



lingoda

The Giant's Causeway

SPEAKING

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_3046S_EN

LANGUAGE
English






Goals

- Can read and understand a challenging text about the Giant's Causeway.
- Can explain the myth of Giant's Causeway and discuss the issue of preserving heritage sites in depth.





The Giant's Causeway is one of Northern Ireland's most popular tourist attractions. This geographical wonder draws thousands of visitors every year. However, do you know how this magical place got its name? In this lesson you'll discover the myth that **lies behind** the Giant's Causeway.



The United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland

The United Kingdom is made up of four countries: England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. To the south of Northern Ireland lies another country, the Republic of Ireland. Have you ever visited any of these countries? What do you know about them? Where would you like to visit there, and why?



language

people

landscape

culture

weather

food and drink



Fairytales, myths and legends

Are you a fan of fairytales, myths and legends? Can you tell your teacher the stories behind the cards below? Did you have a favourite fairytale, myth or legend when you were a child?

Snow White and
the Seven
Dwarves

King Arthur

The Loch Ness
Monster

Cinderella



Stories through the ages

Can you think of any myths or legends from your home country? Or stories that have been passed down your own family?





The Giant's Causeway



The Giant's Causeway is a geographical wonder located just off the northern **tip** of Northern Ireland. This large area of interlocking **basalt** columns was formed over 50 million years ago as the result of a volcano eruption. Although it's a protected space and has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, visitors to the area are still permitted to climb over the columns to stand at the sea's edge and gaze across the water towards the shores of Scotland.



The Giant's Causeway

Legend has it that the Giant's Causeway was actually formed not by an ancient volcano, but rather by the Irish giant, Fionn mac Cumhaill (pronounced Fyunn mac Coo-ill). They are several different versions of the myth, but most tell of a **heated** argument between Fionn and the Scottish giant Benandonner.





The Giant's Causeway

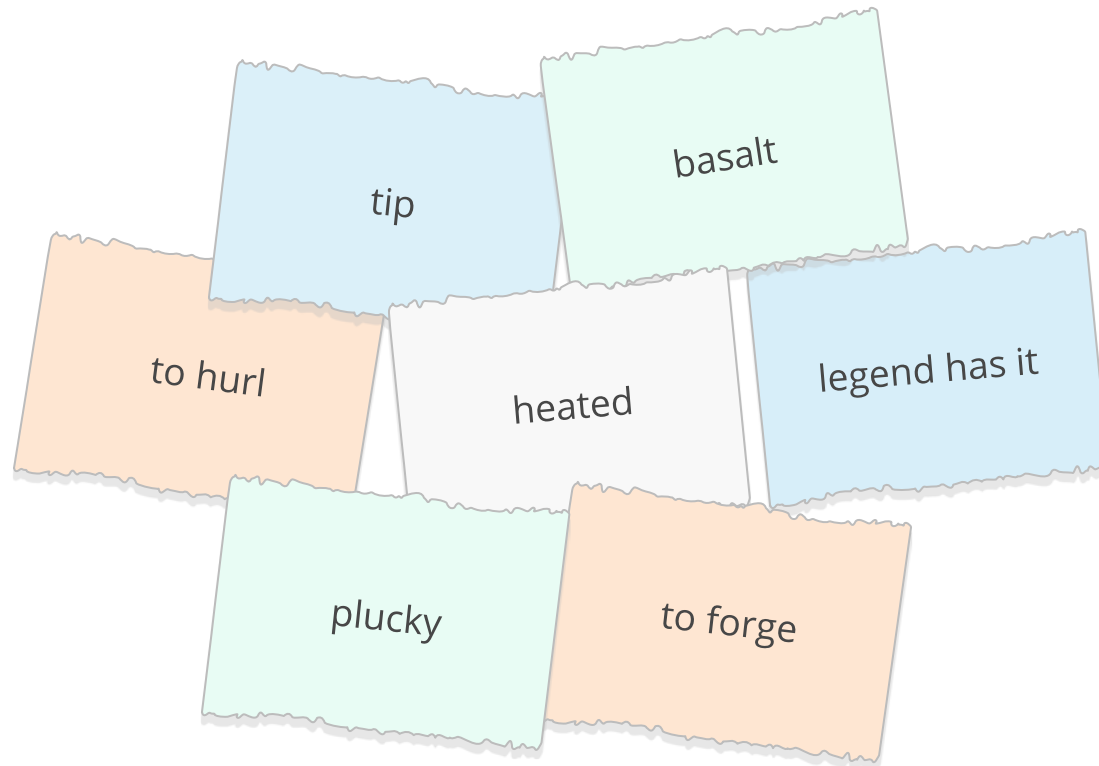
Benandonner was threatening to invade Ireland, shouting insults across the sea. In reaction to this, the furious Fionn grabbed pieces of Irish land and **hurled** them into the water in an attempt to **forge** a path between the two countries. This path was so that Fionn could rush across to Scotland and defend Ireland from Benandonner's planned assault. However, the **plucky** Fionn encountered rather a large problem when he caught a glimpse of Benandonner, as it turned out the Scottish giant was, quite simply, enormous.





Vocabulary review

Look at the words and phrases from the text on the cards below. Categorise them into verbs, adjectives, phrases, and nouns. Can you think of a synonym for each one, or a short definition?





Protected spaces

Look at the quote below, which is taken from the text. Can you think of any problems that might arise from visitors being allowed to clamber over the stones, especially given that the Giant's Causeway is a protected geographical space? If you were a visitor to the site, what advantages would this up close and personal experience offer you?

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Although it's a protected space, and has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, visitors to the area are still able to climb over the columns to stand at the sea's edge and gaze across the water towards the shores of Scotland.

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Do humans have a duty to protect areas of great geographical beauty? Why (not)? If yes, how should this be done?



The Grand Canyon



The Giant's Causeway



Get ready to listen



The next few slides will focus on training your listening comprehension



Listening activity

As you listen to your teacher read, note down answers to the following questions.

1. Summarise in your own words what happened when Fionn saw the size of his Scottish opponent.
2. What did Oonagh do? Why did she wrap Fionn in a shawl?
3. What happened to the path Fionn had built between the two countries?
4. Where can you see the other side of the Causeway?
5. What will geologists tell you about the Causeway?



Vocabulary review

All of the vocabulary below can be used to describe a person's movement or a person's appearance. Discuss the meanings with your teacher and come up with your own short story including at least 4 of the words.





Read the dialogue: Oonagh visits her mum



Oonagh, hello, come in out of the cold!

Oh Oonagh, is everything alright? ...Do I see a twinkle in your eye?

Well come on then and don't leave me wondering!

Hi Mum, sorry I didn't call by yesterday like I promised. I ended up a bit tied up with something -- but have I got a story for you! You'll never guess what Fionn got up to yesterday!

Don't worry Mum - everything's okay now, thankfully -- but just wait till you hear this!



Continue the dialogue

In the dialogue on the previous slide, Oonagh has paid her mum a visit and is going to tell her the story of Fionn and Benandoor. Play the role of Oonagh and tell the story from her perspective! Remember to include the things mentioned on the cards below.

What happened

How you felt

Fionn's reaction,
before and after

What Benandoor
was like



Telling a good story

What do you think are the key elements of a good story? Why is storytelling so important in human culture?





Now you're the storyteller!

Myths and legends often came from the need to explain what was, at the time, unexplainable. Have you heard any myths and legends which explain the curiosities on the cards below? Imagine you are babysitting a curious young family member - answer their questions with your own stories, or ones you have already heard!



How did the stars get into the sky?

Why do birds sing?

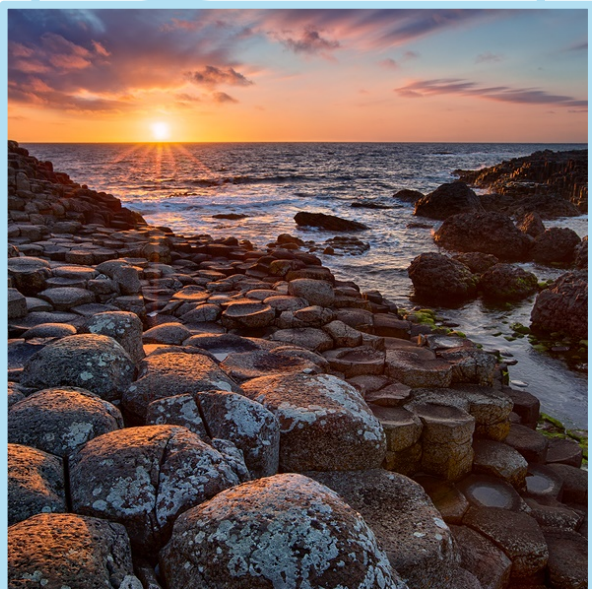


Why does a giraffe have such a long neck?

Why does the earth spin around its axis?



The natural beauty of the world



Would you like to visit the Giant's Causeway? What's the most beautiful natural place you have visited? Tell your teacher about it!



Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!

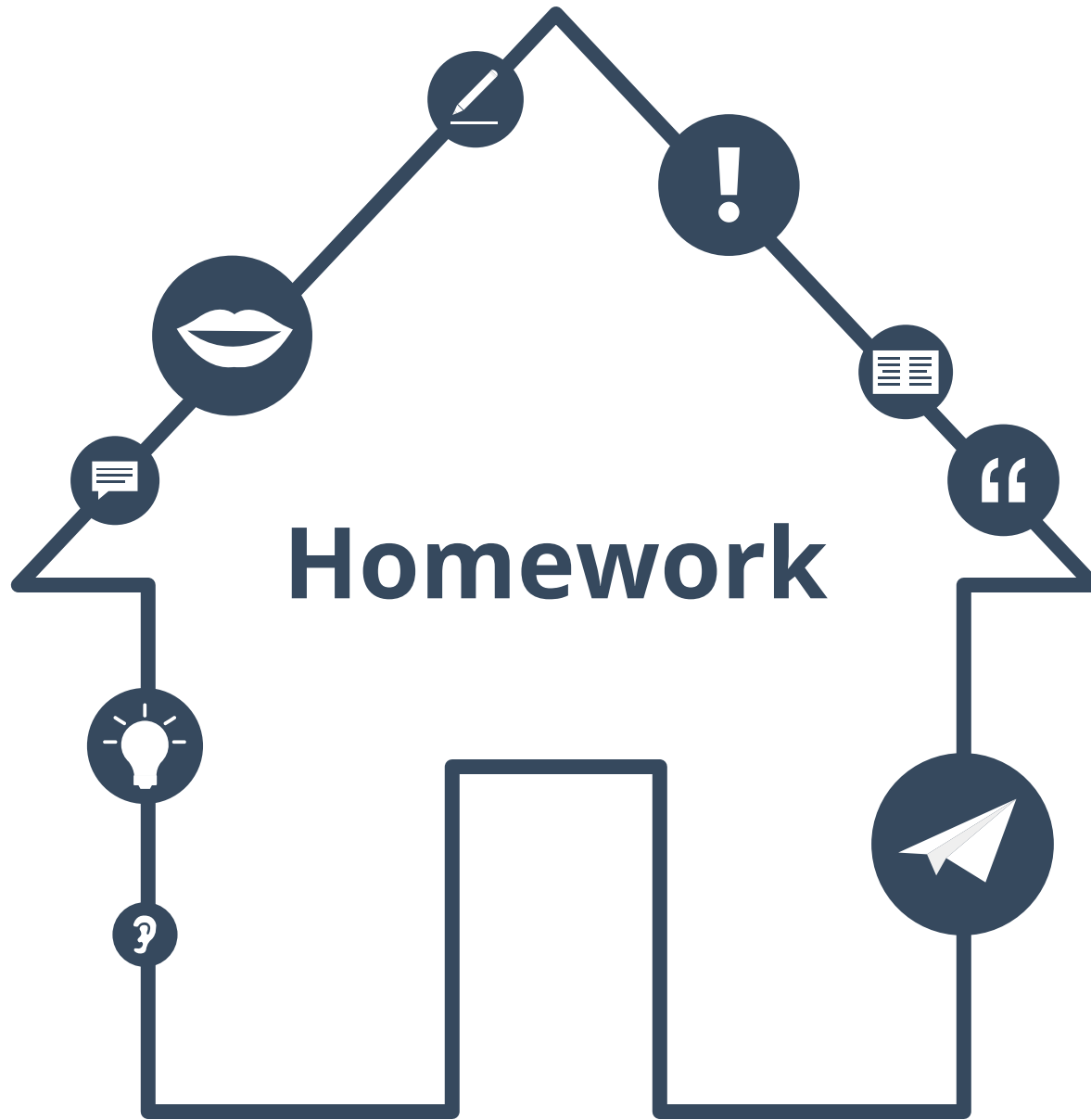




Transcription

In this version of the legend it's actually Fionn's wife, Oonagh (pronounced Oonah), who saved the day. After **spying** the monstrous Scot, Fionn **darted** back over the stone path to Ireland but, unfortunately, with Benandonner, having had already heard of his plans, in **hot pursuit**. Luckily, Fionn's quick-thinking wife came up with a **cunning** plan. She dressed Fionn in a baby's shawl and urged him not to **utter** a word. When Benandonner arrived on Irish land he knocked at Fionn's door and asked of his whereabouts. Oonagh told the giant that Fionn was out herding cattle, and that it was only herself and their baby at home for the time being. When Benandonner saw the size of the baby in the cot he became **alarmed**. If the baby was so big already, how huge must its father be? The Scottish giant beat a hasty retreat across the sea, and thanks to Oonagh's quick thinking Fionn was safe.

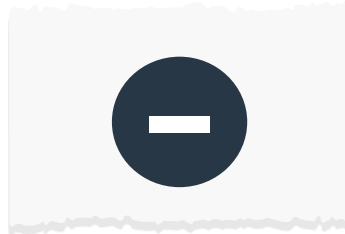
According to the story, neither giant was keen for a second encounter, so they tore up the path across the sea leaving just a **ragged** trace of the causeway on the shore at either side. You can see the Scottish part of the causeway on the Scottish island of Staffa, which takes its name from the Old Norse for stave or pillar island. Geologists will tell you that this too is a result of ancient volcanic formations, but it's up to you whether you choose to believe them or the ancient legend!





Reflect on the lesson

How did you find this class? Which parts did you find most challenging? Which parts did you find easiest? Reflect on your strengths and weaknesses.

A vertical sheet of white paper with a spiral binding on the left side and horizontal lines for writing, intended for taking notes or reflecting on the lesson.

