

KS3 FIELD TRIP ARTHUR COTTAGE



**At
Dreen, Cullybackey,
Ballymena
Co. Antrim**

Before You GO.....



You are going on a field trip to the Arthur Cottage at Dreen, Cullybackey near Ballymena in Co. Antrim. This is the ancestral home of the 21st President of the United States of America.

Chester Alan Arthur was the eldest son of William and Malvina Arthur. He was born on 5th October 1830 in Vermont in New England on the east coast of America. His great, great grandmother, Jane Campbell had come to Ulster from Scotland and married Gavin Arthur about the year 1720 so she and her descendants were Ulster-Scots.

Chester Arthur is perhaps not one of the best known presidents but this is your chance to change that!

Before you visit the home that his father William left sometime between 1816 and 1820 you are going to find out some facts about him.

Here are some websites to help you fill in the details on your Arthur Cottage Passport:-



www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/ca21.html
[//en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chester_A._Arthur](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chester_A._Arthur)

www.americanpresidents.org/presidents/president.asp?PresidentNumber=21

[//ap.grolier.com/article?assetid=atb048b01&template name=/article/article.html](http://ap.grolier.com/article?assetid=atb048b01&template name=/article/article.html)

www.facts-about.org.uk/american-president-chesterarthur.htm

Did You Know????

These “facts” are taken from a website. You can find it at // fs6.depauw.edu:50080/~jkochanczyk/president/arthur.html.

Always remember, just because it is on the internet does not mean it is true!

Always check your sources if you are researching for a project.

- Arthur sold twenty-six wagons full of White House furniture for about eight thousand dollars. What he did not realise was that the furniture was actually priceless.
- Arthur changed his trousers several times a day. He had over 80 pairs!
- He never made an Inaugural Address as President.
- His favourite food was mutton chops.
- Arthur was the first president to take the Oath of Office in his own home.
- Some of his political opponents claimed he had been born in Canada not the USA which would have made him ineligible to be President.
- Arthur destroyed all of his personal papers before his death.
- He often took his friends on late night walks around Washington even at three or four o'clock in the morning. He seldom went to bed before two o'clock in the morning.
- Arthur was a skilled fisherman. He belonged to the Restigouche Salmon Club, a group of New York anglers who fished in Canada.
- He was named after Dr. Chester Abell, the doctor who delivered him, and his grandfather, Alan Arthur.

Before You Go In.....

Draw a sketch of the outside of the cottage



Look carefully. The house is made of different materials. Make a list of them :

.....

.....

.....

Why do you think the cottage has a half door?

.....

.....

How many windows are there?.....

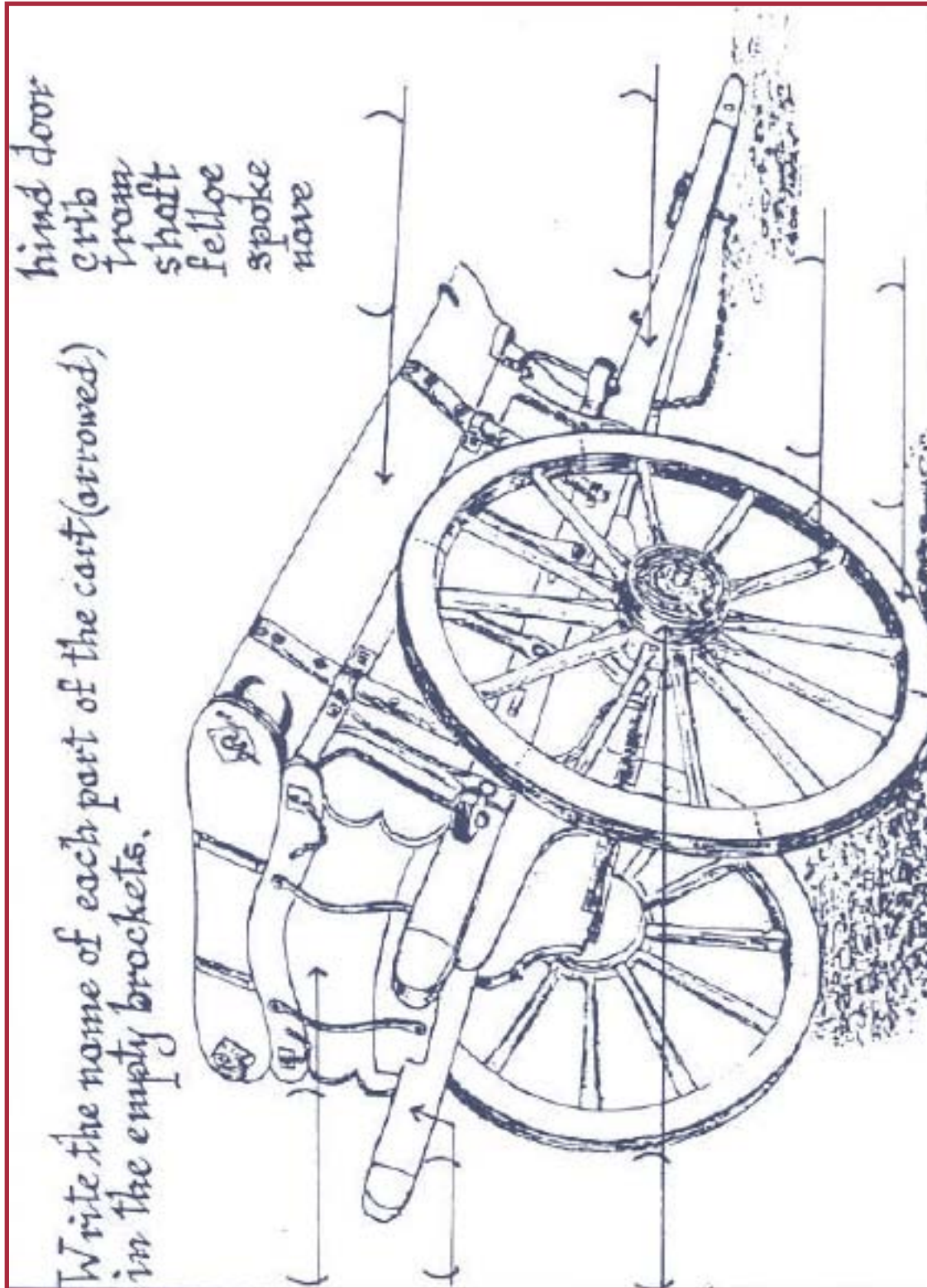
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What is thatch made from?

.....

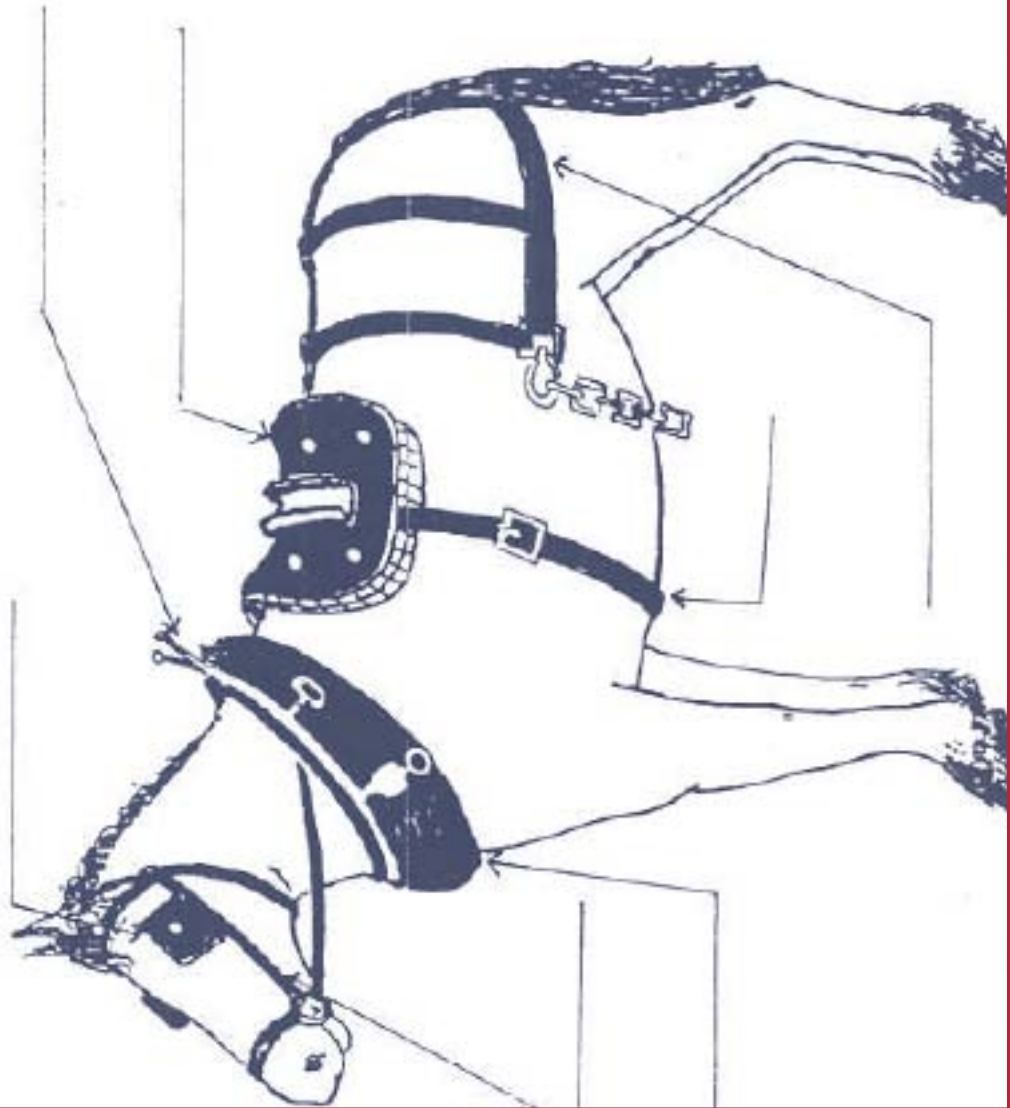
outside the cottage

Outside the cottage you can see a County Antrim Cart. Label the parts of the cart on this diagram.



carthorse harness

Write the correct name of each piece of harness, on the arrowed lines



Girth
Bridchen
Blinkers
Straddle
Collar
Bridle
Hames

Extension Activity



This photograph shows the County Antrim cart in use being pulled by a horse in harness. You have a choice of three tasks. Select the one you wish to do:

TASK 1

Imagine you are a young person living and working in the Arthur Cottage at the end of the 18th century. Write your diary entry for a day in your life.

OR

TASK 2

Imagine you have emigrated with the Arthurs to America. Write a letter home to your friends and family in Cullybackey telling them all about your new life and how it compares with life in Ulster.

OR

TASK 3

Design a poster for an American magazine to advertise the Arthur Cottage and attract tourists to come and visit it.

Inside the cottage

Look carefully. You may even wish to pace the distances in the room.
You are now going to estimate the size of the kitchen.

Lengthm Breadth.....m Heightm

Draw any **3** pieces of furniture you can find in the kitchen.



This is a



This is a



This is a

Inside the cottage



Can you see any cooking utensils in the room?
Name as many as you can.

.....
.....

What were the following utensils used for?

Beetle

Besom.....

Snuffing scissors

Scotch hands.....

How is the cottage heated?

.....
On display you can see several different articles which provided
light for the home.

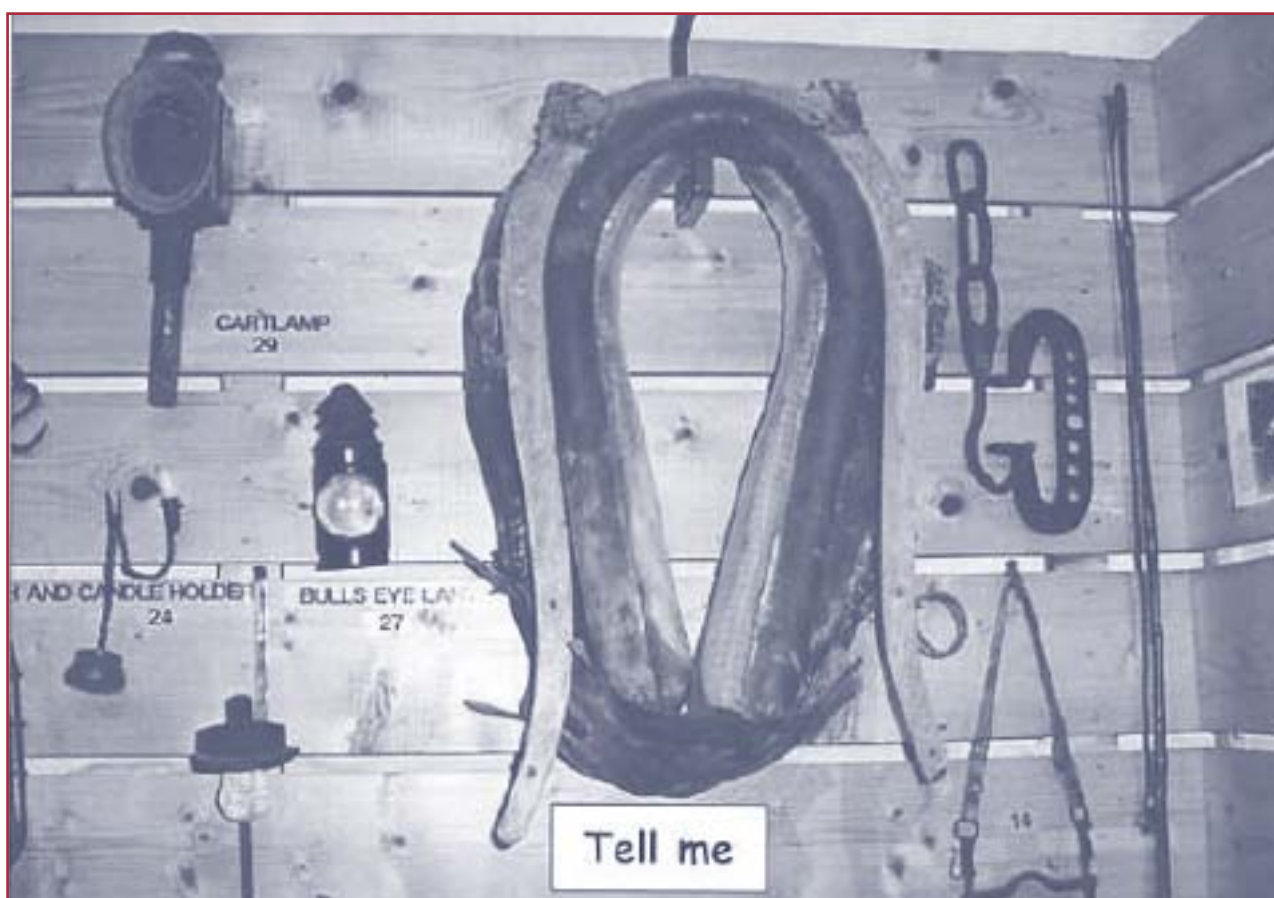
.....
What is another/alternative name for the storm lantern?

.....
Why do you think it was called this?

.....
What was baked on the griddle?.....

Imagine you have been asked to contribute to a new Encyclopaedia of local history especially for children. Use the notes you have made to write the encyclopaedia entry for this artefact.

Study this object and then make notes about it using these questions to help you .



What materials is it made from?

Which type of tradesman would have made it?

What was its purpose? What was it made to do?

What is it called?

What would the modern version of this artefact be?

Artefacts at Work

These two photographs show the artefact being used.

PICTURE A



- Why is the sheet on the ground? What is its purpose?
- Why would a windy day be the best for this job?

PICTURE B

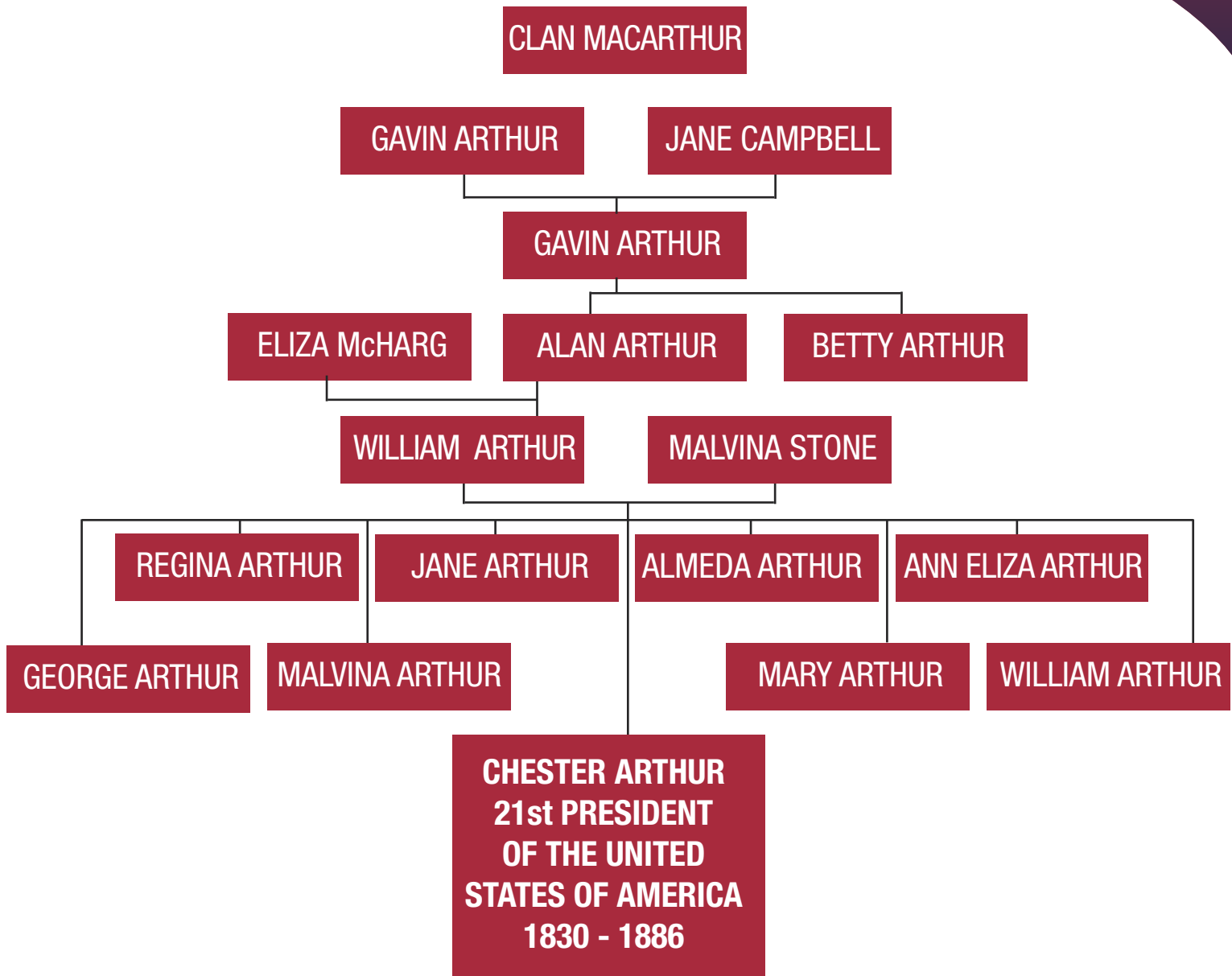


- What work are the women doing in this picture?
- In which season of the year do you think the photograph was taken?

• What does this old saying mean? - “Behave yersel’ or I’ll flail the hide aff ye.” Perhaps you could ask a relative if they know the meaning.

The Arthur Family Tree

Fill in the blanks



Arthur cottage

In the County of Antrim, outside Cullybackey
A laneway twists off from the road they call Dreen
Through the fields, and the years, to an old Irish cottage
A walk into the past, nineteenth century scene.

The sturdy stone walls are coated with whitewash
The roof, weather proof, a cosy layer of thatch
Turf smoke curling up through the sky-open chimney
Stone cobbled hearth, and half-door on the latch.

Folk come from afar to view this old cottage
For a place in world history it justly can claim
The ancestral home of the family named Arthur
Whose forbears once lived near the banks of the Maine.

In eighteen and sixteen, William Arthur decided
To cross the Atlantic, a new life to create
Taught school for a time, then became Baptist preacher
And died in New York, aged seventy eight.

His most famous son was Chester A. Arthur
Politician and lawyer, so history relates
Eighteen eighty one brought his life's highest honour
Became President proud, of the United States.

So come in and sit down for a while by the turf fire
Relax in the peace of this homestead, serene
And ponder how fate links America's "White House"
To this humble abode in the townland of Dreen..

This is a poem written to celebrate the links between Ulster and America. It is on the wall in the Arthur Cottage.

We can all celebrate the connections between Ulster and the White House with 17 presidents coming from Ulster-Scots ancestry.

Why not try writing your own poem about a Scots-Irish figure, for example President Andrew Jackson, the frontiersman Davy Crockett, General Sam Houston, explorer William Clark or writer Mark Twain.

Life Then and Now

Now that you have visited the cottage and seen how the Arthur family lived you have the opportunity to compare your life with theirs. The first section is already done for you. Fill in the rest for yourself.

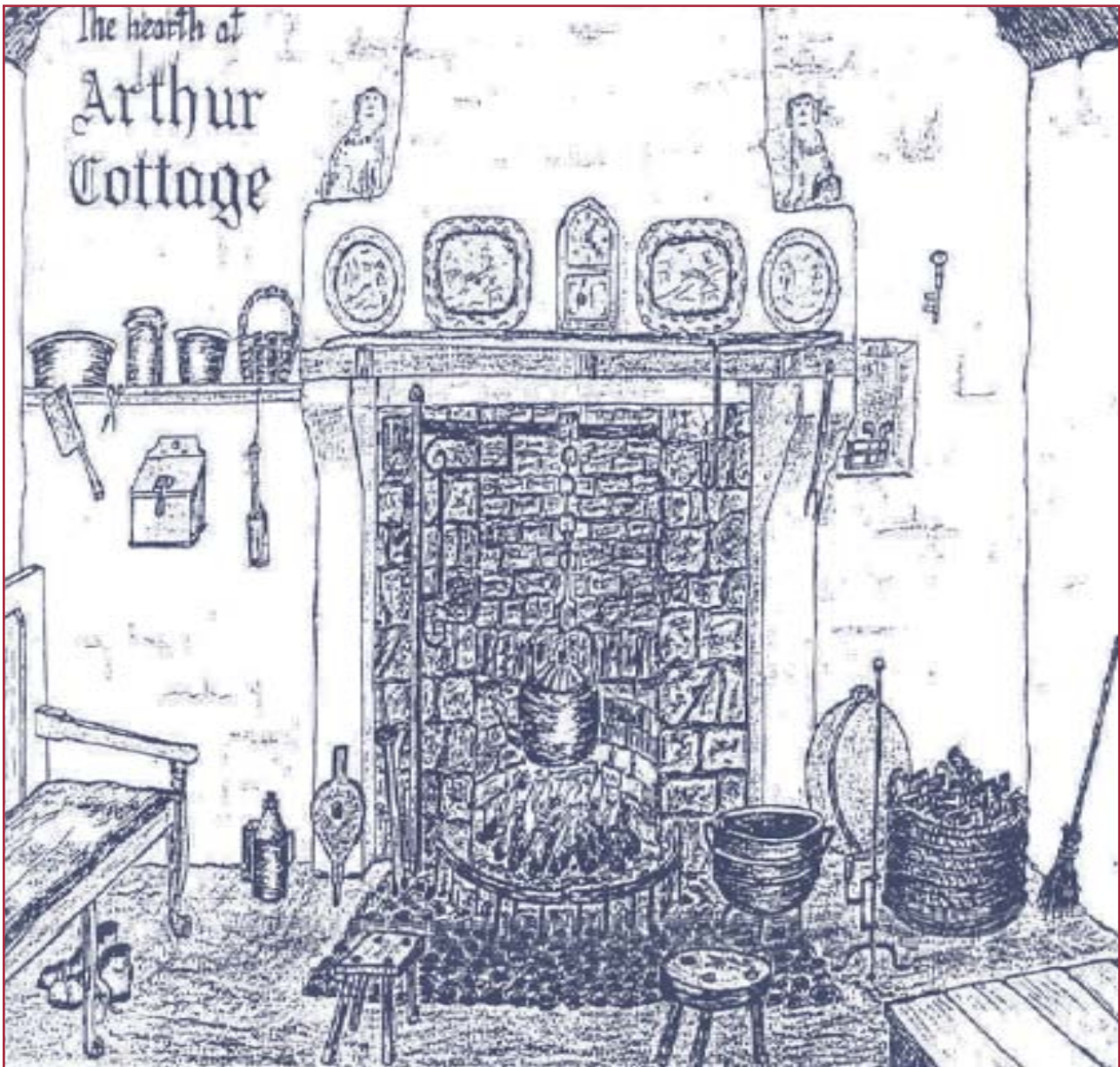
| | ARTHUR COTTAGE | MY HOME |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Walls/material/decoration | Solid stone 45 cm thick whitewashed | Brick cavity walls paint and wallpaper |
| How many rooms? | | |
| Floors—what are they made of? | | |
| How are they covered? | | |
| What heating is there? | | |
| What lighting is there? | | |
| How is food cooked? (Mention all the ways) | | |
| What is the roof made from? | | |
| Compare the same rooms in your home and the Arthur Cottage. What furniture is there and what is it like? | | |
| What is the entrance door like? | | |
| Where does the water supply come from? | | |
| How is food kept fresh? | | |
| Where does the bread come from? | | |
| How does the family spend their free time/ what do they do for entertainment? | | |

Life Then and Now

Match up the artefact from the Arthur cottage with its modern counterpart. Then write the name of each article beside it.

| | |
|---|---|
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Feeling Artistic?

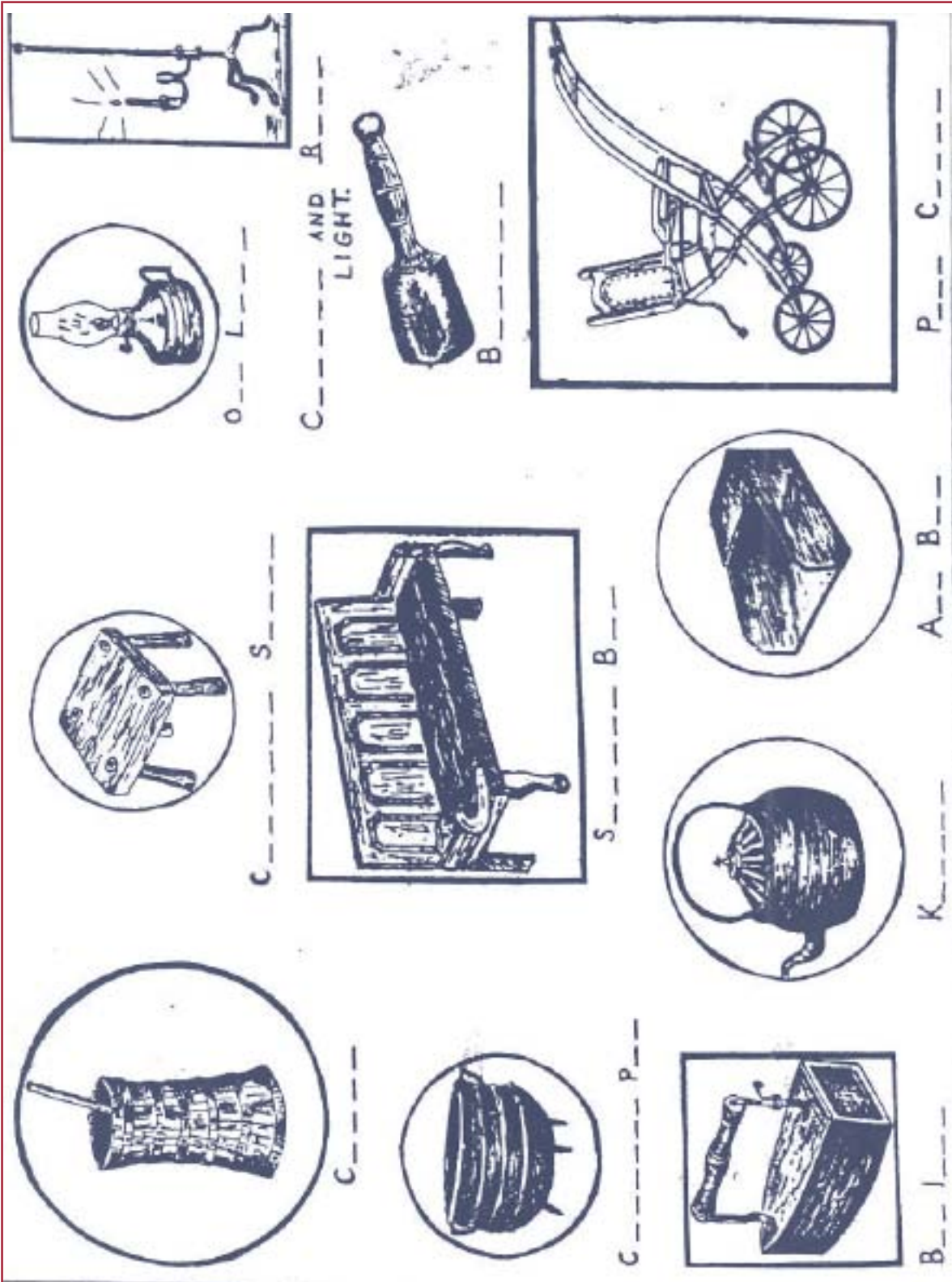


Above is one person's drawing of the hearth in the main room of the Arthur Cottage.

Why don't you do a drawing of one of the rooms or of a section of the cottage or one of the displays? You could take a number of photographs and make some preliminary sketches and then complete the drawing back at school.

Arthur cottage Artefacts

Can you name them?



county Antrim cart

Colour in traditional colours.
Use colouring pencils.

See the colour scheme at Arthur Cottage.

