

A History of Gaelic Games in Ulster

KEY STAGE2 WORKPACK

Compiled by
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cumann lúth cleas saeideal.
Comhaille Ulao.

ULSTER SENIOR AND MINOR FOOTBALL
CHAMPIONSHIPS

FINALS
At CLONES
SUNDAY, 23rd JULY, 1950.

MINOR FOOTBALL:
Armagh v Antrim
At 2.30 p.m. Referee: T. J. O'Reilly, Cavan.

SENIOR FOOTBALL:
Cavan v Armagh
At 4 p.m. Referee: A. McAnille, Louth.

Official Programme, 3d

C. Murray, Printer, Clonsilla.



CARDINAL O'FAICH
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The Origin of Gaelic Games

Gaelic games have been played in Ireland for centuries and today the Gaelic Athletic Association or GAA is the largest sporting and cultural organisation on the island. It was not until the GAA was established, in 1884, that games such as hurling and gaelic football began to be played using teams and rules as we know them today. For hundreds of years before this, however, these games were played right across Ireland. The GAA was originally set up to ensure that these traditional, native games would not die out as other pastimes and sports like soccer, cricket or rugby became more popular in Ireland.



Although hurling and football are the most popular gaelic games, the GAA also covers the games of camogie, handball and rounders. In the beginning the GAA also set the rules and held competitions in Ireland for athletics. In Ulster about three hundred thousand men, women and children belong to one of almost 600 GAA clubs.

Hurling is one of the oldest and fastest team sports in the world. It has been recorded as being played in Ireland in stories that were first written down 1,500 years ago and which were probably pass on from generation to generation for centuries before that. The most famous character from those early stories was a boy called Setanta. He was extremely brave and was often found in the middle of great games of hurling where he would take on fifty or sixty other boys by himself. The modern game of hurling is played only by men and boys but in the last century a female style of the game was created which is called camogie. In 1974 a ladies gaelic football association was set up and today ladies football is one of the county's most popular games.

The success of county teams like Armagh, Derry and Tyrone in all-Ireland competitions in recent years has led to Gaelic games becoming very popular right across Ulster. The All Ireland finals and many other big games can attract crowds much larger than those found at Premiership soccer matches in England, Italy or Spain. It is also very common to see young boys and girls playing both on and off the field wearing their club or county shirts. At the same time the games are becoming more popular in other countries and are played in places as far apart as Hong Kong, Holland and the USA.



The G.A.A.



[Established over a Century.]

THE COMMERCIAL AND FAMILY HOTEL,
AND POSTING ESTABLISHMENT,
THURLES.
LIZZIE J. HAYES, Proprietress.

Across the world, at the end of the 1800s sport of all kinds was beginning to enjoy a new popularity. In Europe and America sports such as baseball and soccer were creating their own ruling bodies. Athletics too was being organised for competition. The modern Olympics were to come into existence by the early 1900s. It was within this new sporting world that traditional Gaelic pastimes began to be recognised more widely.

Participation in sport, especially athletics in Ireland was largely confined to the wealthier classes and the ruling bodies tended to be based in Britain or be ruled by their English equivalent. Some people felt that this discouraged Irish people from either taking part in sports or playing traditionally Irish games such as hurling.

In November 1884 a small group of men met in a hotel billiards room in Thurles, Co. Tipperary to set up a new sporting organisation for Ireland. This was to become known as the Gaelic Athletic Association and is today the largest sports association on the island with clubs in almost every town and village.

Some of those who attended that first meeting were themselves very successful athletes. The man who is generally given the credit for coming up with the idea was Michael Cusack (right). He was joined by Maurice Davin (below) who was well known across the world in the 1870s as an athlete. He became the GAA's first president.



The GAA was an almost immediate success with clubs being set up across the south and east of the country and then steadily in the west and north also. The first club to be set up in Ulster is thought to have been in Ballyconnell in Co. Cavan. However, clubs were also soon to appear in almost every county as the GAA spread, in Michael Cusack's words, like a 'prairie fire'. The first All-Ireland championships were held in 1887 when clubs represented their counties Limerick won the first football championship and Tipperary won the hurling. The All-Ireland finals were first played at Jones' Road in Dublin in 1895. This venue was later to become known as Croke Park. Since 1913 the football final has always been played there apart from 1947 when it was held in New York. The hurling final has also been held at Croke park since then apart from 1984 when it was held in Thurles to celebrate the GAA 100th year.

The Ulster Counties

There are 9 counties in Ulster.

Antrim

Armagh

Cavan

Derry

Donegal

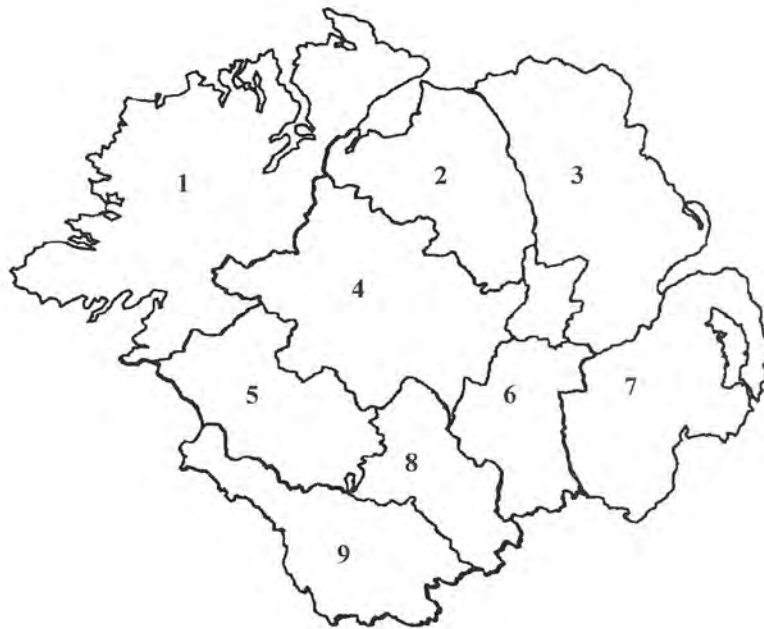
Down

Fermanagh

Monaghan

Tyrone

Can you identify each of the counties on the map below?



Which county do you follow?

Can you draw the county colours and crest?

Colours

--	--

Crest

--

Change Over Time

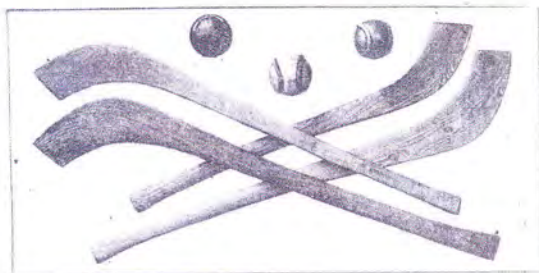


12th Century gravestone



19th Century Hurling Team

C	Hurling Balls.	Hurling Sticks.
	Best Regulation Match 20 Ordinary Match - 16 Practice Ball - 1 Youths' Size - 6d. & 9d.	Finest Selected - 29 Best Match - 26 Match - 2 Youths' - 13 & 16 Children's - 6d. & 9d.



Early 20th Century Advertisement

D



Ulster Championship Programme

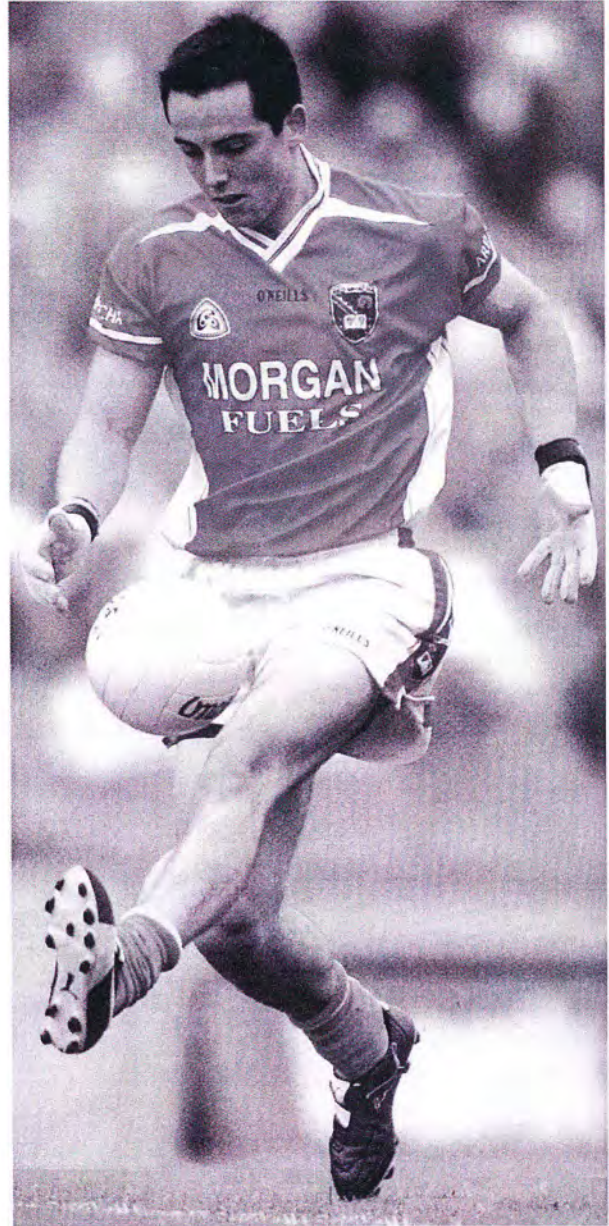
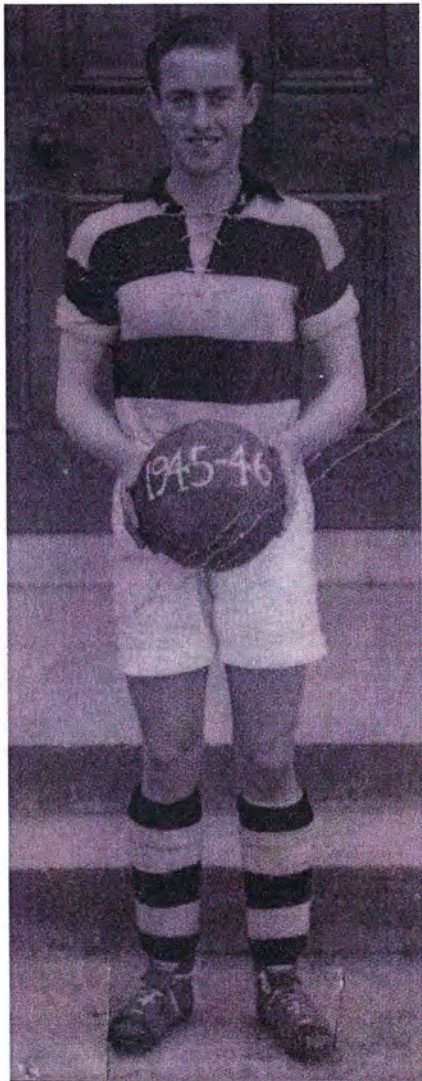
Exercise:

Take a close look at the four pictures above. What do you notice about the *caman* or hurl that is shown in each picture. What does this tell us about the game and how it was played over the years?

Discuss this with your classmates and try to find out more about the history of hurling. Look in the library for a book or visit the GAA web site www.gaa.ie.

Playing Gear

Take a close look at these three pictures of Gaelic footballers. Discuss the things which are the same and those which are different with your classmates.



Exercise:

Think about the changes that might have happened since Owen McMahon played in the 1880s, Iggy Jones in the 1940s. Is the game that Arron Kernan plays today very different from that played by the two earlier footballers. How do you think the game, ball, boots and playing gear have developed and why do you think this is?

True Colours

Exercise:

Using the information in this workbook, and that which you can gather from the library and internet, explore how the shirts that players have wore over the last 125 years have changed.

What can we learn about the material they were made from?

What else has changed about the shirts?

Can you draw a shirt from three different periods?

A. 1880s

B. 1940s

C. 2000s

Find out which of these materials might have been used for playing shirts and which are natural or man made.

Cotton Linen Nylon

Polyester Silk Wool

What do you think are the qualities that a good football shirt should have?

Think of 3 qualities and discuss these with your classmates.

Find out where jerseys are made.

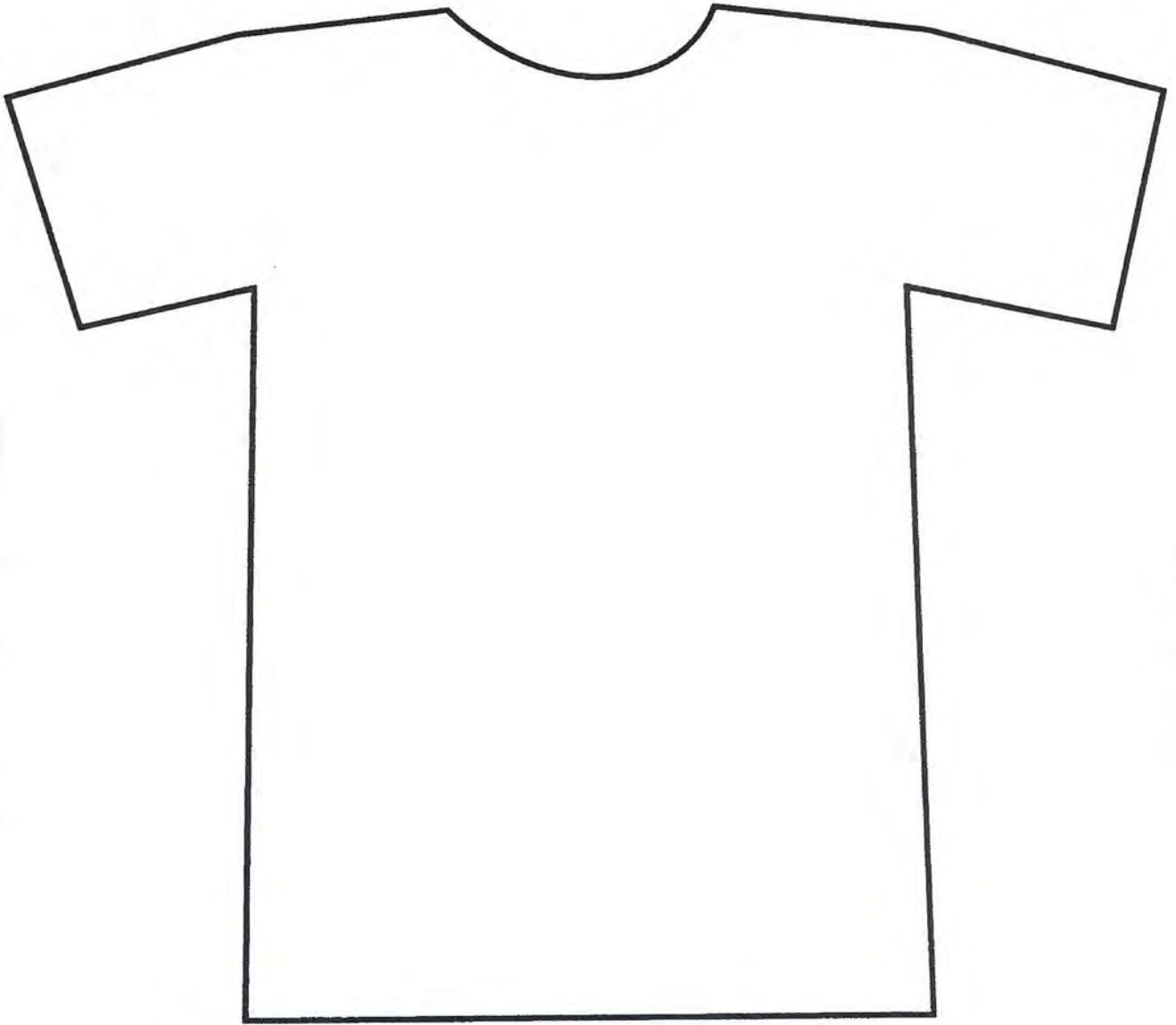
Do you think they are good fashion items?

Are they too expensive?

Do they change style too often?

Discuss this with the class.

Design your own Jersey



Exercise:

Design a jersey for your school or local club. You can even make up a club of your own.

What are the most important things to think about when designing your jersey?

The Championship

Each year, teams representing the different counties in Ulster compete in the Ulster Championship hoping to lift the Anglo-Celt cup for football or the Liam Harvey Cup for hurling. The Ulster championship forms part of the All Ireland championship in which the teams compete for the Sam Maguire and Liam McCarthy cups at Croke Park in the finals each September. Pick an county and make your way to the grounds below. How would you get there and how many different counties do you travel through on your championship run?



Preliminary Round: Play Antrim at Casement Park in Belfast.

Quarter Final: Play Donegal at McCumhaill Park in Ballybofey.

Semi Final: Play Armagh at Healy Park in Omagh.

Final: Play Tyrone at St. Tiernach's Park in Clones.

You have won the Ulster Championship where will you play your next game and how will you get there?

The All Ireland

County teams compete in the Provincial and All Ireland Championships each year. There are four Provinces in Ireland, Ulster, Leinster, Connaught and Munster. Find out which counties belong in which province and use a different colour to shade each province on the map.



Exercise:

Find out if any teams from outside of Ireland play in these championships. Have they ever won?


All Ireland finals are normally held in Croke Park, Dublin each September. Find out if this was always the case.


Take your points

Since the GAA was first established in 1884 there have been a number of different scoring systems used in games of Football and Hurling. Originally a goal was enough to win a game no matter how many point the opposing team scored. Later a goal was given a fixed value of five points and since the 1890s a goal has been worth three points.

Today a point is signalled using a white flag and goal by raising a green one.

Look at the scores below and underline the one which has won. Remember goals are worth 3 points.

 = 1 goal

 = 1 point



or **1-05**



or



or



or **2-03**



or **2-01**

0-08

or



Where in the World?

Over the years Gaelic games have been taken to all parts of the world by Irish people who have moved there. In many countries Gaelic football and hurling clubs have been established. Take a look at the badges below and try to identify what part of the world they come from.

Discussion:

Why do you think people would have left Ireland to live in another part of the world?

Do you know of anyone who has moved to a new country to live? Has anyone in your class move to Ireland from another country?

Have they brought anything from their own country with them?



Word Search

Below are some words that you will have come across in the learning about the history of Gaelic games. See if you can find them in below. Remember they can be read normally, backwards, up or down and even diagonally.

Gaelic Football Hurling Goal Point Sport

County Club Province Caman Pitch

Cusack Croke Posts All-Ireland Handball

Boots Jersey Socks Team Player

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