

Irish National Stud

Japanese Gardens

Saint Fiachra's Garden

TEACHERS' NOTES

Format of the Tour

A guide brings the children on a tour of the National Stud first.

This takes approximately 50 minutes.

The guide leaves them at the entrance to St. Fiachra's Garden.

On entering St Fiachra's Garden the children can begin to do the worksheets.

From there you may proceed to the Japanese Gardens where the children can view the sun-dial.

NB

Most of the worksheets may be done back in the school if time constraints or weather factors prevent their completion in the garden.

Requirements

- Tape Measures
- Right-angled isosceles triangle made of card
e.g. 2 sides equal at 25cms each + a right angle
- 3 metre (approx) lengths of string
(a few of each would suffice for a class)

Curriculum Links

The activities require the children to work scientifically. Almost all of them will involve observation, estimating and measuring, analysing, questioning, recording and communicating.

The making of a sun-dial can be a designing and making activity using the approach outlined in the SESE Science Curriculum.

Skills Development is outlined for classes on the following pages of the Curriculum:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| - Infant classes | pages 20 - 23 |
| - 1st & 2nd | 36 - 40 |
| - 3rd & 4th | 56 - 60 |
| - 5th & 6th | 78 - 82 |

The activities on horses, birds and trees are based on the Strand Unit '*Plants and Animals*' from the '*Living Things*' Strand.

Observing, identifying and examining the plants and animals that live in local habitats and environments is the key objective from Infants to Sixth Class.

Many of the activities can be adapted to the local school environment and there are numerous scientific investigations that can be done based on them.

The section of the '*Teacher Guidelines on Science*', pages 57 - 85 has numerous suggestions and examples on learning about plants and animals.

The sun-dial activity is an ideal way to introduce lessons on light (a strand unit from the strand '*Energy and Forces*'). Three of the main objectives in the curriculum on light involve:

1. blocking light (shadows)
2. bending light (refraction and the colour spectrum)
3. bouncing light (reflecting light)

The '*Discover Primary Science*' pack includes three activities based on light:

1. rainbow spinner
2. mirror writing
3. creepy reflection

