





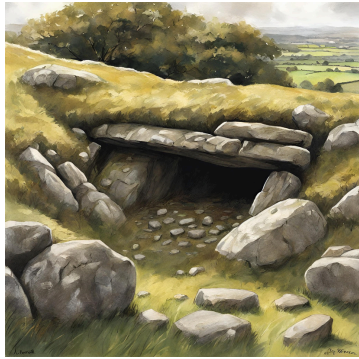






Ancient Ireland

Chapter 3

Term	Definition
Aos Dána	The warriors and nobles who supported the Rí
Brehons	Judges who knew the complex law of the Celts.
Bronze Age	The period of time when people made tools and weapons using bronze.
Cist Graves	Bodies buried in a crouched position.
Court Cairns	Open space (court) at the front and a chamber covered in stones for burials (cairn).
Crannógs	Built on man-made lakes to protect themselves from enemies.
Druids	A pagan or Celtic priest. Druids believed in many gods and had great influence over Gaelic Chieftains.
Filí	Poets who preserved the history of the Celts.
Fulacht Fiadh	Stone-lined pit filled with water where heated stones were placed in to boil the water for cooking meat.
Grave goods	Items buried with the dead.
Hunter-gatherers	Someone who hunted animals for food and gathered berries and nuts.
Iron Age	The period of time when people made tools and weapons using iron.
La Tène Style	Celtic art style
Megalithic	Large stone
Mesolithic	Middle Stone Age
Neolithic	New Stone Age
Nomadic	Moved from place to place, never settling for long.
Ogham stones	Standing stones marking boundaries or burial sites with letters carved as lines on the side
Paleolithic	Old Stone Age
Passage Graves	A huge mound built over a central passage which led to a burial chamber; e.g. Newgrange.
Portal Dolmens	Two or more standing stones and a huge capstone with remains buried between.
Promontory Forts	Built on the side of a cliff, surrounded by fosses and chevaux de frises.
Raths (Ring-forts)	A settlement on land, surrounded by risen earthen mounds and wooden fences.
Rí	King; ruled a tuath
Smelting	Melting metal at a high temperature to separate from core before combining with another metal to make a stronger one.
Souterrain	Underground passage used as storage for food or protection.
The Celts	A warrior-society from central Europe (Austria and Switzerland) who came to Ireland during the Iron Age.
Tuath	Kingdom
Wattle and Daub	Woven mesh plastered with a mixture of mud, dung, sand and straw.
The Arrival of Christianity (c. 400 AD)	
The arrival of Christianity marks the end of the ancient, prehistoric era on the island of Ireland. From the earliest beginnings of human life and settlement during the Stone Age, to the organised civilisation of the Celts, Ancient Ireland saw a transformation from frozen land to a thriving source of life. The arrival of Christianity would see the establishment of a religion which would have a long lasting relationship with the people of the island.	

2.1 RECOGNISE how a pattern of settlement and plantation influenced identity on the island of Ireland, referring to one example of a pattern of settlement, such as the growth of towns, and one plantation

The Stone Age		
The Stone Age was a very long period of time when early humans made tools and weapons from stone. While the period varies from region to region, it is generally agreed that the Stone Age began 2.5 million years ago.		
Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age: 2.5 mya - 8000 BC)	Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age: 8000 BC-3500 BC)	Neolithic (New Stone Age: 3500 BC-2000 BC)
<p>The Palaeolithic period was significantly longer than any other period in the Stone Age and any other period in human history. In Ireland, the Palaeolithic period coincided with the Last Ice Age meaning that during this time much of the island of Ireland was covered by ice sheets up until approx. 13,000 BC. The earliest known modern humans in Ireland date back to around 10,500 BC was found in the “Alice and Gwendoline Cave”, Co. Clare.</p> 	<p>Evidence of the first human settlement in Ireland was found at Mount Sandal, Co. Derry. Their houses were round huts covered in animal skins with a hearth in the middle. They were nomadic hunter-gatherers who used tools made from flint.</p> 	<p>Evidence of the first farmers has been found in the Céide Fields, Co. Mayo. Their houses were made from wattle and daub with thatched roofs while stone was polished. New burials were used such as: Portal Dolmens - Poul nabrone, the Burren, Co. Clare; Court Cairns - Creevkeel, Co. Sligo; Passage Tombs - Newgrange, The Boyne Valley, Co. Meath (5,200 years old; the sun illuminates the burial chamber on the Winter Solstice. Magnificently decorated entrance kerbstone)</p> 
The Bronze Age (2000 BC-500 BC)		
<p>The arrival of metal to Ireland came with the Bronze age with the alloy of copper and tin smelted together to create Bronze. Food was cooked in the fulacht fiadh. Houses remained wattle and daub houses with thatched roofs. More people meant smaller burial tombs were used such as Wedge Tombs and Cist Graves.</p> <div></div> <div></div>		
The Iron Age (500 BC-500 AD)		
<p>The Celts arrived in Ireland from Central Europe, becoming the first civilisation of the island of Ireland. They brought iron with them. First evidence of writing was used by the Celts in Ireland using ogham stones. Their houses were more defensive with the inventions of: Raths (Ring forts) - the Hill of Tara, Co. Meath, Promontory Forts - Dunbeg Fort, Co. Kerry; Crannógs - Clonmacnoise, Co. Offaly</p> <p>The Celts were an organised, warrior society with a clear hierarchy in society. The land was organised by tuaths (kingdoms) which were ruled by a Rí. The Rí was supported by the Aos Dána which were made up of brehons (judges), druids (priests), filí (poets) and craftsmen.</p> <p>The Celts were pagans who believed in many gods such as Daghda and Lug. Some of their past times included báire and ficheall. The Táin is evidence of how important cattle were to the Celts. Jewellery and coloured clothing was used by the Celts. Their art style is named after the area in Switzerland where the Celts originated from: La Tene</p> <div></div>		