

Module 6

Making Monuments

Learn about megalithic tombs by making models

Curriculum Linkages and Integration

See Teacher Guidelines for additional information



SESE History

INFANT CLASSES

STRAND: Story
Strand Unit: Stories

1st & 2nd CLASSES

STRAND: Change and continuity
Strand Unit: Change and continuity in the local environment

3rd & 4th CLASSES

STRAND: Local Studies
Strand Unit: Buildings, sites and ruins in my locality
Strand Unit: My locality through the ages

5th & 6th CLASSES

STRAND: Local Studies
Strand Unit: Buildings, sites and ruins in my locality
Strand Unit: My locality through the ages

STRAND: Story
Strand Unit: Stories from the lives of people in the past

STRAND: Story
Strand Unit: Stories from the lives of peoples in the past

STRAND: Early peoples and ancient societies
Strand Unit: Stone Age peoples

STRAND: Early peoples and ancient societies
Strand Unit: Stone Age peoples
Strand Unit: Bronze Age peoples

STRAND: Continuity and change over time
Strand Unit: Homes and houses

STRAND: Continuity and change over time
Strand Unit: Homes and houses

LINKAGES



SESE Geography
- Human environments
- Natural environments
- Environmental awareness and care



SESE Science
- Energy and forces
- Materials
- Environmental awareness and care

INTEGRATION



Mathematics
- Shape and space
- Early mathematical activities
- Measures
- Number
- Data



Visual Arts
- Construction
- Fabric and fibre
- Paint and colour



Drama
- Exploring and making drama
- Co-operating and communicating in making drama



SP&HE
- Myself
- Myself and others
- Myself and the wider world



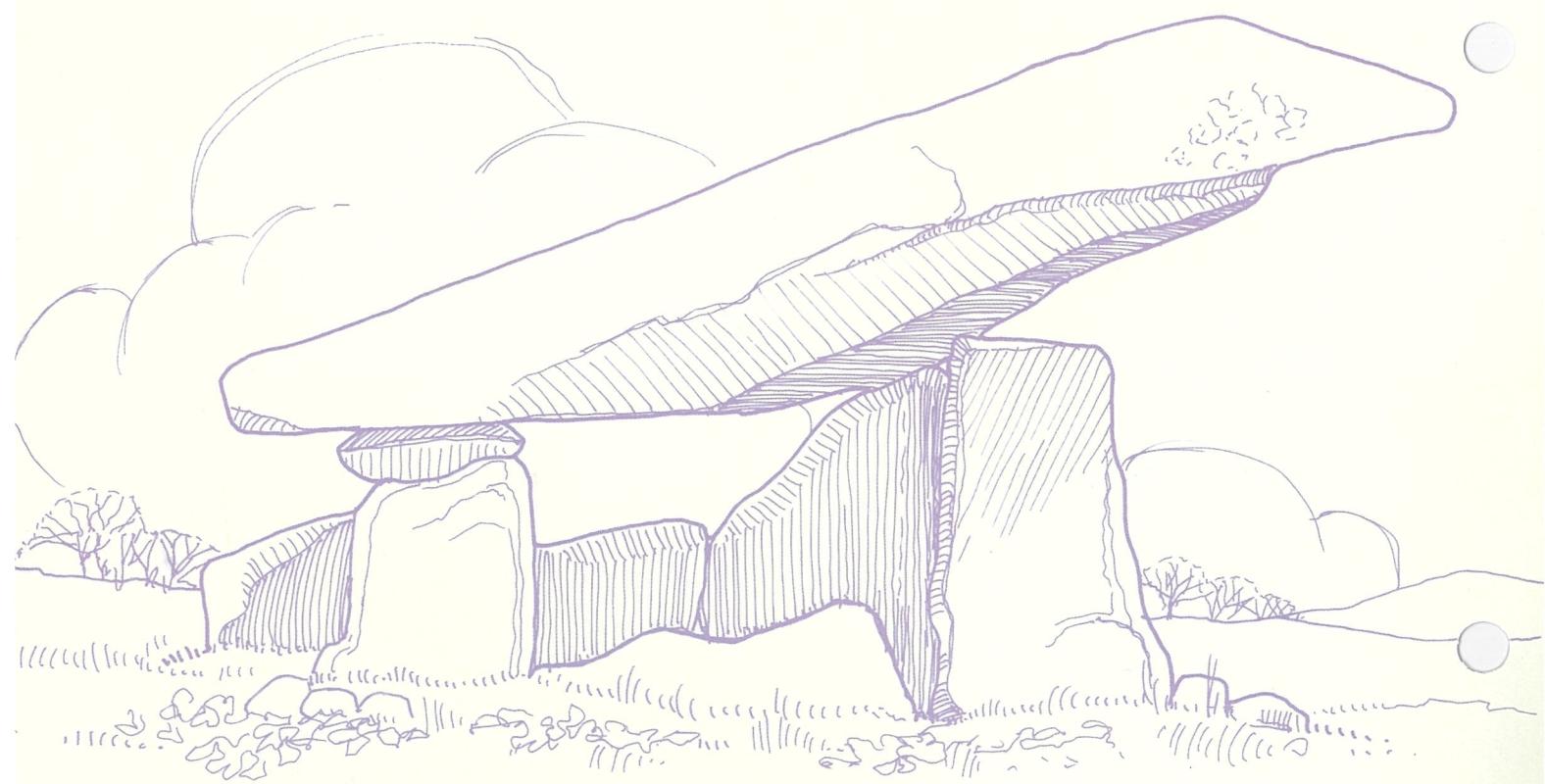
Gaeilge
- Éisteacht
- Labhairt
- Scríbhneoiracht
- Léitheoiracht



English
- Receptiveness to language
- Competence and confidence
- Developing cognitive abilities through language
- Emotional and imaginative development through language

“I made a tomb
It was fun
It was the Stone Age”

2nd Class Pupil





OBJECTIVE



The pupils learn about megalithic tombs by making models of them in a sand tray.

AGE APPROPRIATENESS



This module is suitable for all classes.

To manage the module for each age group, see Teacher Guidelines



MATERIALS REQUIRED



- Square or rectangular box or tray: approx. 30cm x 40cm, depth c. 10cm (e.g. cat litter tray)
- Play-sand
- Lots of small flat stones and some larger ones



Prompt: same trays/boxes can be used for Module 3.

Activity Sheets (AS)

- Making Megaliths 1 (AS1)
- Making Megaliths 2 (AS2)
- Building a Tomb (AS3)
- Megalithic Art (AS4).

PREPARATION

Familiarise the pupils with Stone Age farmers (Neolithic) (see Module 5). These people built sophisticated stone tombs, called megalithic tombs.

Four types of megalithic tomb were built in Ireland:

- Passage Tombs
- Court Tombs
- Portal Tombs
- Wedge Tombs



Prompt: Enlarge Activity Sheets 1 and 2 from A4 to A3, cut out individual plans and distribute to pupils as required.

The passage tomb at Newgrange in Co Meath is a World Heritage Site





Let's get started!

Setting the Scene

You are living in Ireland about 3000 BC, during the Stone Age (Neolithic) period. The chief of your tribe has died and a great tomb must be built. What type of tomb will you build?

Discuss why these Stone Age people took such great trouble to build 'Houses for the Dead' using great stones, whilst the 'houses for the living' were much simpler structures made of wood.

The Activity

- Demonstrate in the tray, or draw on the board, the type of tomb you wish to build. Point out the main features of the tomb (entrance; passage; chamber; **capstones**; **kerbstones**; **corbelled roof**; **cairn** etc.)
- Divide the class up into teams of two and give each a sand tray and some stones.
- Hand out the plan of a tomb (AS1 and AS2) and ask them to build it in the sand tray.
- If it is a *Passage Tomb*, some of the stones can be decorated with chalk (see AS4).



Portal Tomb in tray



Passage Tomb in tray



Prompt: Other archaeological monuments can be built in a similar fashion, e.g. **ringfort**, **stone circle**, **stone row**.



Art

Some of the stones in Passage Tombs are decorated with spirals, curved and linear zigzag lines etc. This is the earliest type of art to survive in Ireland. Use AS4 to explore the designs used to decorate these stones.

Closing Activity

Discuss how the tombs were built, how the stones were moved and erected, using AS1.
and/or

Write a story or draw a picture describing a day in the life of a Neolithic boy/girl during the building of a megalithic tomb.

Weblinks



Knowth
www.knowth.com

A brief guide to Irish archaeological monuments
www.iol.ie/~sec/sites.htm

Key Terms

- Megalithic Tomb
- Chamber
- Kerb stone
- Capstone
- Cairn

Teacher's Log

"The pupils see first hand how tombs were made. This helped them understand how tombs were made in the Stone Age".

6th Class Teacher

