



Rathcroghan

The Heart of Ancient Connacht

www.rathcroghan.ie

Rathcroghan is an archaeological landscape located in County Roscommon. Rathcroghan is not just one site but a collection of mounds, fortifications and burial sites. It is the ancient capital of the province of Connacht and is seen as an ancient royal site that played an important role in Irish history and Irish mythology. People gathered at Rathcroghan to celebrate different occasions, festivals, rituals and kingship ceremonies. A great temple once stood on top of Rathcroghan mound.



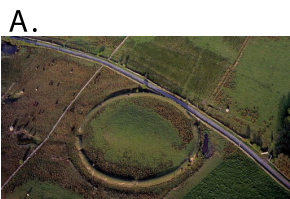
There are over 260 monuments in the Rathcroghan landscape with lots of hidden histories to discover!

Activity: Archaeology at Rathcroghan

Use the code below to discover the archaeological monuments at Rathcroghan

Fill out the Grid Below to identify the individuals associated with Co. Roscommon

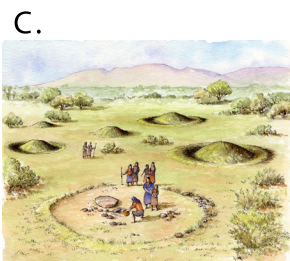
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
2	14	26	15	12	24	18	3	22	10	11	20	4	8	1	13	17	9	7	19	5	23	25	6	16	21



9 22 8 18 24 1 9 19

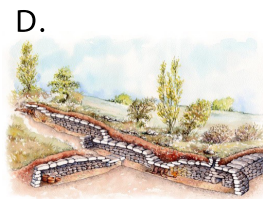


19 12 4 13 20 12



14 2 9 9 1 25

14 5 9 22 2 20



7 1 5 19 12 9 9 2 22 8



7 19 2 8 15 22 8 18

7 19 1 8 12



7 19 1 8 12

24 1 9 19



Rathcroghan

Ancient Irish Tales

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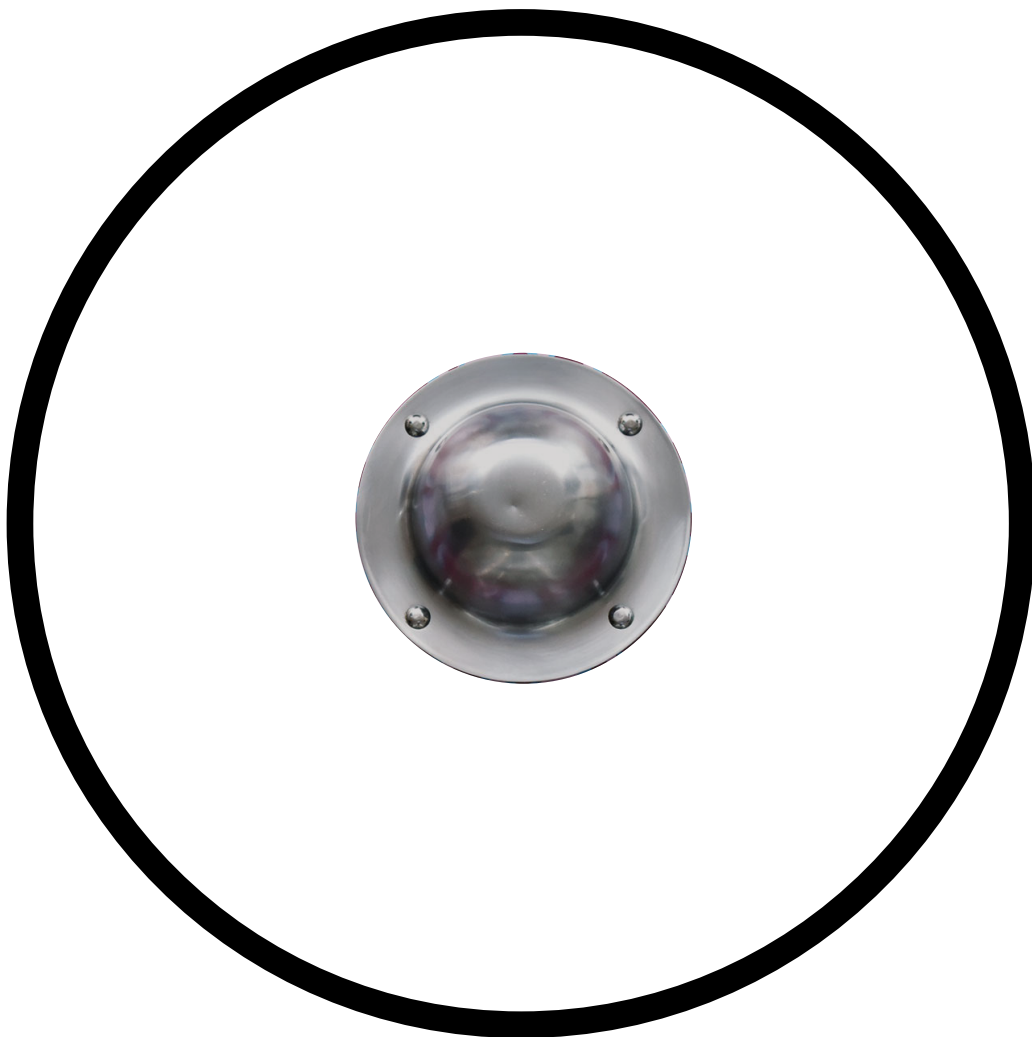
Mythology

There are a lot of old Irish stories connected to Rathcroghan. Stories like the Táin Bó Cuailnge (The Cattle Raid of Cooley) and The Adventures of Nera.

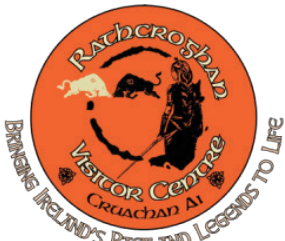
Rathcroghan Mound is regarded in these stories as Queen Maeve's palace. Queen Maeve led a great army from Rathcroghan Mound to Cooley in Co. Louth to steal a giant bull, the Donn Cuailnge (Brown Bull of Cooley).

Activity: Archaeology at Rathcroghan

Using the template design a shield you would take along to help Queen Maeve



Maeve was spelt Medb in Old Irish. It can be spelt lots of ways such as Maebh, Meadhbh, Maev. Ask around your school for different spellings of Irish names.



Rathcroghan

Oweynagat

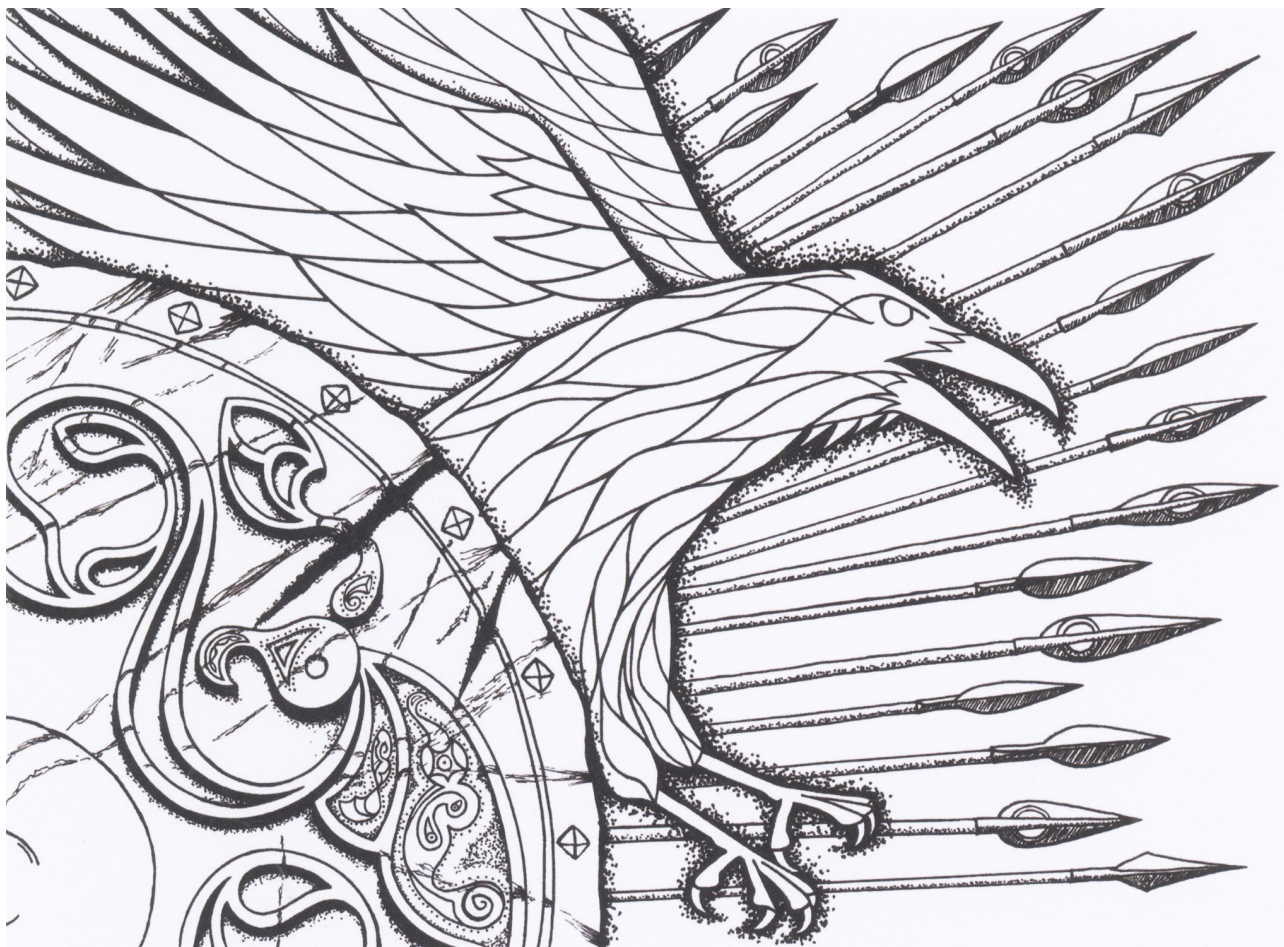
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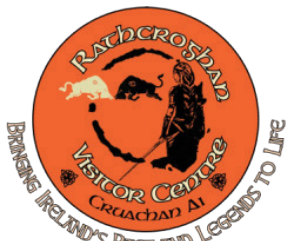
There is a special cave in the Rathcroghan landscape called Oweynagat, the Cave of the Cats. It is said that ferocious cats came out of this cave. It is regarded as a magical cave that people long ago thought was a doorway to the Otherworld. The Otherworld was a place where both good and bad spirits lived and magical creatures too.

The Irish Battle Goddess, The Mórrígan is said to live in Oweynagat, and warriors would be sent in to face her. The Mórrígan was known to shape shift, sometimes appearing as a woman, sometimes appearing as a raven. She could also see the future, give advice and warnings.

Activity: The Mórrígan

Colour in the picture below using your favourite colours



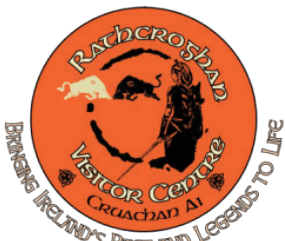


Rathcroghan Maze

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There are lots of stories that mention Oweynagat as the place where Halloween began.



Rathcroghan

Early Writing

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Our earliest form of writing in Ireland is Ogham. It is based on the Latin alphabet, and included twenty letters represented by strokes at different angles to a vertical line, written from the bottom up. A number of Ogham inscriptions survive on standing stones, identifying a location or a person. Six of these are located within reach of the Rathcroghan landscape.



A man made tunnel called a souterrain leads into the cave. This souterrain contains two Ogham inscriptions.

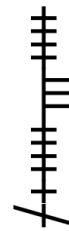
Activity: Ogham Alphabet

Using the Ogham alphabet below, draw your name on the Ogham Stone



Here is an example:

Maeve =



E
V/F
E
A
M

Ogham Letters

┠	B		†	A
┣	L		‡	O
┣	F/V	†	‡	U
┣	S	‡	‡	E
┣	N	‡	‡	I
┠	H	‡	┠	A
┣	D	‡	┠	O
┣	T	‡	┣	U
┣	C		┣	E
┣	Q		┣	I

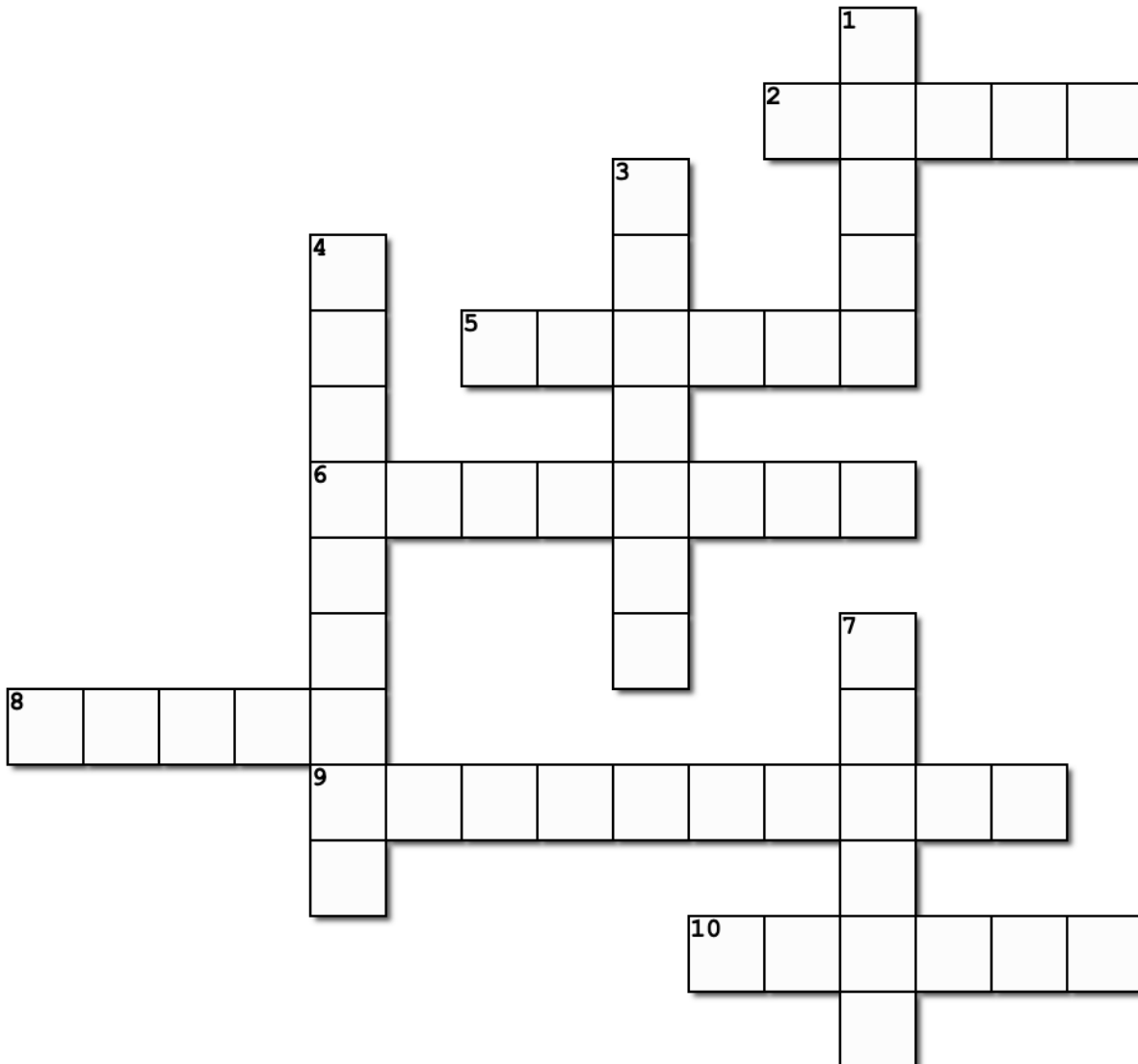
Remember to start from the bottom and write your name upwards on the line.



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Rathcroghan

CROSSWORD

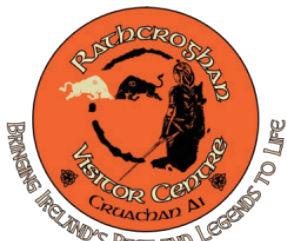


ACROSS:

2. What creature can The Morrígan change into?
5. What type of monument once stood on top of Rathcroghan mound?
6. What province is Rathcroghan regarded the capital of?
8. What is the name of the early writing found at Oweynagat?
9. Where did people believe Oweynagat led to?
10. Where did Meave lead her army to?

DOWN:

1. Name the famous queen connected to Rathcroghan?
3. What famous Irish festival is linked to Rathcroghan?
4. What county is the ancient royal site of Rathcroghan located in?
7. What type of burial tomb is found on the Rathcroghan landscape?



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Rathcroghan Wordsearch

Activity: Wordsearch

Our wordsearch contains some of the names of the monuments at Rathcroghan and associated characters.

D O N N C U A I L N G E S T M
D N W F I N N B E N N A C H E
A T Y Q R A T H M O R E V R D
I X J P M U C K L A G H S M B
T N R L N X D Q B X N A L Z J
H C A S H E L M A N A N N A N
í H T C S U U D F J J E U N C
S R H M A R E L I G N A R E E
M A N D Z R D S C A J V N R B
O T A M L A A F V E Z A K A D
U H D S E E M N O W U K P I V
N B A F Z K B W F Y X D Y Z A
D E R I V W A Y L O S G T T I
J G V L Z F M N H L R C L D Z
Q O E P G R M Z N L E T W G T

Rathmore
Rathnadarve
Rathbeg
Cashelmanannan
Relignaree

Caran Fort
Daithís Mound
Mucklaghs
Medb
Nera

Finnbennach
Donn Cuailnge