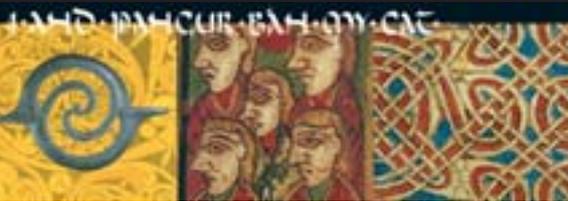


The Book of Kells

'Turning Darkness into Light'

Schools' Junior Information Pack

Teachers' Guide



Welcome!

We hope you and your students will enjoy the *Book of Kells: 'Turning Darkness Into Light'* exhibition. This information pack was designed to help students explore the decoration, materials and language that make the Book of Kells unique.

This pack contains five worksheets and a Post-Visit Suggestion Sheet.

- Early History of Ireland
- Materials and Methods
- Images from the Book of Kells
- The Scribes and Their Work
- The Long Room and Trinity College

Each worksheet provides students with an *Introductory* passage about a specific area in the exhibition. A *Fact Find* section follows in which students may answer questions based upon what they have learned from the Introductory section or from the exhibition itself. Finally, there is an *Activity* section for further exploration. *Permission for photocopying these materials is granted solely for educational use and not for resale.*

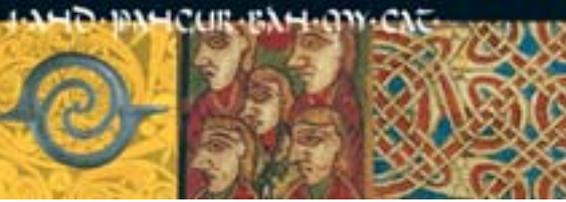
Your students should bring with them a notebook and pencils so that they can use the worksheets while they are in the exhibition. We recommend that you divide your class into five groups and let each group work within one area of the exhibition. This allows students to exchange ideas amongst themselves without one large group trying to manoeuvre around the exhibition. Photocopy the required worksheet for each member of the group.

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These worksheets may be used in a number of ways:

PRE-VISIT: You can give these worksheets to your students to read ahead of their visit and The Fact Find Questions can be answered once they are in the exhibition.

IN-VISIT: You may choose to give your students their worksheets immediately prior to their tour of the exhibition. In this case, completion of the Fact Find and the Activity sections will require more time.

POST-VISIT: The Suggested Projects Sheet has follow-up activities you may wish to explore with your students after your visit.

Once again, we hope you and your students enjoy your visit to the Old Library and Trinity College. You may phone Anne-Marie Diffley at 6082320 or fax her at 6082690 to book your class visit.

Designed and written by Molly Sullivan
Produced by Trinity College Library

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Teachers' Guide to Fact Find Questions

Early History

- Q. Why might the Book of Kells have been written?
- A. To honour the anniversary of St. Colum Cille's death.
- Q. What two monasteries are linked to the Book of Kells?
- A. The monastery at Iona and Kells.
- Q. What is a tonsure?
- A. The style of shaving the front of the heads of monks.

Materials, Methods

- Q. What is vellum?
- A. A treated calfskin.
- Q. What did they use to make ink?
- A. The juices from crushed oak apples and soot.
- Q. Can you name two of the ingredients used to colour the Book of Kells?
- A. Red lead and orpiment, lapis lazuli, copper.

Images

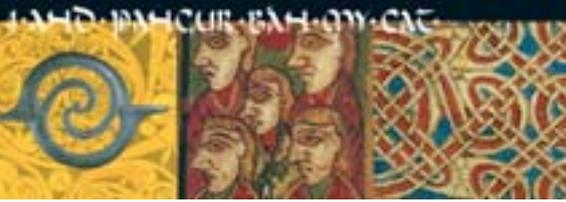
- Q. Who wrote the gospels and what are their symbols?
- A. Matthew/Man, Mark/Lion, Luke/Calf, John/Eagle.
- Q. What animals do you find in the Chi Rho page?
- A. Cats, butterfly, otters, fish, mice.
- Q. What is a 'carpet page'?
- A. A manuscript page covered with designs and without writing.

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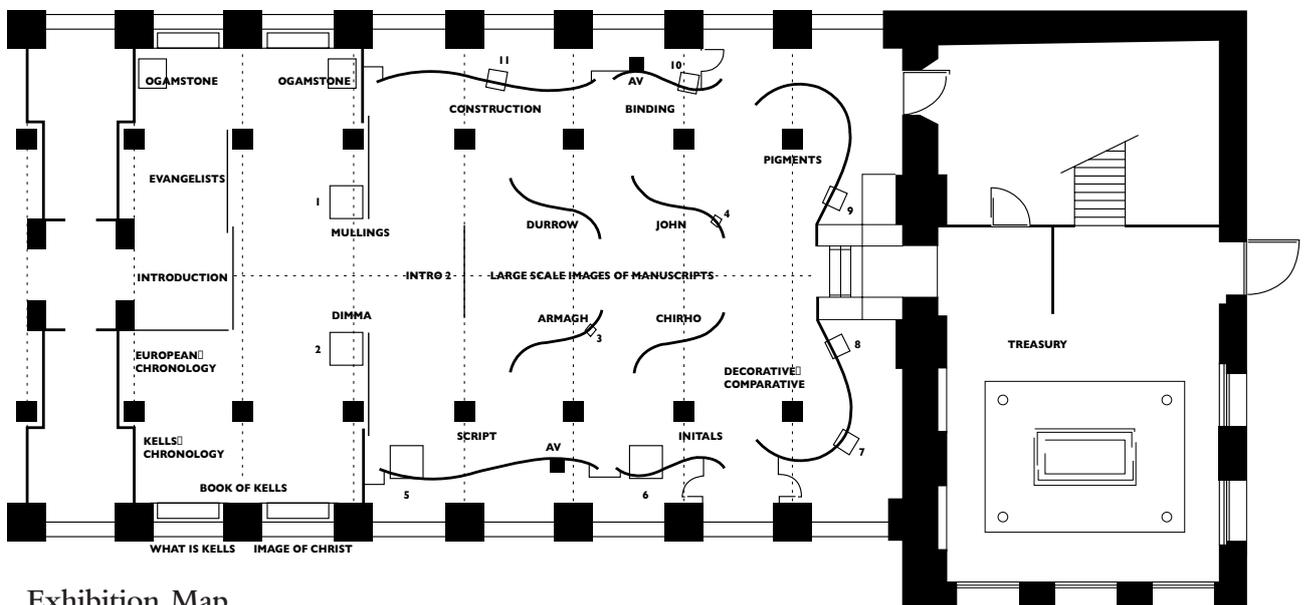


The Scribes

- Q. In what language is the Book of Kells written?
A. Latin.
- Q. What is calligraphy?
A. A practiced, beautiful form of script.
- Q. Name the three different types of scribes who painted full pages in the Book of Kells?
A. The ‘goldsmith’, the ‘illustrator’ and the ‘portrait painter.’

The Long Room

- Q. Whose bust can be found under the column with the letters BB?
A. Shakespeare.
- Q. Who signed the Proclamation of 1916?
A. Thomas Clarke, Sean MacDiarmada, Patrick Pearse, James Connolly, Thomas MacDonagh, Eamonn Ceannt, Joseph Plunkett.
- Q. How many architects designed the Old Library building?
A. Three.



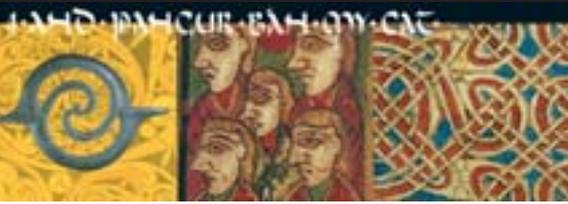
Exhibition Map

The Book of Kells

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Suggested Project Sheet

The following are suggestions for *Post-Visit* projects that you and your students can explore.

- Ask your class to imagine that they are scribes and they are creating a very rare, important book. What would it be about? What materials would they use to make it? What would the illustrations be? Who would they want to read this special book? Have them write out their ideas. Alternatively, maybe they can make a book as an art project. Have them base this project on what they know about book-making from the exhibition.
- Divide your class into groups. Try not to use the same divisions that toured the exhibition. Ask your students to make a map of the exhibition as they remember it. What were some of their favourite things in the exhibition? Have them describe these in their map.
- Ask the students to create a poem using their experience of and information from the exhibition. Again, divide the class into groups to do this exercise. Have each member of the group write one line. Keep the poem going for as long as they can in the time allotted them. Have each group read or perform the poem to the rest of the class. Can they continue it?
- Ask your students to create a diary of a week in the life of a scribe. Where is the monastery located in which they live? What is their daily routine? What is their job within the monastery?

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- Ask your students to create an illustration for a special manuscript. Ask them to use some of the techniques they saw in the exhibition such as 'interlace'. You can enhance the project by buying calligraphy pens for them to try out. These are easily purchased in any arts and crafts shop.
- Have your students create a short story by asking them to make-believe that they are a group of monks waiting for a rare and special colour to use on a manuscript they are decorating. Ask them to tell you how they think that the mineral (i.e. *lapis lazuli*, the blue pigment) travelled to Ireland. How did they come to hear about it? How did they bring it to the monastery?

Below are some books for further reading that you and your students may enjoy. They can be purchased in the Bookshop at the Book of Kells exhibition or in other bookshops.

Suggested reading:

Exploring the Book of Kells. George Otto Simms
- The O'Brien Press.

The World of Colmcille Also Known As Columba. Mairead Ashe Fitzgerald.
- The O'Brien Press.

Celtic Design Colouring Book. Edited by Stephen Hall
- Dover Publications.

The Celts Activity Book. Mike Corbishley
- British Museum Publications.