / dad, you'll probably think this is a silly idea..... BUT....



Saint Columba

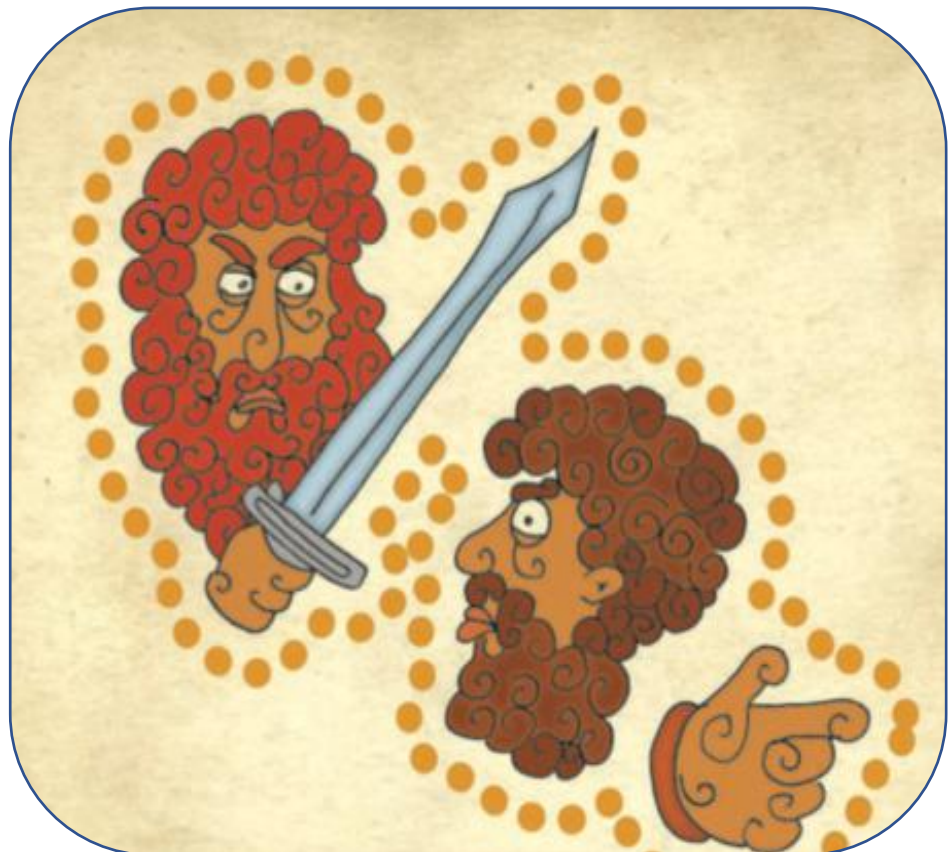
Themes from his life and legacy

These activities are based on a series of themes relating to the life and contribution of Columba, who was also known as Colmcille. Due to the disruptive lockdown circumstances prevailing, the activities are designed to be used either in the classroom or from home with parental support.

We hope that some of you will take the opportunity to initiate a collaboration with participating schools to engage on a distance / remote learning approach to the activities. We appreciate that not every school intending to participate will have a distinct Columba association with their schools or areas, so we have broadened the scope of the activities to facilitate meaningful participation from every school.

© CCEA 2021: Reproduced with permission of the Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment and the Nerve Centre

RESOLUTION





victory at the Battle of Cul Dreimhne signalled a major turning point in Columba's story. Disillusioned by his own actions in the dispute with Finnian over the copied Psalter and on the advice of Molaise, Columba decided to seek repentance as a missionary. Accompanied by 12 monks he sailed into exile from Derry and arrived at the Inner Hebrides island of Iona on Pentecost Sunday 563AD.

He had vowed never to return to Ireland and he severed his ties with his beloved oak grove. However, there are many stories of visitors making the sea crossing to Iona to meet him and seek his advice, including a charming story of a heron battling the elements to arrive exhausted on Iona to greet him.

During this time Columba established his mission to convert the pagan tribes in Scotland and he became a trusted advisor to the Scottish kings. He died on Iona on 9th June 597AD.

Only once did he return to Ireland during his exile. Because he was a poet, the pagan bards had pleaded with him to help them negotiate a settlement with the king who was determined to banish them.

The influence of the bards had grown and the king wanted to curtail this.

A great convention was proposed at Drum Cett to discuss the matter and settle the issues.

Columba was persuaded to attend and plead the bard's case. It is said that he wore a hood during his stay; he had Scottish soil in his shoes and his monks brought all their food with them from Iona to ensure that he kept his exile promises.



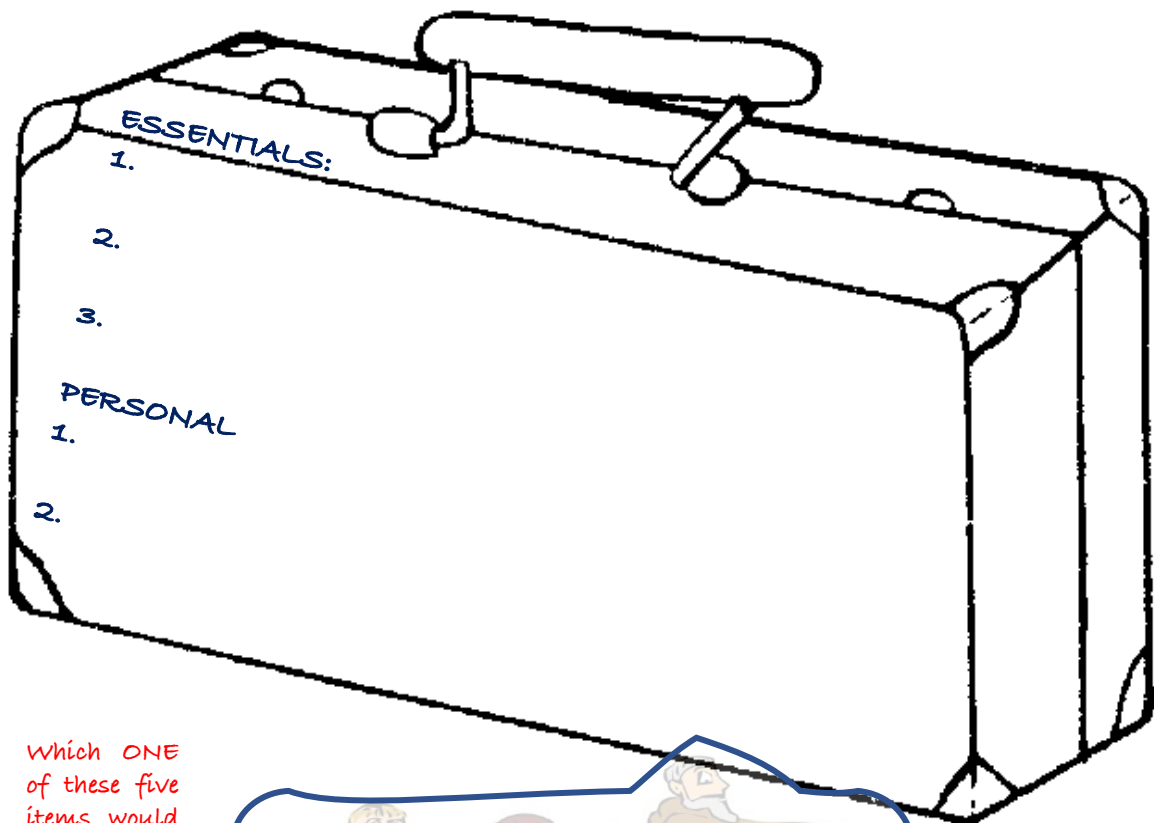


ACTIVITY 1: I'M LEAVING

Like Columba, many people have to leave their homeplace at some time during their lives. Sometimes, the reasons can be exciting; if you decide to go to university. Sometimes, the reasons can be frightening, if your homeplace has become too dangerous for you to remain there.

Imagine that you have to leave your homeplace tomorrow. In groups, decide if this is for an exciting or a frightening reason and explain why. You are only allowed to take FIVE items with you. Three of these will be essentials and two will be personal. Pack these items in your bag below and explain why you have chosen them.

Now, by yourself, decide which ONE of them, *you* personally, would not leave without and explain why you are so attached to this item.



Clipartbest.com

Which ONE of these five items would you choose before the others to take with you?

Explain and illustrate your choice.





ACTIVITY 2: SMILE MEMORIES

On Iona, every day brought many memories for Columba of the time he spent in his beloved oak grove.

Each day creates many pleasant memories for us too, however as time passes, these memories fade and when we are older, we can struggle to remember the details. We may need to be reminded of what really happened.

Twenty-five years from now, your homeplace will be quite different and you may struggle to remember the details of the things you did and the friends you had who made you smile today.

Write a 'SMILES' letter to yourself in 2046, twenty-five years from now to remind you of what made you smile today.

What will you include from today that has made you joyful and smile?

You'll need to include a lot of details and perhaps even an illustration as you may not remember the details very clearly in 2046.

Seal your letter in an envelope addressed to yourself and write the date it is to be opened.

You should give it to your mum / dad to keep it safe for you in the meantime.

Dear me.....

Do you remember today? It was a good day... ☺





ACTIVITY 3: WELCOME

When Columba arrived on Iona, it was a new homeplace for him. Arriving to any new place can be frightening, no matter who you are or what age you are. You may not have any friends. You may not know the games and the language may be strange.

Many people come to share our homeplace because they have heard that it is a lovely place and the people here are very friendly; others are forced to come because their own homeplace is too dangerous for them to remain.

In small groups,
create a friendly
WELCOME PACK
for a new arrival to
either your class or
your homeplace.

Make a list of what
you think might be
useful to include in
the pack.

Create a simple leaflet
for your homeplace,
containing all the
useful information
that you think they
might need



WELCOME PACK FOR..... ☺ ☺



ACTIVITY 4: DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

When Columba arrived in Iona, he may not have been able to understand the language that the local people spoke. Latin was a language that people in different parts of the world then could understand so he would have been able to manage. However, he would eventually have to learn the local language.

If the new arrival to either your class or your homeplace did not understand English, which phrases would be essential for them to learn immediately?

In groups, make a list of the 10 essential phrases they would need to understand immediately. How many translations can you find for your list?

Many of the signs we use every day could also cause problems for them.

Redesign clear graphics for the 10 most important signs that they will need to understand. Remember, you can't use words, only your imaginations.

If they *did* understand English, then local phrases might also be a problem.

Make a list of 20 phrases that are local to your area that others might struggle to understand. Provide a clear explanation of what they mean, perhaps including an illustration.

You might need to use an extra space for your ideas.

CAN YOU UNDERSTAND ME?... ☺ ☺





ACTIVITY 5: JOINING IN

Everyone loves to join in, especially with games. However, it can be difficult to understand the rules of specific games.

In groups, create an illustrated manual for your favourite playground game; one that a boy would enjoy and one that a girl would enjoy.

This will help them to join in immediately.

How could you adapt the rules if the new arrival has a disability?

YOU'LL ENJOY THIS GAME... 😊 😊

HOW TO.... be friendly (five tips)

Think carefully about how you can be friendly to someone that you don't know or don't know very well.

What sort of things could you say and do?

Are there things that definitely shouldn't be done or said?

How would you make someone feel accepted and welcomed?

Use the page opposite for your five best **HOW TO** tips.



ACTIVITY 6: ANGER

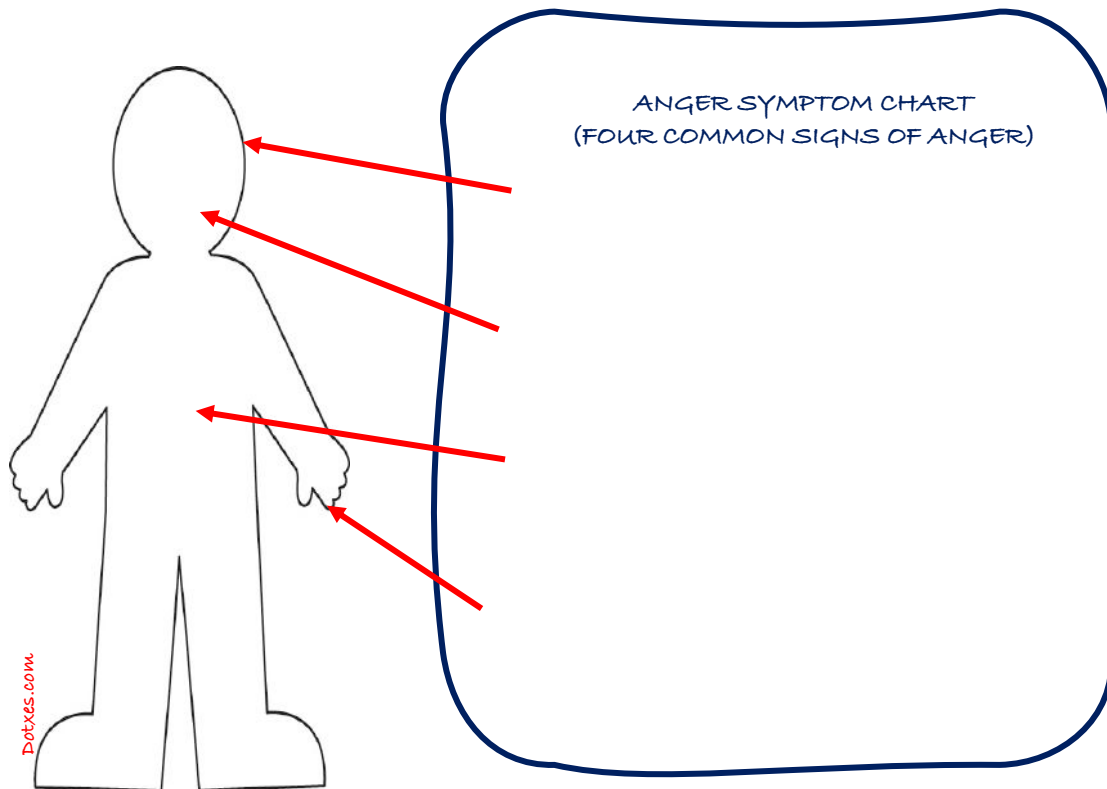
Columba became angry when he was ordered to return the copy of the book and his anger encouraged him to make poor choices and this caused a lot of misery. You can use this link to read about it.

https://ceea.org.uk/colmáille/docs/epubs/english/the_quarrel_at_movilla.pdf

Anger is a really powerful emotion and can rob us of the ability to think clearly and act sensibly.

Can **YOU** describe what it is like to be angry? Does it have a taste or a colour? How does it make your body feel?

Anger is like an illness. It has symptoms. If you went to the doctor and told her that you thought you were suffering from anger; what symptoms do you think she might find when she examined you or spoke to you? Mark the four most common symptoms on the shape below.



PRESCRIPTION:

1.

2.

3.

When the doctor has finished her examination, she will usually give lifestyle advice and/or medication to help deal with the symptoms.

What might she prescribe for **ANGER**? If she suggested three things to do, what might they be?



ACTIVITY 7: WE NEED YOU

There was a very serious disagreement between the king and the bards / poets. The bards had an important role in society and the king was angry that they were misusing their position. The king was also a Christian and the bards were pagans. This did not help either as both sides disliked each other. The king was threatening to exile all of them

A great convention was to be held at Drum Cett to decide what could be done to resolve the disagreement and the bards wrote to Columba to plead with him to help them find a solution. Columba was a Christian; however, he was also a bard and he knew that most of the bards were good honourable men.

What arguments do you think the bards used to persuade Columba to come and defend them?

Make a copy of the letter they sent to him. In order to impress him, they hired a scribe to write the letter using a lot of colourful decoration. Use this link to help you find examples of what the writing might have looked like.

<https://ccea.org.uk/colm-cille/teachers/resources/index.php>

 Dear BROTHER COLUMBA...
GREETINGS....



ACTIVITY 8: YES, I CAN SEE IT

In order to keep his promise, never to see Ireland again, Columba wore a hood during his visit to the convention. His monks had to describe everything that he wanted to see for him.

This was very tiring for them. Can you help them?

Choose a favourite scene from your homeplace that you think Columba would like to 'see' and make a short recording of yourself describing it.

To check how clear your description is, transcribe it and give it to someone who is not familiar with what you are describing and ask them to draw it using only your description to guide them.

Do you recognise their picture of your scene?

BROTHER COLUMBA...

I CAN SEE....



ACTIVITY 9: SORRY! YOU HAVE TO GO

The king and the bards found it difficult to tolerate each other. The king was Christian and he wanted the bards to become Christian too. He distrusted them because they were pagans.

The bards, were happy to remain pagan and felt unfairly treated because the Christians had taken control of everything, whereas the pagans had lived there for centuries.

Columba was a Christian **and** a bard. He recognised that there were many who were honourable in both groups and he came to Drum Cett to help them recognise and tolerate the decency in each other.

You can read the story of Drum Cett from this link:

https://ccea.org.uk/colmcille/docs/epubs/english/the_convention_of_druim_cett.pdf

To help the Christians and the pagans understand how to tolerate each other, Columba asked them to complete a few simple exercises in their groups during their daily sessions.

Perhaps you might like to try one of them?

In a small group, decide on something that you don't really like; something that you find difficult to tolerate. It could be a place you'd rather never visit again or a team that you'd prefer to do your homework rather than watch playing.

Now create an illustrated leaflet to congratulate, applaud them and sing their praises.

IT'S REALLY AMAZING...

I CAN SEE NOW HOW GOOD THEY ARE.

Can you do it? ☺



ACTIVITY 10: THANK YOU COLUMBA

The Drum Cett convention has been a success. The king and the bards have been reconciled. There will be no exiles after all.

The bards write to Columba on Iona to thank him for his help and because they are all poets, they decide that they will send their appreciation as a poem.

One of the bards, who is just back from a holiday in Japan tells the others about a new type of poem he saw there. It's called **HAIKU**. It has 17 syllables written on three lines. The first line has 5 syllables and will say something about Columba, the second line has 7 syllables and can speak about the argument and the final line has 5 syllables and will describe their new agreement. Everyone thinks it's a great idea. *(You can choose other subjects for the lines)*

*Make a copy of the poem they sent to Columba. You can decorate it with some illuminated letters if you like. This link will give you some useful information on **HAIKU** poems.*

<https://www.poetry4kids.com/lessons/how-to-write-a-haiku/>

This link will show you some examples of illuminated letters that you can use.

https://ceea.org.uk/colmacille/teachers/image_bank/index.php

BROTHER COLUMBA...

Thank you....



Saint Columba

Themes from his life and legacy

These activities are based on a series of themes relating to the life and contribution of Columba, who was also known as Colmcille. Due to the disruptive lockdown circumstances prevailing, the activities are designed to be used either in the classroom or from home with parental support.

We hope that some of you will take the opportunity to initiate a collaboration with participating schools to engage on a distance / remote learning approach to the activities. We appreciate that not every school intending to participate will have a distinct Columba association with their schools or areas, so we have broadened the scope of the activities to facilitate meaningful participation from every school.

© CCEA 2021: Reproduced with permission of the Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment and the Nerve Centre

STORIES





It is 1500 years since Columba was born. That is almost 50 generations or during the time that your GREAT (x 49 greats) GRANDPARENTS were alive.

This means that some of the information we have gathered on Columba has come from the stories that have been passed down to us and these may not be completely accurate.

However, these stories are really entertaining and add colour to the story of Columba, just in the same way that the illuminated letters that Columba included in his writing, added excitement and tone to the meaning of the passages he was writing.

You can read three interesting stories about Columba from this link:

<https://colmcille.net/colmcille-1500/colmcille-stories/three-colmcille-stories/>



ACTIVITY 1: PREDICTION

There are many stories told about Columba's ability to look into the future and then describe what was going to happen. It was an amazing gift. It was said that he predicted the Irish Famine.

One of his predictions, *"in both North and South, iron wheels shall support fiery chariots."* Is a puzzling prediction, but if you think carefully of the image he is describing then you should be able to solve the puzzle?

Once Columba came across a man fishing on Gartan lake and asked him if he had caught a salmon, the man lied and denied he had caught anything. Columba said to him

*"if you have caught a salmon, there will never be another caught,
But, if you have not, then there will always be salmon in the lake."*

To this day, not one salmon has ever been caught in the lake.

If you could look into the future, what might you see there for your grandchildren?

Think carefully of some of the improvements and benefits you think that they might enjoy.

How might their

- HOMEPLACE,
- SCHOOL,
- LIFESTYLE

be improved?

In groups, try to predict one important benefit for each area and then explain what you intend to do to make sure these benefits are delivered.

I CAN SEE...
HOMEPLACE...
SCHOOL...
LIFESTYLE...
WHAT I CAN DO TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN...
....





ACTIVITY 2: SAILING AWAY

It was an early Spring morning in 561AD, two years after the battle at Cul Dreimne, Columba was upset that his anger had caused the death of so many men. He had spoken to his friend Maelosa about how sorry he was and asked his advice on what he should do. Maelosa advised him to become a missionary and to leave Ireland.

Now as the gentle waters of the River Foyle, tugged at their boat, impatient to follow the tide downstream to the sea, Columba made his final farewells by the river bank and stepped into the boat alongside the 12 monks who would accompany him to Iona and start their new lives as missionaries.

Many people had come to see him off. Some were sorry to see him leave, however, there were others, particularly those who had lost sons or husbands in the battle who thought it for the best that he did leave and never came back.

Imagine that you are part of a Radio Ulster OB (Outside broadcast) team. You have been sent to report on the departure of Columba and his monks.

It is a big interest story and there are many people across the country who will want to hear about what happened.

Prepare and record a short 1-minute report for the lunchtime news broadcast.

You'll need an exciting headline and both facts and opinion in your report. Use the sheet to gather your notes on what you want to say.

The facts will come from your own observations and the opinion will be from the people you interview on the riverbank.

LUNCHTIME NEWS (NOTES FOR OB REPORT) COLUMBA LEAVES THIS MORNING





ACTIVITY 3: LOCH NESS

The story of Columba's encounter with the Loch Ness monster is one of the best known of the Columban stories. You can read an exciting and colourful version of it here:

https://ceea.org.uk/colmcille/docs/epubs/english/the_loch_ness_monster.pdf

Sometimes, however, this type of story is not meant to be read literally as if it actually happened. It is a **METAPHOR** instead. The story is trying to tell us something else. If this is so, here, in this story, then who was the monster? What was Columba trying to say? Perhaps he is trying to explain that his monster was really his own anger and that he had to be strong to defeat it?

Every one of us faces this type of monster at some time; an impulse that tries to encourage us to behave in ways that don't show us being the best we can be.

Have you ever faced such a monster? Did you recognise it? How did you defeat it and send it on its way?

In this activity, there are two responses that you can choose to try.

1. Think carefully about some of the monsters that you have come across and then sent packing. Your monster could be **ANGER** like Columba or perhaps **LAZINESS**. Create a short story to explain how you met, recognised and then defeated them. Write your story with yourself as the **HERO**. Use your imagination to create an entertaining story.

OR

2. Imagine what happens when the monster returns home and his mum asks him what he was doing. Create the explanation that he gave to his mum. What was his reaction to the encounter with Columba? How did he try to explain what happened and what he was doing? What do you think his mum's reaction was? Make the story a comic one

THE MONSTER





ACTIVITY 4: WELL, WELL, WELL.

The story of Columba's well is a very interesting story. You can read the story from this link:

https://ccea.org.uk/colmcille/docs/epubs/english/well_of_st_columba.pdf

When a new baby is born, every parent wants to welcome the new child into their family. There is usually a ceremony. All the family are invited to celebrate the new arrival and a name is given to them. Christians call this ceremony BAPTISM. Other families may call it a NAMING Ceremony.

Ask at home about your BAPTISM / NAMING day. You will have been given your name during that day to introduce you to all your relatives and friends. Your name is really important to you.

During his life, Columba had a number of different names.

As a child he was called CRÍOMHTHANN which means fox. Later he was called Columba which means dove in Latin and sometimes he was called Colm or Colmcille which in Irish means dove of the church. In Scotland / Alba he was called Columbkille

Create your own naming card for yourself. What information can you find out about your name?

Is it an important name in your family? Did anyone have that name before you?

Why was the name chosen for you?

Use illuminated letters to make your naming card spectacular.

BIRTH NAME CARD

You can find some examples of illuminated script from this link...

https://ccea.org.uk/colmcille/teachers/image_bank/index.php



ACTIVITY 5: WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

The story of how Columba helped the gambler and the pauper is a very unusual story. It is a story that his monks found difficult to understand. You can read the story from this link:

https://ccea.org.uk/colmcille/docs/epubs/english/the_prince_and_the_pauper.pdf

Today, there is so much poverty in the world and even in our own homeplace, people need help. It can be difficult to decide on the best way to help people.

Many people believe that it is better to help others by giving them a 'HAND UP' rather than giving them a 'HAND OUT'. This means that it is better to give someone a skill or a job to allow them then to take care of themselves.

**HAND OUT OR HAND UP:
PLANS AND PRIORITIES**
(how to spend the money to
bring benefit to the most people?)



Most people will dream at some time of what they might do if they won a large amount of money.

In groups, you have been given the responsibility to decide how a large Lottery fund is to be spent on your homeplace.

You could have a really big party, but the next week everyone would still be in the same position or you could decide how best the money could be used to change people's lives for a much longer time.

Think carefully about what is needed to change your homeplace for people who might be struggling. Will you give them a HAND OUT or a HAND UP?

You have to prepare a plan for the Lottery fund before they release any money to you. Use the space to create your plan of priorities and projects to improve your homeplace for everyone.



ACTIVITY 6: FISHING

What should we do when we see someone who needs help, has always been a problem? Of course, we should do our best to help, however, what is the best way to help is not always clear and this can cause confusion.

An old saying, some people believe is Chinese gives some good advice:

GIVE A MAN A FISH AND YOU FEED HIM FOR THE DAY
TEACH A MAN TO FISH AND YOU FEED HIM FOR A LIFETIME.

Use the space below to create a motivation poster using this saying that will encourage people to think of helping others in more effective and imaginative ways.

