



GAELIC SONG

Seallaibh Curaigh Eòghainn (Look at Owen's Boat)

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1. Introduction

Welcome to the WACI Toolkit for Gaelic Song.

The online toolkit contains 4 videos and downloadable resources which have been designed by the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's WACI team. This is to assist teachers in teaching school pupils about traditional music in learning to sing in Gaelic where pupils can accompany the songs in real time with body percussion and actions.

The videos can be watched as part of one lesson, or as four separate lessons, but they should be watched in order. Feel free stop and start the videos so that the class can learn at a pace that suits them. Optional exercises can also be delivered alongside the videos to provide some context. Otherwise, the videos can be watched on their own.

We hope you enjoy this toolkit and we look forward to hearing all about your lessons.

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2. CfE Outcomes

Literacy outcomes

I enjoy exploring and playing with the patterns and sounds of language, and can use what I learn.

LIT 0-01a / LIT 0-11a / LIT 0-20a

Music

I enjoy singing and playing along to music of different styles and cultures.

EXA 0-16a

I can sing and play music from other styles and cultures, showing growing confidence and skill while learning about musical notation and performance directions.

EXA 1-16a



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3a. What Is Gaelic?

Before playing the first video, this short exercise will provide some context for the Gaelic language used in the song.

Explain

Today we are going to be learning a song in Gaelic

Ask

What does Gaelic mean?

Explain

- Gaelic is a language spoken in modern Scotland
- It is one of the three native languages of Scotland – English, Scots and Gaelic
- Most of modern Scotland was once Gaelic-speaking
- These days, nearly 60,000 people speak the language
- The highest percentage of Gaelic speakers lives in

Na h-Eileanan an Iar, also known as the Western Isles

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3b. Gaelic Words

Ask

Does anyone know any Gaelic words?

Ask

Does anyone know what the Gaelic name for Scotland is?

Answer

Alba

Explain

Lots of places in Scotland and around the world take their names or part of their names from Gaelic words.



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3c. Gaelic Words cont.

Ask

Can you think of any places with these Gaelic words in their names?

Auch-
from the Gaelic word 'achadh'
Which means: **a field**

Ard-
from the Gaelic word 'àird'
Which means: **a height**

Bal-
from the Gaelic word 'baile'
Which means: **town**

Dal-
from the Gaelic word 'dail'
Which means: **meadow**

Drum-
from the Gaelic word 'druim'
Which means: **ridge**

Dun-
From the Gaelic word 'dun'
Which means: **fort**

Inver-
from the Gaelic word 'inbhir'
Which means: **river mouth**

Kil-
from the Gaelic word 'cill'
Which means: **a churchyard**

Kin-
from the Gaelic word 'ceann'
Which means: **head**



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3d. Gaelic Place Names

Resource: You can find Gaelic forms of place names here www.ainmean-aite.scot

Examples

Auch-

Auchinleck
Auchentoshan
Auchterarder

Ard-

Ardrossan
Ardnamurchan
Ardtun

Bal-

Balgowan
Balgay
Balmaha

Dal-

Dalkeith
Dalbeattie
Dalry

Drum-

Drumnadrochit
Drumchapel
Drumblade

Dun-

Dunfermline
Dundee
Dunblane

Inver-

Inverclyde
Inverleith
Inverness

Kil-

Kilmarnock
Kilwinning
Killin

Kin-

Kinlochleven
Kinross
Kinloch

Ask

Does anyone know the Gaelic name for our town, city or village?



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4. Song Lyrics

Seallaibh curaigh Eoghainn

Look at Owen's coracle

Is coig ramh fichead oirre

With five and twenty oars on her

Seallaibh curaigh Eoghainn

Look at Owen's coracle

'S i seachad air a Rudha Bhan

Passing by the White Point

Bi Eoghainn, bi Eoghainn

And it's Owen, it's Owen

Bi Eoghainn na sgiobair oirr

It's Owen who'll be skipper on her


Bi Eoghainn, bi Eoghainn

And it's Owen, it's Owen

'S i seachad air a Rudha Bhan

Passing by the White Point

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5a. Video 1: Key Words

Now play the first video.

You can print off the lyrics on Card 4 if feel you this will help your class.

After the first video – check for understanding:

- Where does this song come from?
- Why do so many Gaelic songs mention the sea?

Discussion points

Do you know anyone who speaks Gaelic?



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5b. Video 2: Lyrics and Melody

Video 3: Body Percussion & Actions

Now play the second and third videos.

After the third video – check for understanding:

What is the song about?

Discussion points

- Were there any Gaelic words you found difficult to pronounce?
- Why do you think they were so difficult?
- What do you think the message of the song is?

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5c. Video 4: Arranging and Performing

Now play the fourth and last video.

This video features arranging and performing our song.

After the fourth video – check for understanding:

- What are dynamics?
- Why are they used?

Discussion points

- Do you know any percussion instruments?
- What instruments could be used to accompany this song?

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6. Gaelic Song Resources

If your class enjoyed learning this Gaelic Song there are many more out there that might interest them. Here is a useful Gaelic Song resource for teachers and pupils:

Fèis Rois Foglam: www.feisroisfoglam.org

Below are a few Gaelic songs performed by professional musicians. It may interest your class to watch performances that include instruments and different arrangements!

A Ghaoil, Leig Dhachaigh Gum Mhathair Mi Performed by Julie Fowlis
bit.ly/GaelicSongOne

Oran Na Cloiche
Performed by Kathleen MacInnes
bit.ly/GaelicSongTwo

Dhannsamaid le Ailen
Performed by Ellen MacDonald and Daimh
bit.ly/GaelicSongThree

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