

museum

National Museum of Ireland

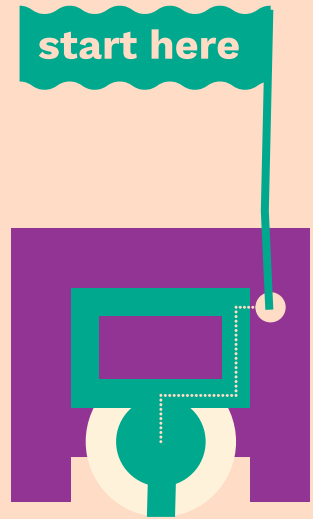
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

Activity Trail

Irish Saints, Stories and Scribes


Take the trail to explore our Treasury & Medieval Ireland Exhibition. To learn about the different Saints of Ireland, their myths, legends and the artefacts believed to have once belonged to them.

To start the trail, find your way to the Treasury Exhibition.



Ground floor

- 1 Look for a gold boat. Before Christianity was introduced to Ireland, people believed in lots of different Gods. Archaeologists think that these objects were specially made and placed in the ground as an offering in the Iron Age to the Irish Sea God called Manannán Mac Lir.

Can you circle the features of the boat that you see? 

Sails

Benches

Mast

Oars

Anchor

Steering Oar

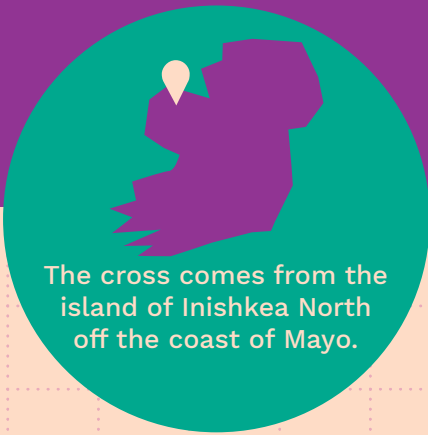
2 St. Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland, is most famous for bringing Christianity to Ireland in the 5th century. After this, people began to build churches around Ireland at special places called ecclesiastical centre. Here, priests and monks lived and prayed and people would visit on pilgrimage. Many of these places had stone crosses and markers.

Beyond the Brighter Hoard on the right, there is a large stone.

Can you draw the cross that appears on the front?



Saint Patrick



The cross comes from the island of Inishkea North off the coast of Mayo.

- 3 At these places, people created beautiful illuminated manuscripts and fine metal objects such as chalices and reliquaries.

One of the most famous of these objects is the Ardagh Chalice.

Find this in the centre of the room.

Name two metals that you can see on the Ardagh Chalice



A

B

- 4 **Find an object that looks like a hand. What Saint is associated with this object?**



.....



Although one of St. Patrick's most famous miracles was banishing the snakes from Ireland, when we look at the fossil record, there is no evidence for snakes! It is thought that Ireland was always too cold for snakes to live here.

- 5 There are more metalwork objects and reliquaries that are in the Museum today, and some of these were believed to have belonged to St. Patrick. Behind you, look for St. Patrick's Bell and Bell Shrine. The Bell Shrine is decorated with animals.

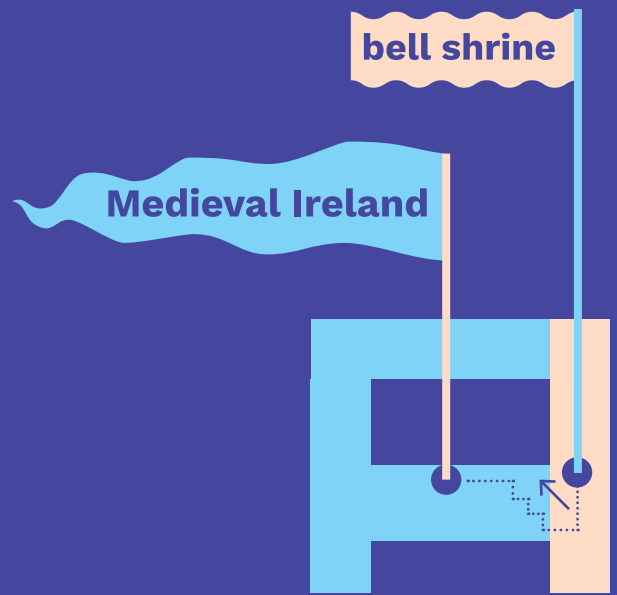
Fill in the missing letters of the animals that appear on the Shrine

Pe _ c _ _ k



_ n _ k e

St. Patrick is just one of the many Saints of Ireland. Take a right after St. Patrick's Bell Shrine and follow the stairs up to Medieval Ireland. Turn left at the top of the stairs and left again to go into the Prayer Section.



Take the stairs to the first floor

In the Legend of St. Brigid and the King, the King said he would give her as much land as her cloak would cover. St. Brigid laid her cloak on the ground, and it started to grow and grow and grow!

- 6 Look for St. Patrick's Tooth Shrine, believed to have held the tooth of St. Patrick after it fell out when he was visiting a church in Co. Sligo.

What Irish emblem can you see on the back?



.....
Hint! The Shrine is much bigger than a tooth and looks more like a bag!



- 7 St. Brigid is another Patron Saint of Ireland and is associated with Kildare. She is most famous for using reeds to make a cross to teach people about God and Christianity. There is a shrine dedicated to St. Brigid.

Can you find it, what is it?



.....
Hint! It is something you wear on your feet!

- 8 There are a lot of different Shrines in this area, many of them were made to keep manuscripts and books safe.

Can you match the picture of the Shrine to its name?

Shrine of the Miosach

The Domhnach Airgid Shrine

Shrine of the Cathach



- 9 St. Columba, also known as Colum Cille, is the third Patron Saint of Ireland. He was banished from his monastery after copying a manuscript. He went to the island of Iona near Scotland and set up his monastery there.

Name two objects in the Museum that are believed to have belonged to St. Columba?



A

B



10 Go down a little bit further and look for the Black Bell of St. Patrick. It is thought that this is the bell that St. Patrick used to scare away a cloud of blackbirds when he was praying on a mountain and they wouldn't leave him alone.

Where does this bell come from?

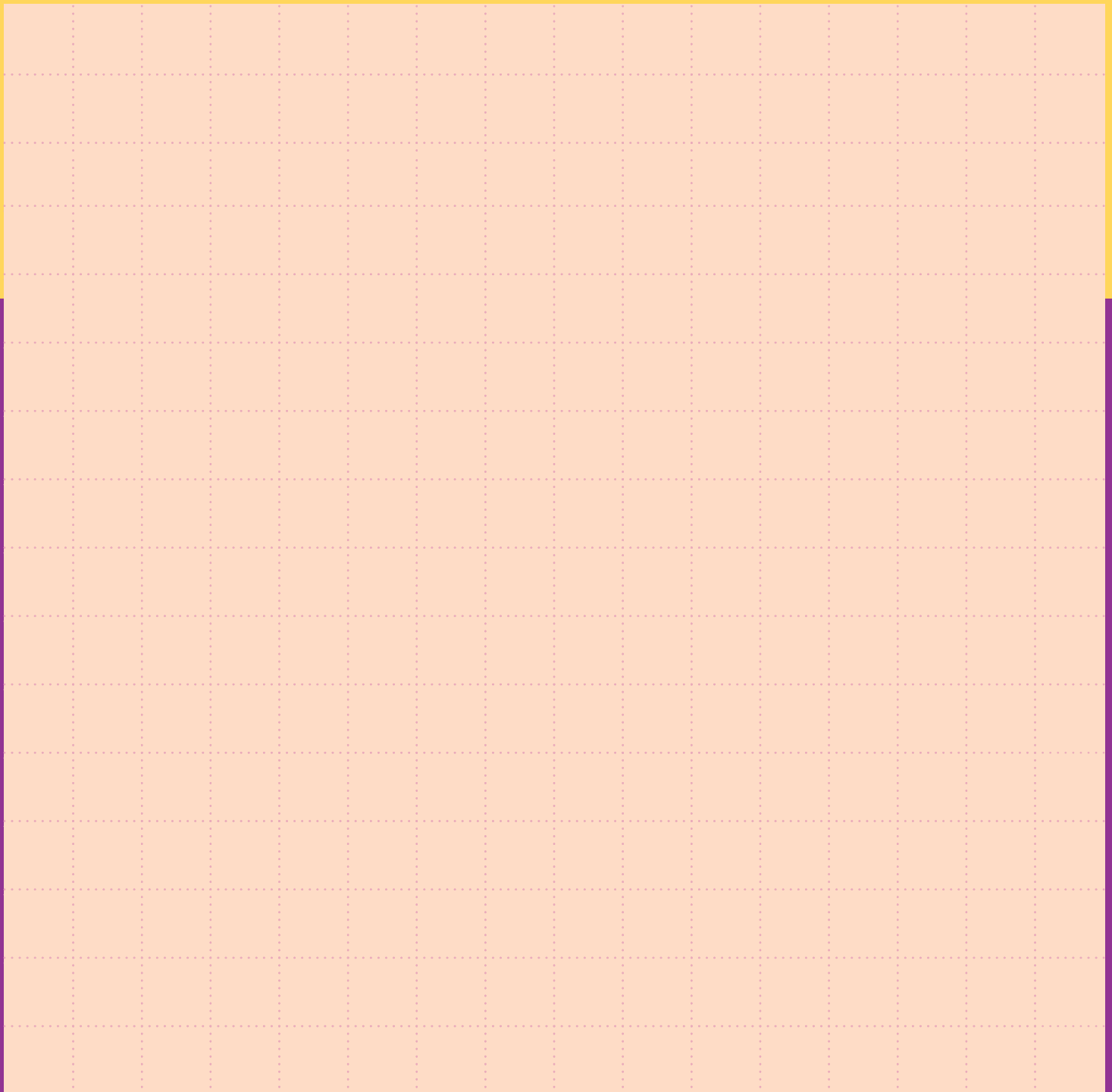


.....

Congratulations! You have completed our Trail! Along the way, you may have come across many other objects that belonged to saints. Take a quick look, and see what other saints you can spot.

11 When you go home, think about what your favourite object is. Is it a book, toy or something else?

Design your own reliquary that you would use to keep that object safe.





Did you enjoy this trail?

You can find the answers
to the trail at www.museum.ie

**To discover more activity sheets
and other resources contact**

Education and Outreach Department
National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology
Kildare Street, Dublin 2
D02 FH48

T +353 1 677 7444
w www.museum.ie
t @NMIreland



An Roinn Cultúir,
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of Culture,
Heritage and the Gaeltacht