



GEORGIAN DOORWAYS AND MEDIEVAL SHADOWS

‘Sometimes we stare so long at a door that is closing
that we see too late the one that is open.’

Alexander Graham Bell

‘Questioning is the door of knowledge’

Irish saying

‘We must open the doors of opportunity. But we must
also equip our people to walk through those doors.’

Lyndon B. Johnson

IDEAS TO EXPLORE WITH YOUR CLASS: VISUAL ARTS

THE GEORGIAN FANLIGHTS

In order to discover more about the process towards regularising his situation, Sanjay's father goes to the Information Centre. We can see an image of the Georgian entrance to the building.

The Georgian doorways found in a variety of locations throughout Dublin city centre are reminiscent of the time of British rule in Ireland. The term 'Georgian' refers to Kings George I, George II, George III and George IV, who governed Ireland from the early 1700s to the mid-1800s. The architecture shows the influence the British had on shaping the visual face of the city. For many years, the architectural remnants of colonial rule were a bone of contention, with many wishing to remove all reminders of British rule. However, the majority of the Georgian buildings still standing are now protected by preservation orders. To this day, the doorways attract the attention of tourists.

- Many tourist shops sell posters of the Georgian doorways of Dublin. These could be used as a springboard for classroom activity. Carry out a class visual arts project on the theme 'Georgian Dublin'. Spend some time examining doors and studying fanlights. For full-colour photographs and information on some of Dublin's Georgian fanlights, see: <http://www.obrien.ie/book449.cfm>.
- Create streetscapes of Georgian buildings using crêpe paper for the doors and black marker overlay to fill in detail. Use the concept of a vanishing point to add dimension to the streetscapes.
- Construct a 3D model of a Dublin street in Georgian times, incorporating lamp posts, entrance steps to buildings, Georgian doorways and panelled windows.
- Explore drawing and painting Georgian doorways with the help of a step-by-step guide from an artist focusing on Georgian Dublin: <http://www.georgiandublin.com/>
- Use Google Earth to take a virtual tour to explore the streets of Dublin and locate some of the following locations where Georgian doorways can still be found: North Great George's Street, Henrietta Street, Leeson Street, Mountjoy Square, Parnell Square, Merrion Square, St Stephen's Green, Fitzwilliam Square. Through a number of regeneration projects, some of

these squares have been refurbished and work has been carried out to create good living spaces for twenty-first-century living. Over the past decade, Mountjoy Square has been brought back from disrepair, and within the park there is now a play area for children and a basketball court, and free outdoor events are held there in summer.

- Explore the tourist's experience of Dublin and practise mapping skills. Provide the children with Dublin street maps and guide them through some of the architectural, historical and cultural highlights of the city. Children could become walking-tour guides by researching a variety of locations, writing tourist information speeches, constructing 3D models or dioramas and inviting children from other classes to visit their virtual capital city.
- Make models of Georgian fanlights: use transparent coloured paper and cardboard to construct large models of Georgian fanlights. Set them up in class, either on a window or with a light behind them, to create a vivid effect.

THE MEDIEVAL CITY

- *Dublinia, The Story of Medieval Dublin*, is a book that could be used as a starting point to begin to explore Dublin in medieval times. The book contains colour maps, plans and a scale-model of the walled city. It reveals the mysteries of daily life, incorporating themes such as religion, trade, crafts and government.
- Role-play a day in the life of a Dubliner in medieval times.
- Write a diary entry from the viewpoint of a variety of people living at this time, eg hunter, musician, politician, child.
- Take a class visit to Dublinia and the Viking World heritage centre – see <http://www.dublinia.ie/>
- Chapters from the book *Dublinia* can be previewed online: see: 'Houses and Hygiene' or 'Life and Death' at <http://www.obrien.ie/files/extracts/Dublinia-Extract.pdf>