

*The American connection*

# **UNIT 1**

## **ON EAGLE WING**



**TEACHER'S BOOK**



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## TEACHER NOTES

# Unit 1: On Eagle Wing

This unit of work on the emigrant ship The Eagle Wing gives pupils the opportunity to :

- Learn about the earliest emigrant passenger ship to leave Ulster
- Write a script for a radio play
- Research using the Internet
- Listen to a song from the show “On Eagle’s Wing” and have the chance to write their own song
- Discover some information about the Eagle Wing Festival in Groomsport, Co. Down
- Work in a group to plan their own Ulster/America festival or celebration
- Plan a visit by American students to Northern Ireland
- Design/storyboard a TV or radio advertisement/ a poster
- Take part in a role play
- Reflect on their own work and how to improve it

### KEY STAGE 3 CURRICULUM

The activities in this unit would fit into work on Citizenship and also into aspects of the General Learning Areas of The Arts, including Art and Design and Music; English including Media Education and Drama; Environment and Society including Geography and History.

The unit provides opportunities to teach, practise and assess some of the following skills and capabilities:

- Critical and Creative Thinking Skills—creativity; managing information; problem solving/decision making
- Personal and Interpersonal Skills—self management, working with others
- Communication
- ICT

## TEACHER NOTES

# Aim and Objectives of the NI Curriculum

### Aim

The Northern Ireland Curriculum aims to empower young people to achieve their potential and to make informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout life.

### Curriculum Objectives

The Northern Ireland Curriculum should provide learning opportunities for each young person to develop as:

1. An individual
2. A contributor to society; and
3. A contributor to the economy and the environment

On Eagle Wing provides opportunities for pupils to :

#### As an individual

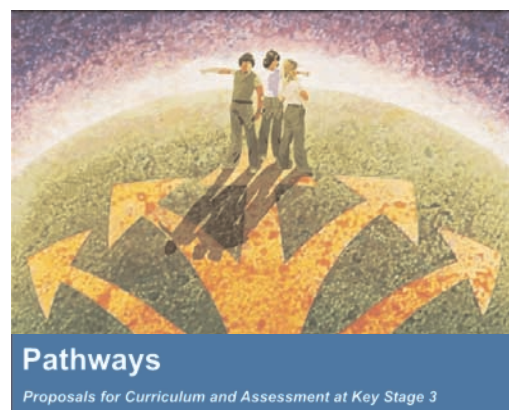
- Learn how to learn and be committed to learning (personal understanding)
- Be aware of their creative potential (personal understanding)
- Respect and cooperate with others (mutual understanding)
- Be reliable and committed to tasks (moral character)

#### As a contributor to society

- Recognise the interdependence of people (citizenship)
- Recognise the richness and diversity of cultural influences in contemporary society (cultural understanding)
- Be critically aware of the range of print sound, moving image and graphic media (media awareness)

### Learning Experiences

- Challenging and engaging
- Linked to other curriculum areas
- Media rich
- Skills integrated
- Active and hands on
- Offers choice
- Varied to suit learning styles





## TEACHER NOTES

# Unit 1: On Eagle Wing Background Notes

The first passenger ship to leave Ulster and head for North America was the Eagle Wing. It left Groomsport bound for Boston on 9th September 1636. On board were 140 Presbyterians - four ministers and 136 laity - from congregations in counties Down and Antrim seeking a new life in the New World.

Groomsport had a thriving Presbyterian congregation who, because of persecution, did not have the opportunity to practise their beliefs freely. The son of the Governor of Massachusetts invited them to come to the New World where they would have the freedom to worship as they wished and would not be persecuted for being Presbyterian.

Two ministers— Robert Blair and John Livingstone—commissioned the building of a ship which would be able to transport them and their flocks to America. The result was the Eagle Wing which was built in Groomsport with wood taken from the Dufferin Estates. The name, which was a popular one for ships at this time, was taken from a Bible verse: *'Ye have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagle's wings and brought you to myself.'* (Exodus chapter 19, verse 4)

The total cost of construction would probably have been in the region of £1000. Records show that the ship had a carrying capacity (burden) of 150 tons and was rigged with fore and main masts, a mizzen at the stern and a bowsprit. The sails would have been made of hand-sewn flax canvas and the rigging (probably about 8 tons of it!) would have consisted of around 350 hemp ropes. There would probably have been a crew of between 20 and 35 men.

When all was ready the ship set out on 9th September 1636. This was too late in the year to sail around the southern coast of Ireland so instead they sailed northwards. Blair records: *"When we had passed the back of Ireland and had entered the great ocean, O what mountains, not waves of sea did we meet. The swellings of the sea did rise higher than any mountains we had seen on earth, so that in the mid-day they hid the sun from our sight."*

When the ship reached mid way across the Atlantic it was caught up in a storm.

*"Heavy rain did break our rudder, much of our gallon-head and fore-cross-trees, tore our foresail, five or six of our champlets and a great beam under the gunner-room door broke. Seas came in and wet all them that were between decks."* Reverend John Livingstone

Although the passengers had completed almost 800 miles, about two thirds of their journey to America—something that they may not have realised— they decided to turn back rather than go on. One of the Presbyterian ministers on board – the Reverend John Livingstone – said that it was God's will that they should return. The ship's captain agreed with him so the ship was turned around and they headed back for Ireland. Perhaps it was just as well that they decided to turn back for reports say that when the Eagle Wing reached Carrickfergus Bay on the 3rd November 1636 the ship's sails were ripped into ribbons and the rudder had been badly damaged. Blair's young son, William, died on the night they returned.

Although the Eagle Wing never reached its destination and returned home to Ulster after two months at sea, it could be said to be the spark that lit the flame of emigration which was to be fanned into life over the next two centuries. Friends Goodwill sailed from Larne in 1727 and became the first recorded vessel from Ulster to reach North America heralding a beginning to the connection with America.

## Reading for Understanding Comprehension Answer Sheet



1. Groomspout
2. The son of the Governor of Massachusetts
3. Freedom to worship
4. 140 (136 laity + 4 ministers) plus the crew
5. Hand-sewn flax canvas
6. 9th September 1636
7. It was too late in the year to sail around the southern coast
8. They got more than half way across but there was a bad storm and they turned back.
9. Carrickfergus
10. His son, William, died the night they returned

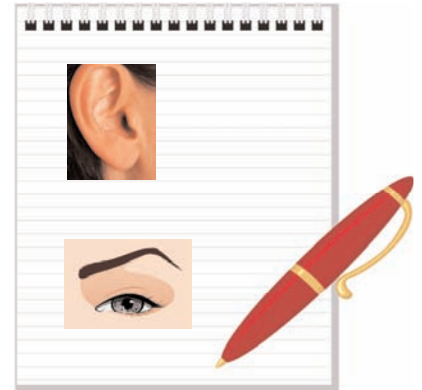
## Listening Comprehension Answer Sheet



- 1 1636
- 2 Boston
- 3 The son of the Governor of Massachusetts
- 4 John Livingstone
- 5 It probably came from the Dufferin Estates
- 6 It came from the Bible; Exodus chapter 19 verse 4; 'Ye have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagle's wings and brought you to myself'.
- 7 Hand-sewn flax canvas
- 8 They set out too late in the year to take the southern route/ because of the weather
- 9 Almost 800 miles / about two-thirds of the way across the Atlantic Ocean to America
- 10 Carrickfergus Bay
- 11 Two months
- 12 Friends Goodwill

# Eagle Wing cloze

Having read or heard the story of the ship *The Eagle Wing* and its passengers, fill in the blanks in the following passage:



The Eagle Wing was the first passenger ship to

leave Ulster for North America. It set sail from Groomsport

on the 9th September 1636. They were sailing to Boston.

The two men who led the journey were Robert Blair

and John Livingstone. They were both Presbyterian

Ministers.

Because they set out too late in the year to sail around the southern coast of Ireland

they had to sail northwards. Soon they were hit by a storm.

Although they had travelled almost almost two thirds of the way to America

they turned back. They reached Carrickfergus on

3rd November 1636 with their sails ripped to pieces.












# Sequencing Exercise



Below you will find statements about the Eagle Wing. They are all jumbled up. Cut out the sentences and then rearrange them to tell the story.

*There are a number of alternative ways of sequencing the events. This should generate discussion and require the pupils to develop arguments/reasons for their choice of sequence*

-  The ship was tossed about in a violent storm. **6/7**
-  Blair's son, William died. **8/9**
-  The son of the Governor of Boston invited Presbyterians from Ulster to come to settle in America. **1/2**
-  140 members of the ministers' congregations embarked on the ship. **4**
-  They returned to Carrickfergus Bay. **8/9**
-  Robert Blair and John Livingstone commissioned a ship to take their congregations to America. **1/2**
-  Eagle Wing set sail late in the year. **5**
-  They named the ship after a Bible verse which was a very popular thing to do at that time. **3**
-  They travelled about 800 miles. **6/7**

# Finding out Exercise



## Answers

1. John Anderson
2. Pupils will probably mention bagpipes or fiddles
3. 18
4. Epic means larger-than-life; on a grand scale; impressive; ambitious; there are elements of the heroic in it. We might use the word 'blockbuster' if referring to a film.
5. Either Peter Corry or Alyth McCormack.
6. The Odyssey
7. Do You Know Who You Are? / Can We Find A Better Place? / Is This Our Time?
8. 'Piobaireachd' means pipe playing
9. 1905
10. Robert Watt



**ASSESSMENT  
GRIDS FOR  
ORAL TASKS  
WHEN  
AVAILABLE  
FROM CCEA**

**PLAN A  
FESTIVAL**

*Letter*

**LETTER TO  
AMERICAN  
GROUP**



# How I Like To Learn.....

1. Look in row A 'Things to Learn' and then decide which way (A, B, or C) you would prefer to learn and tick this box
2. Now count up how many V's, A's and K's you have and this will show your preferred learning style

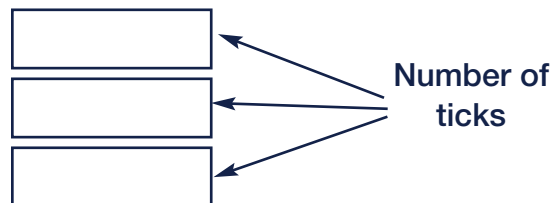
Things To Learn	A		B		C	
How the First World War started	Watch a DVD	V	Listen to the teacher	A	Sequence the main events explain it	K
Remember dates in History	Write them down and repeat to yourself	A	Imagine the shape the numbers make	V	Work out a game to help you remember	K
Learn how an engine works	Take it apart	K	Look at the diagram of the engine	V	Listen to someone explaining	A
Learn a new ball skill	Watch a demonstration	V	Repeat what the PE teacher tells you	A	Try It yourself	K
Learn to count 1-10 in Italian	Sing the numbers	A	Look at flashcards	V	Play a game of bingo	K
Learn a story	Tell someone else the story	A	Storyboard the story	V	Imagine the story in your mind	K
Learn maths tables	Write them down, cover them over and try to remember	V	Repeat them out loud	A	Use your fingers to count	K
To play a new computer game	Listen to your friend explain how to do it	A	Teach someone else to play it	K	Watch someone else play it first	V
Learn spellings	Write them down	K	Imagine what they look like	V	Spell them out loud	A
Learn how to bake a cake	Read the recipe	V	Listen to a tape	A	Try it out	K
Learn how the heart works	Listen to the doctor explain	A	Make a model	K	Look at a diagram in a book	V

## RESULTS

**V** means you are a visual learner

**A** is for Auditory Learners

**K** means you are a Kinaesthetic learner



Most people have a combination of ways they like to learn but usually there is one preferred way. Which one did you score most of?