THE IRISH CULTURE BOOK 1

A resource book of discussions and activities on Irish Cultural topics

by

IAN O’MALLEY

Sample Pages
## MAP OF THE BOOK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT 1 QUESTIONS ABOUT IRELAND</th>
<th>Warm Up Quotes Section</th>
<th>Main Discussion Areas</th>
<th>Follow-on Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warm Up Quotes Section</td>
<td>Part 1 Around the World Match facts &amp; countries</td>
<td>Facts about different countries</td>
<td>Make your own ‘country quiz’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 2 Twenty Questions Test your Knowledge On Your Own</td>
<td>Facts about Ireland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIT 2 IRISH FOOD</td>
<td>Warm Up Quotes Section</td>
<td>Main Discussion Areas</td>
<td>Follow-on Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warm Up Quotes Section</td>
<td>Part 1 Food Questionnaire Work with a partner</td>
<td>Foods of different countries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 2 Famous Foods Match foods &amp; countries</td>
<td>The potato in Irish culture</td>
<td>Restaurant culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3 Hello Mr. Potato Read &amp; discuss</td>
<td>Meal times</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 4A Restaurants Typical restaurant language</td>
<td>Follow-on Activities</td>
<td>Create your own restaurant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 4B Restaurant Menus Create your own menu</td>
<td>Share recipes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 5 Irish Meals Correct the mistakes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Your Own</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIT 3 IRISH PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS</td>
<td>Warm Up Quotes Section</td>
<td>Main Discussion Areas</td>
<td>Follow-on Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warm Up Quotes Section</td>
<td>Part 1 Passport Photographs Find the nationality</td>
<td>Typical national appearance</td>
<td>Make a true/false quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 2 The Look of the Irish Read &amp; answer</td>
<td>The Irish ‘look’/Red hair</td>
<td>Beauty in different cultures</td>
<td>Research national ‘look’ in your country &amp; around world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3 Facts about Red Hair True or False quiz</td>
<td>Character and appearance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 4A Appearance &amp; You Answer &amp; discuss</td>
<td>Meal times</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 4B Attractiveness Compare cultures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Your Own</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIT 4 TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC</td>
<td>Warm Up Quotes Section</td>
<td>Main Discussion Areas</td>
<td>Follow-on Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warm Up Quotes Section</td>
<td>Part 1A Find Someone Who Find information</td>
<td>History of Irish music</td>
<td>Invent a new instrument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 1B World Instruments Listen &amp; identify</td>
<td>Traditional instruments</td>
<td>Investigate history of music in your country</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 2A Traditional Irish Music Read &amp; answer</td>
<td>Follow-on Activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 2B Irish Instruments Listen &amp; identify</td>
<td>Analyse a song</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3 Whiskey in the Jar Analyse a song</td>
<td>Music &amp; Study: Imagine a scene</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 4 And Finally</td>
<td>On Your Own</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIT 5 MODERN IRISH MUSIC</td>
<td>Warm Up Quotes Section</td>
<td>Main Discussion Areas</td>
<td>Follow-on Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warm Up Quotes Section</td>
<td>Part 1A Idioms Quiz Select correct meanings</td>
<td>Genres of music</td>
<td>Review an album</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 1B Music Genres Listen &amp; match</td>
<td>Talk about music</td>
<td>Make a music video</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 1C Describing Music Music expressions</td>
<td>Analyse song meanings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 2A Irish Singers Identify singers/groups</td>
<td>Follow-on Activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 2B Irish Music Albums Read for gist/Choose</td>
<td>Review an album</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3 Irish Songs Group decision-making/Listen</td>
<td>Make a music video</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Your Own</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIT 6 A NICE CUPPA</td>
<td>Warm Up Quotes Section</td>
<td>Main Discussion Areas</td>
<td>Follow-on Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warm Up Quotes Section</td>
<td>Part 1A Famous Tea Drinkers Match pictures</td>
<td>Tea &amp; hospitality in Ireland</td>
<td>Make your own A to Z list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 1B A to Z of Tea Find true &amp; false sentences</td>
<td>Significance of little rituals</td>
<td>Investigate tea cultures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 2A Ireland &amp; Tea Read &amp; reflect</td>
<td>Follow-on Activities</td>
<td>Create an ad campaign</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 2B Make a Pot of Tea Word &amp; sentence order</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3A Time for Tea Cultural analysis &amp; comparison</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3B ‘No’ to Tea in Ireland Read &amp; decide</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 4 How Not to Make Tea Spot the mistakes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Your Own</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## UNIT 7
**ENGLISH SPOKEN IN IRELAND**
**Page 63**
- **Warm Up**
- **Quotes Section**
  - Part 1A English & the World: Find origin of words
  - Part 1B Irish & the World: Find Irish origin of words
  - Part 2A Irish Expressions: Decide on meaning
  - Part 2B Untranslatable Words: Read & hypothesise
  - Part 3A Which is best?: Compare languages
  - Part 3B Meaning from Context: Irish expressions
  - Part 4 So... Sure... Now...: Match expressions

- **On Your Own**

### Main Discussion Areas
- What is ‘good’ English?
- Colloquial language
- The importance of words
- How languages compare

### Follow-on Activities
- Invent new words and language

---

## UNIT 8
**IRISH WEATHER**
**Page 72**
- **Warm Up**
- **Quotes Section**
  - Part 1A Weather Vocabulary: Categorise words
  - Part 1B Irish Weather: Read & answer
  - Part 2 Weather the Irish Way: Match expressions
  - Part 3A Weather Forecast: Listen & answer
  - Part 3B Become a Forecaster: Make predictions
  - Part 3C Irish Weather Wisdom: Rhyme & match

- **Part 4 Weather & Character**

- **On Your Own**

### Main Discussion Areas
- The Irish Climate
- Weather signs in nature
- Weather & civilisations

### Follow-on Activities
- Make a video of your own weather forecast

---

## UNIT 9
**IRISH LITERATURE**
**Page 82**
- **Warm Up**
- **Quotes Section**
  - Part 1 Irish Writing: Cultural analysis & discussion
  - Part 2A Irish Writers: Read for specific information
  - Part 2B Quotes & Pictures: Match the writers
  - Part 3 First Lines: Identify genres & predict

- **On Your Own**

### Main Discussion Areas
- Why Irish literature excels
- Irish writers
- Literary genres

### Follow-on Activities
- Write a short story
- Write a book review

---

## UNIT 10
**IRISH CULTURE AND HISTORY**
**Page 89**
- **Warm Up**
- **Quotes Section**
  - Part 1 Cultural Differences: Read & match
  - Part 2 History All Around Us: Discuss & hypothesise

- **On Your Own**

### Main Discussion Areas
- 'Faux pas' around the world
- Aspects of Irish culture

### Follow-on Activities
- Prepare cultural questions about your own country

---

## UNIT 11
**IRISH HISTORY ON FILM**
**Page 97**
- **Warm Up**
- **Quotes Section**
  - Part 1A/1B Irish History/Collins: Historical context
  - Part 1C The Film: Cultural context
  - Part 2A Vocabulary: Understand specific terms
  - Part 2B The Plot: Predict sequence of events
  - Part 3 Watch Film
  - Part 4A Analysis: Post-film discussion
  - Part 4B/4C Today/Discussion: Historical reflection

- **On Your Own**

### Main Discussion Areas
- Historical films
- Irish history - struggle for Independence

### Follow-on Activities
- Alternative histories
- Imagine historical movies

---

## UNIT 12
**SURVIVAL - IRISH ADVENTURERS**
**Page 105**
- **Warm Up**
- **Quotes Section**
  - Part 1 Shackleton & Crean: Read & predict
  - Part 2 Planning: Read & predict
  - Part 3 The Ship: Read & predict
  - Part 4 Trapped: Read & predict
  - Part 5 Camp Patience: Read & predict
  - Part 6 Elephant Island: Read & predict
  - Part 7 Rescue: Read & predict/Reflection

- **On Your Own**

### Main Discussion Areas
- Reacting in crisis situations
- Predicting decisions

### Follow-on Activities
- Make decisions in survival situation game
## WARM UP

1. What types of food do you like/not like?
2. What is your favourite food that your mother or father cooks?
3. What foods did your parents always tell you to eat/not to eat when you were young?
4. Do you often eat foreign food? Or do you prefer your own country’s cuisine?

### PART 1 FOOD QUESTIONNAIRE

Work in pairs. Fill in the questions below for yourself first and then ask your partner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>You</th>
<th>Your Partner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How often do you cook?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you have a healthy diet? Name one healthy and one unhealthy food that you eat.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do you usually eat for breakfast? Have you ever had an Irish breakfast? (Do you know what it is exactly?)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What foods from other countries would you love to eat/never eat? (Name one of each)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What Irish foods do you like/not like? (Name one of each)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the strangest food you have ever eaten?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there any ‘strange’ food that you eat in your country?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## QUOTES

Which is your favourite quote? Why?

- “If you want to make a friend, go to his house and eat with him... the people who give you their food give you their heart.”
  - Cesar Chavez
- “Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat.”
  - Alex Levine
- “The most dangerous food is wedding cake.”
  - James Thurber
- “If a man really likes potatoes, he must be a good type of person.”
  - A.A. Milne
- “How can you govern a country which has 246 varieties of cheese?”
  - Charles de Gaulle, French Political Leader
- “Health food is good for the conscience but biscuits taste a lot better.”
  - Robert Redford, Actor

**IRISH FOOD WISDOM**

- “Good humour comes from the kitchen.”
- “It’s easy to halve the potato where there’s love.”
- “A small house with lots of food is better than a hungry castle.”
- “It is sweet to drink but bitter to pay for.”
- “Laughter’s brightest where food’s best.”

Share your genuine feelings about the quotes and the reasons why you feel that way.

Join the discussion.

‘Doc, don’t tell me to improve my diet. I ate a salad once and it didn’t feel any different.’
PART 3 TRUE OR FALSE - 10 FACTS ABOUT RED HAIR

Red is the hair colour most associated with Ireland and it is the rarest hair colour in the world, only around 2% of the world’s population have it. About 10% of Irish people have red hair.

Say which of the 10 statements below you think are true or false.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Red Hair Facts</th>
<th>T/F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Natural red hair is easier to dye/colour than other hair types.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. In ancient Celtic Ireland, people thought redheads had magical powers. This is where the idea of rubbing a redhead’s hair for good luck comes from.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. People with red hair don’t go grey.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. People with red hair are more likely to be left-handed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Red hair is a ‘recessive gene’, and it will become extinct in about 100 years.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. In Nazi Germany, Adolf Hitler banned marriages between people with red hair.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Ancient Greeks believed people with red hair turned into vampires after they died.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Redheads have more hair on their heads than other colours.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Redheads are more sensitive to pain.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Ruadh gu brath is Gaelic for “Down with Redheads!”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In pairs/small groups, do some research and come up with your own list of true/false facts about a physical characteristic. Ask the rest of your class if they think each fact is true or false.

You can use one of the suggested physical characteristics in the grid below or think of one of your own.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Black/brown/blonde/grey hair</th>
<th>Blue/green/brown eyes</th>
<th>Baldness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>Body shape</td>
<td>Male vs female</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PART 4A PHYSICAL APPEARANCE AND YOU

Physical appearance has a strong effect on how people view us and even on how we see ourselves. Have a look at the points below and answer the questions.

i. Research shows that (without realising it) we judge attractive people as having positive characteristics like friendliness and a well-balanced personality. Why do you think we make a connection between appearance and character in this way? Do you think that you judge people this way?

ii. People who have baby-faced features, such as large eyes and rounded chins, are usually judged as more honest. Why do you think this is so? Do you think that you judge people this way?

iii. People often think that attractive-looking people are more competent and have more ability. What effect do you think this could have, for example, on a person’s career?

iv. Believing we are attractive can actually be more important than how ‘objectively’ good-looking we are. How can believing yourself to be attractive have an impact on how successful you are in life?

v. We find other people more attractive when we feel they have characteristics that can be important or helpful to us in our life. What do you think you (maybe subconsciously) look for in someone that makes them attractive to you?

* The good news is that attractiveness is about more than physical beauty. Character plays a big role. Men and women showing positive characteristics, like honesty and helpfulness, are often seen as better-looking (and vice-versa).
PART 2B IRISH INSTRUMENTS

i. Below are some traditional Irish musical instruments. Match each instrument to the pictures and to the audio. (Audio file: THE IRISH CULTURE BOOK - ONLINE SECTION.) You’ll hear the recording twice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Picture</th>
<th>Audio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bodhrán (Bow-rawn)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiddle/ Violin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tin Whistle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uilean Pipes (Ill-un)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concertina/ Accordion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harp</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ii. Which instrument is your favourite? Why?

PART 3 ‘WHISKEY IN THE JAR’

This is one of the most popular Irish traditional songs. Listen to the version of the song by Irish group, The Dubliners, and read the lyrics below as you listen. (See IRISH CULTURE BOOK - ONLINE SECTION.)

As I was going over the far-famed Kerry Mountains
I met with Captain Farrell and his money he was counting
I first produced me pistol and then produced me rapier
Said: “Stand and deliver” for he was a bold deceiver

Chorus:
Musha ring dumma do dumma daa
Wack fot the daddy-ol
Wack fot the daddy-ol
There’s whisky in the jar
I counted out his money and it made a pretty penny
I put it in me pocket and I took it home to Jenny
She sighed and she swore
That she never would deceive me
But the devil take the women for they never can be easy

Chorus
I went up to me chamber all for to take a slumber
I dreamt of gold and jewels and for sure it was no wonder
But Jenny drew me charges
And she filled them up with water
And sent for Captain Farrell to ready for the slaughter

Chorus: Twas early in the morning just before I rose to travel
Up comes a band of footmen and likewise Captain Farrell
I first produced me pistol for she stole away me rapier
I couldn’t shoot for water so a prisoner I was taken

Chorus
Now there’s some take delight in the carriages a rolling
And others take delight in the hurling and the bowling
But I take delight in the juice of the barley
And courting pretty fair maids in the morning bright
and early

Chorus
If anyone can aid me, tis my brother in the army
If I could find his station in Cork or in Killarney
And if he will go with me, we’ll go roaming in Killkenny
And I’m sure he’ll treat me better
Than me own a’ sportin Jenny

Chorus

i. What do you think the song is about?
ii. Who do you think the singer is in the song? Who do you think Captain Farrell is? Do you feel sympathy for the singer?
iii. What do you think the chorus of the song means?

Contd. on next page
PART 4
HOW NOT TO MAKE A CUP OF TEA
You can just make tea without a teapot, with a tea bag directly into your cup. Should be simple...

This is Michael. He loves his tea but he gets very annoyed when people don’t make it how he likes. Why do you think he is getting upset in each of the situations below? What tea-making errors or mistakes are happening?
Discuss with a partner/in a small group and match each of the pictures with the mistakes below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Picture</th>
<th>Tea-making Mistake</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leaving the tea bag in the cup.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Only dipping the tea bag into the water. Weak tea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Re-using a tea bag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Putting the milk in first.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Only half-filling the mug.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leaving the spoon in the cup.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A FINAL FEW THOUGHTS...
1. If you want to be posh and sophisticated when you drink your tea, you should extend your little finger? True or false.
2. George Orwell, author of Animal Farm, wrote the following about tea: ‘One does not feel wiser, braver or more optimistic after drinking tea.’ What do you think he means?
3. MIFFY or TIFFY? Big debate. What do you think it means? (Our friend, Michael, is most definitely TIFFY.)
4. ‘No thanks, I’m sweet enough.’ What does that mean?
5. ‘Will I play mother?’ What does this mean?

ON YOUR OWN
1. Watch an episode of Father Ted and look out for Mrs Doyle.
2. Share a cup of tea with a friend.
3. Ask an Irish person about how they like their tea and report back to your class. Is it the same as Michael?
4. Tea Culture in the World - Choose one culture (Indian, Chinese, Korean, English, etc.) and research the customs of drinking tea in that country.
5. Advertising for tea - Find some online Irish ads for tea. How do you think an ad for tea might be different in your country? Could you create a good advertising campaign to convince people to drink coffee or drinking chocolate or another drink?