



# Let's get started!

You and your teacher or family can have fun with this colouring and activity book. You will learn about Cork harbour and its wonderful history on the following pages.

The illustrations are shown both in colour and black and white. You can colour the black and white pages to match the colour images or you can do your own masterpiece. You can print off as many pages as you like and don't forget to ask questions.

## Contents

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**Fear Neoiliteach (5000 Bliain ó shin):** Mhair na chéad daoine a lonnigh sa chuan trí dulag fiach, ag iascach, ag bailiú sliogiasc, cnónna agus caora.

**Neolithic man (5000 years ago)** The first people to settle in the harbour lived by hunting, fishing, collecting shellfish and gathering nuts and berries.



Key notes on illustration.  
The main focus of this drawing is the Rostellan Portal Tomb. Of interest, this portal tomb is inter-tidal now (at high tide it is semi-submerged) and therefore indicates that sea level has risen in Cork Harbour.

Also, note that the early settlers would have made use of the large oyster beds that were then available in the harbour (sadly they are all gone now). We know that early settlers use to eat oysters in the harbour because there are many shell middens found throughout the harbour today (a shell midden is an archaeological term for large 'fossil' pile of oyster shells).

The area would have been extensively forested back then.

**Neolithic man (5000 years ago)**





Neolithic man (5000 years ago)



**An Luath Mheánaois (500-1000 Bliain ó shin):** Tógadh dúnta (áitribh fheirme) ar fud Chuan Chorcaí agus bhunaigh Naomh Mochuda mainistir bheag ar Inis Píc (AD 635)

**Early medieval period (500-1000 years ago):** Ringforts (farmsteads) were constructed throughout Cork Harbour, and St Mochuda established a small monastery on Spike Island (AD 635).

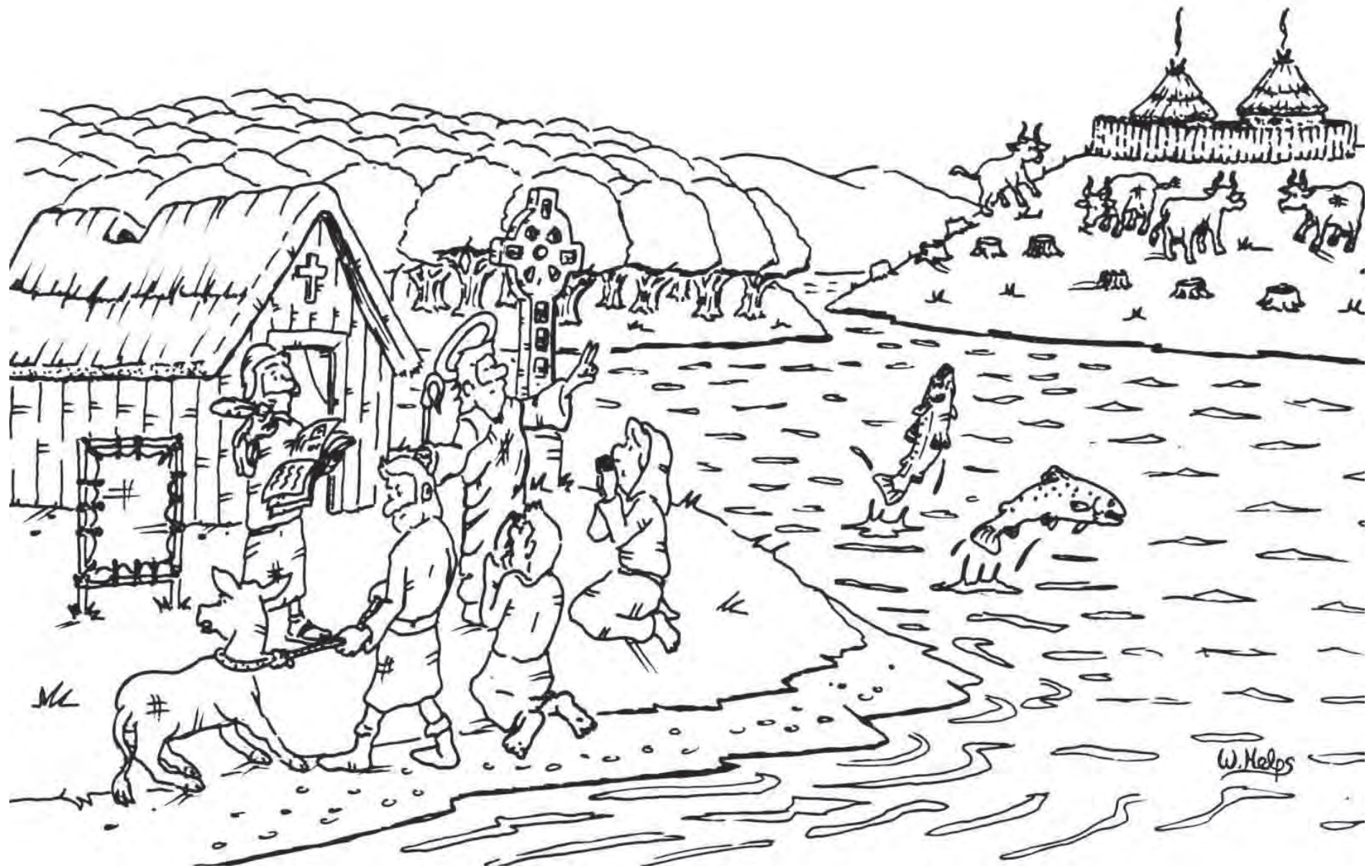


**Early medieval period (500 - 1000 years ago)**

“There is some evidence that a monastery was founded on Spike Island (Inis Píc) in the 7th Century. The well known Munster Saint, St. Mochuda or St. Carthage, is said to have founded a monastery here in AD 635. St. Mochuda miraculously cured Cathal, King of Kerrycurrihy (now Crosshaven area), of deafness, blindness and lameness and in gratitude Cathal gave extensive lands to God and Mochuda forever” (text from [spikeislandcork.ie](http://spikeislandcork.ie)) but see Dr Martin’s book for more details.

William has illustrated salmon in the drawing too as the salmon migration in the river would be well known. Also, note that at the same time of the ecclesial settlement on Spike, there was also evidence of Ringforts around Cork Harbour. Ringforts were the farmsteads of early Ireland and were usually constructed at near the top of a hill. At this stage cows were the local currency (there were no coins) and so were regularly traded for goods. Calf skin was also used to make manuscripts (vellum) – hence in the drawing we have a calf being dragged past vellum! Note that surrounding the ringfort there are no trees – they have been felled to make way for arable land. Dairy farming was really important.





Early medieval period (500 - 1000 years ago)





### **Teacht na Lochlannach (914 AD.):**

Thug creachadóirí  
Lochlannacha foghail faoi  
Chorcaigh agus faoi shéipéal  
agus lonnachtaí pobail  
i gCiarraí Cuirche  
(Carraig Uí Leighin  
agus Bun an Tábhairne anois).  
Deirtear gur ionsaigh siad an  
mainistir ar Inis Píc freisin.

### **Arrival of the Vikings (914 AD.):**

Viking raiders plundered Cork  
and the church and community  
settlements in Kerrycurrihy  
(now Carrigaline and  
Crosshaven). They are also  
reported to have attacked the  
monastery on Spike Island.



Arrival of the Vikings (914 AD.)





**Nascadh na bPobal (1114 AD):** Nascann ceannaithe Lochlannacha le pobal Chorcaí agus iad ag trádáil an fíon, salann agus iarann a bhíonn iompórtáilte acu ar chraicne beithíoch agus ainmhithe a ceannaíodh óna tiarnaí áitiúla agus ón gcléir.

**Merging Communities (1114 AD):** Viking merchants integrate into the community of Cork and trade their imports of wine, salt and iron for cattle and animal hides bought from local lords and leading clergymen.

This is interesting. After 200 years the Vikings have become fully integrated into the local community.

Here you can see some Vikings (now locals) trading with a monk (perhaps from Cork city monastery).





**Vikings 'more Irish than the Irish' (1114)**



**Teacht na Normannach (12<sup>ú</sup> hAois):** D'athraigh Cuan Chorcaí go mór le teacht na Normannach, go háirithe de bharr seilbh agus úinéireacht talún agus tógáil na gcaisleán agus na ndaingean Normannach (m.sh. Cúirt an Bharraigh & Béal an Bhealaigh).

**Arrival of the Normans (12<sup>th</sup> Century):** The arrival of the Normans brought significant changes within Cork Harbour, most notably through the occupation and ownership of land and the construction of Norman keeps and castles (e.g. Barryscourt and Belvelly).



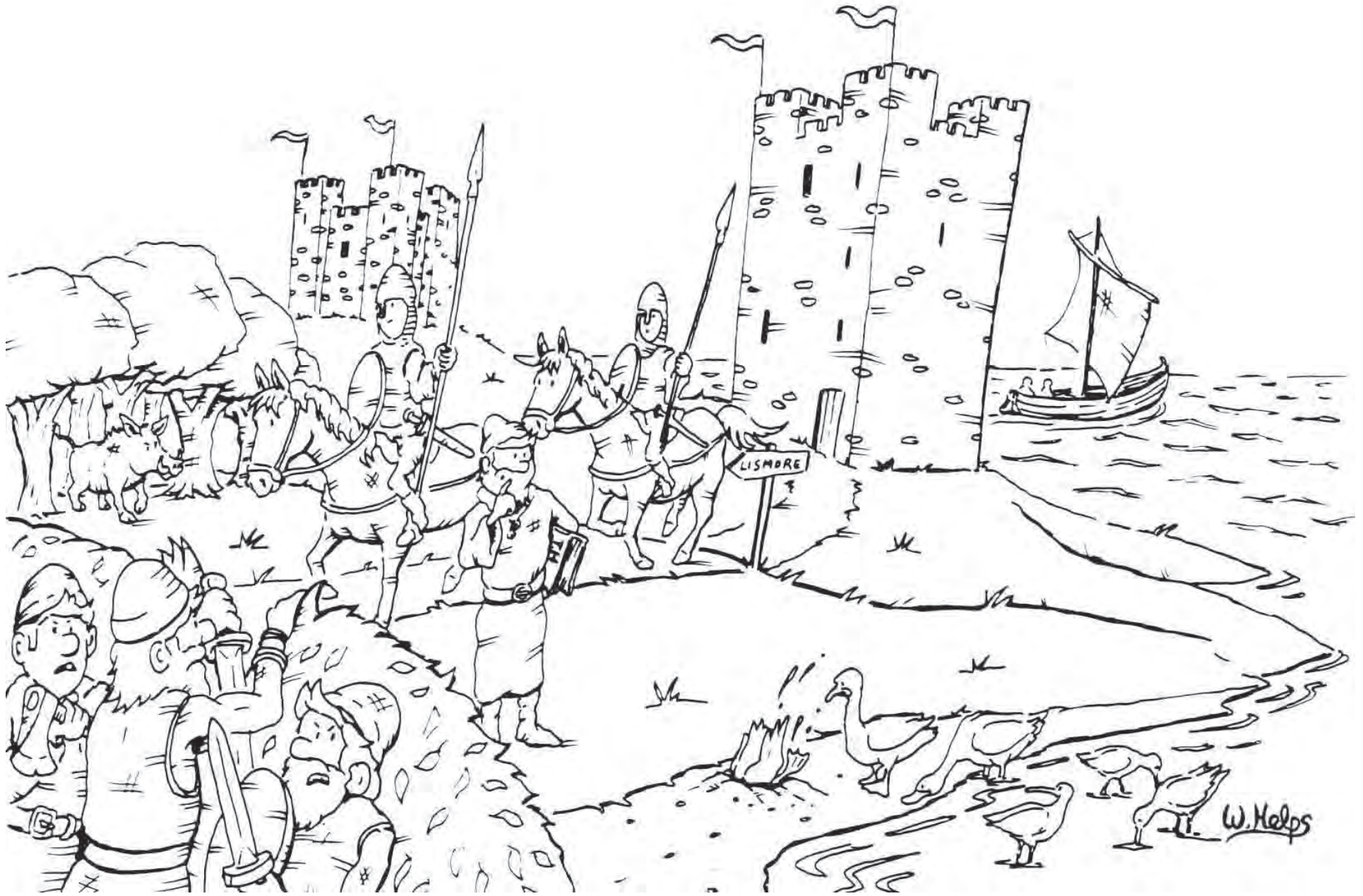
## Arrival of the Normans

The main character in the illustration is Gerald of Wales (also known as Gerald de Barri or Giraldus Cambrensis) who was a chronicler of his times.

He first arrived in Cork Harbour in 1183 (and thought to have stayed in Barryscourt Castle) and wrote the famous *Topographia Hibernica*.

In this he often describes the wild-life and even wrote down ideas at the time about migration (i.e. where do birds go during the summer – he thought that they might turn into barnacles or bury themselves in mud – hence the drawing).





**Arrival of the Normans**





**Geata Trádála Atlantaigh (ón 17<sup>ú</sup> aois):** Bhíodh trádáil mhaith loingis cheannaíochta i gCathair Chorcaí, i gCuan Chorcaí agus sa Chóbh. Sheoladh longa go rialta go Londain, Liospóin agus Barbados le mairteoil agus im agus thugaidís anall salann agus rum.

**An Atlantic Trade Gateway (From 17<sup>th</sup> Century):** Cork City, Cork Harbour and Cobh were part of a thriving merchant shipping trade. Ships regularly sailed to London, Lisbon and Barbados, exporting beef and butter and importing salt and rum.

## An Atlantic Trade Gateway (from 17th Century)

The first figure on the right (in front) is a prominent Cork merchant giving out to a customs officer “why do I have to pay so much duty on these goods?” Many merchants were very angry with the newly established Navigation Acts which curtailed free trade in and out of any non-English city. Basically there was a high customs tax placed on imports and exports which stifled trade.

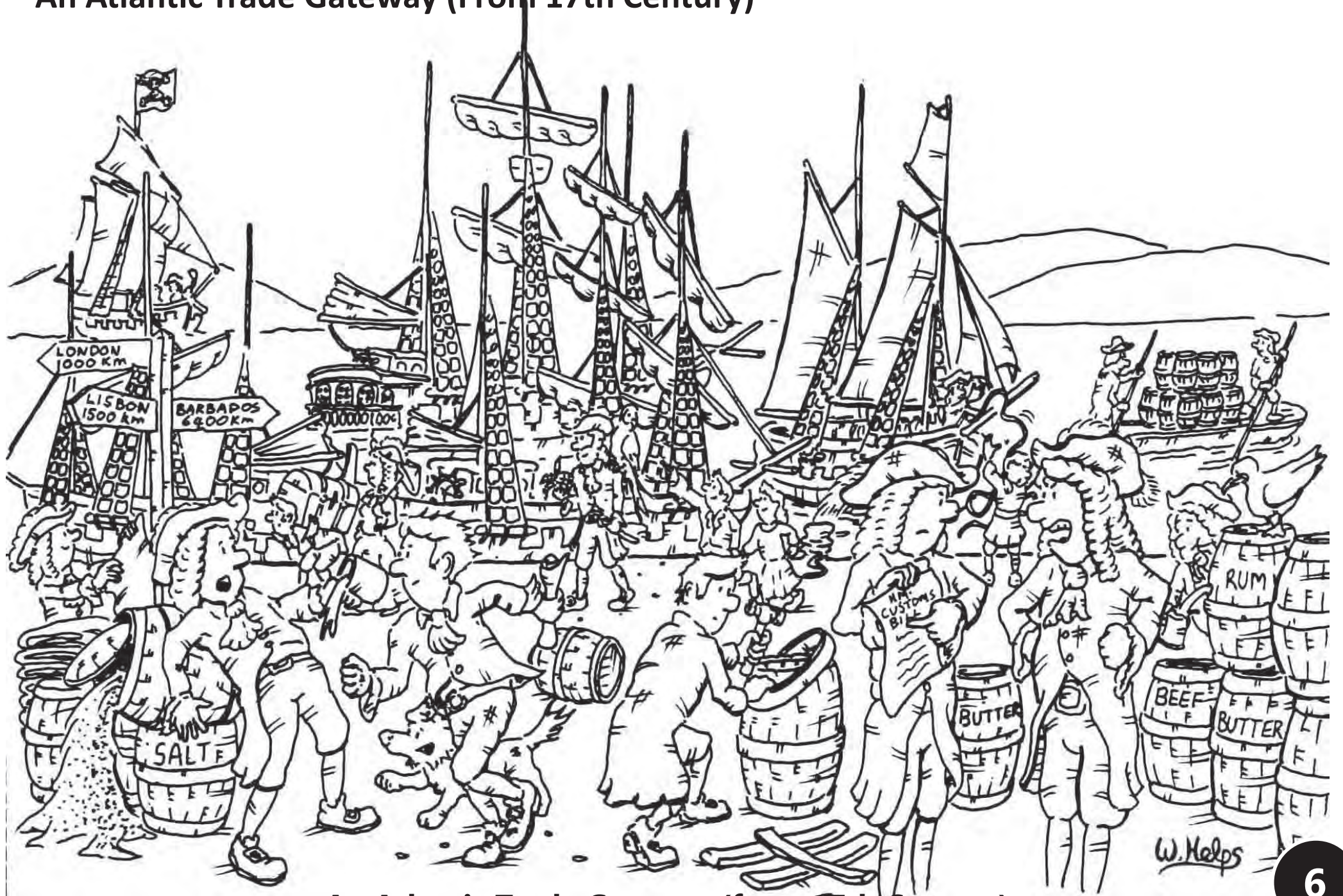
The salted beef and butter supplied England, the Royal Navy and the sugar colonies of the West Indies. Salt would have been imported from places like Setúbal, near Lisbon, Portugal. Salt was hugely important for preservation of food before the invention of refrigeration.

Most trade was exported and imported in barrels. Therefore, the trade of a cooper was very important in Cork. Before the River Lee was fully navigable, many ships would have docked in Cobh and transferred their items onto barges that carried the trade into the city. With the arrival of new ships, a ‘runner (literally someone would run from Cobh to Cork city)’ was dispatched from Cobh to the customs house in the city (to tell interested buyers what goods have arrived).

Although sailing ships were small, because of the heavy silting of the River Lee it was difficult to navigate right up to the city until it was properly dredged.



## An Atlantic Trade Gateway (From 17th Century)



An Atlantic Trade Gateway (from 17th Century)





**Daingniú Míleata (Deireadh na 18<sup>ú</sup> Aoise):** Spreag Réabhlóidí Mheiriceá agus na Fraince feabhsú na ndaingníthe ag Dún Camden agus Carlisle i mbéal an chuain, mar aon le tógáil Dún Westmoreland ar Inis Píe.

**Military Fortification (Late 18<sup>th</sup> Century):** The American and French Revolutions prompted the upgrading of fortifications at Forts Camden and Carlisle at the entrance of the harbour, and the construction of Fort Westmoreland on Spike Island.

## Military Fortification (Late 18th Century)

Many new fortifications were built around Cork harbour as it replaced Kinsale as the principal Royal Navy base on the south coast of Ireland (in response to American War of Independence). A much larger structure (what is visible today and called Fort Westmoreland) was constructed on Spike island (construction began in 1804 and ended in 1860). "It consisted of six bastions connected by ramparts and surrounded by a dry moat. Outside the fort, artificial slopes known as glacis were constructed as an additional defensive measure" spikeislandcork.

Other things to note in drawing - naval re-supply store buildings constructed on Haulbowline (1804). Martello tower on Haulbowline Island (1815) to protect the supply stores and harbour. Lots of ships resupplying in Cork harbour. In the background you can see that construction has started on Fort Westmoreland.

In the foreground are two very interesting characters that lived in Cork Harbour during this time. 1) **John Vaughan Thompson** – he was an army surgeon and worked in the city hospital. But during his spare time he was fascinated by natural history. He invented the first plankton net (he is using it in the illustration) and with it he found all sorts of life in Cork harbour. He was the first to show that crabs start off life as a little microscopic planktonic animal and later settle down on the seabed and metamorphose into a crab. Charles Darwin was so impressed by him that he took a plankton net with him on his famous voyage of the Beagle.

2) **Alexander Mitchell (1780-1868)** who was an extraordinary self-taught engineer. Born in Dublin. His eyesight failed him in his teenage years, and he was blind by the age of twenty-three. He designed what is arguably one of the most fascinating buildings in Cork Harbour - the Spitbank Lighthouse.

Also note a Loughbeg shrimp boat fishing in the foreground. Today shrimp is still one of the most important fisheries in the harbour.





**Military Fortification (Late 18th Century)**



**Imirce agus Imeacht (19<sup>ú</sup> Aois):** D'imigh na milliúin duine as Éirinn le linn an ghorta, iad ar thóir saol níos fearr agus iad ag imeacht ó ocraas agus galar. D'fhág go leor acu as Cóbh. Tháinig ardú mór ar iompar daoránach chun an hAstráile le linn na tréimhse sin.

**Emigration and Departures (19<sup>th</sup> Century):** Millions of people emigrated from Ireland in search of a better life, fleeing starvation and disease during the famine. Many of them left from Cobh. Convict transportation to Australia peaked during this period.



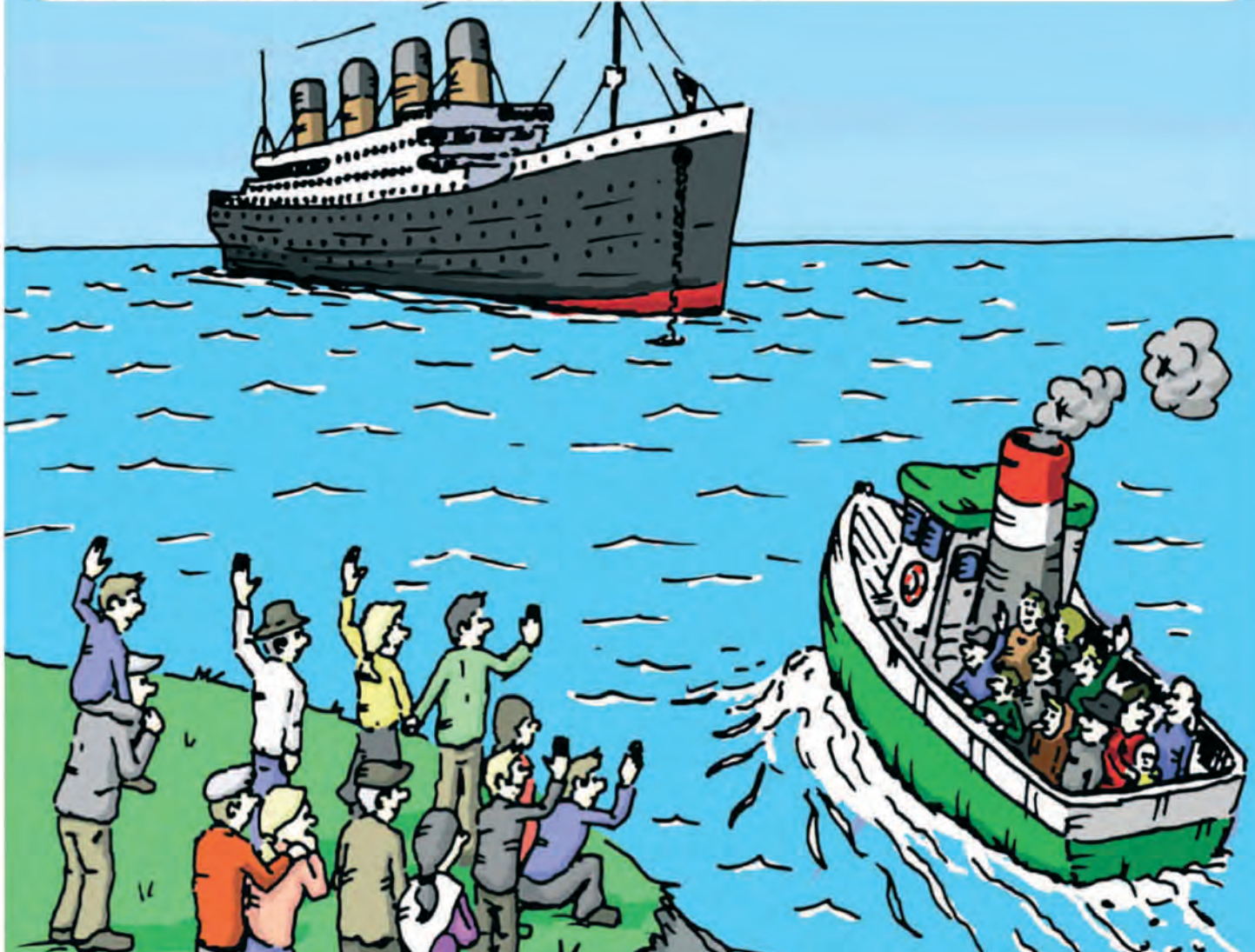
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**Emigration and Departures (19th Century)**



**RMS Titanic:** Ba é Queenstown (An Cóbh anois) an stop deiridh don RMS Titanic ar an 11 Aibreán 1912. Chuaigh céad agus fiche trí paisinéir ar bord anseo don turas a bhí ceaptha dul go Nua Eabhrac. Níor tháinig slán ach 44 acu.

**RMS Titanic:** Queenstown (now Cobh) was the RMS Titanic's last port of call on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1912. One hundred and twenty three passengers boarded here for its intended journey to New York. Only 44 of them survived.



**RMS Titanic**

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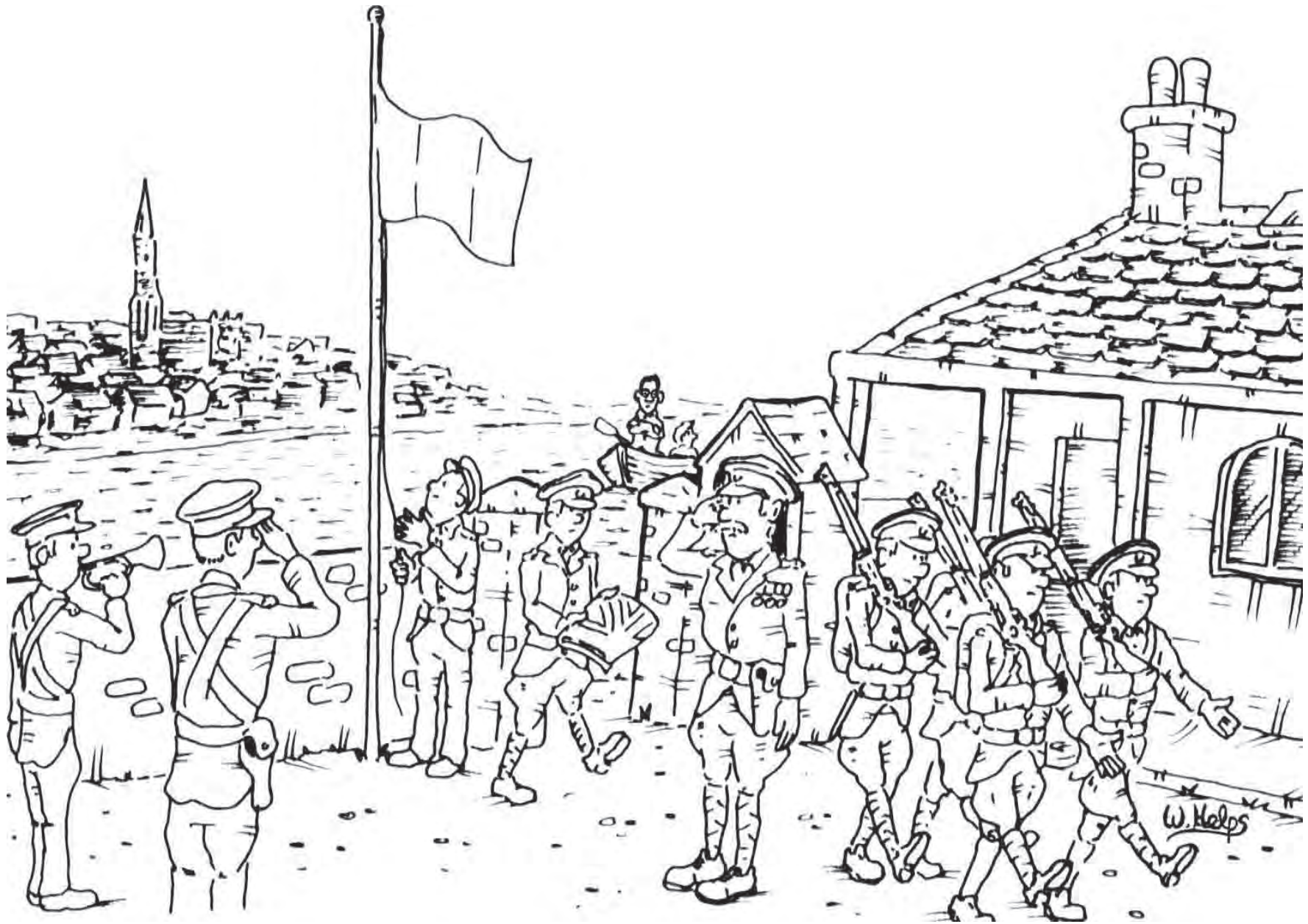


**Tabhairt ar Lámh na gCalafort Conartha:** I 1938, d'fhág an Bhreatain na Calafóirt Conartha agus thugadar suas a ndualgas maidir le cosaint chóstaí na hÉireann, rud a bhí socraithe mar chuid de Chonradh Angla-Éireannach 1921. Ar an 11 Iúil 1938 tugadh Dún Westmoreland ar Inis Píc ar lámh d'Fhórsaí na hÉireann.

**Handing Over of the Treaty Ports:** In 1938, Great Britain vacated the Treaty Ports and their responsibility for Irish coastal defence, which had been agreed as part of the Anglo-Irish Treaty 1921. Fort Westmoreland on Spike Island was handed over to Irish Forces on July 11th, 1938.

## Handing over of the Treaty Ports





**Handing over of the Treaty Ports**



## Cork harbour today



**Cuan Chorcaí Inniu:** Is calafort mór trádála é Cuan Chorcaí inniu, tóir mhór ag longa cúrsála air, agus é ina bhunáite ag Seirbhís Chabhlaigh na hÉireann. Tá tionscail thábhachtacha ann, é ina áit mhór caitheamh aimsire in éineacht le gur tearmann tábhachtach é don fhiadhúlra.

**Cork Harbour today:** Cork Harbour is now a major seaport for trade, a favoured destination for cruise ships, and the home of the Irish Naval Service. It supports an important industrial base and has become a major recreation hub whilst being an important wildlife refuge.





Cork Harbour today



# Cork harbour through time information panel

## Word Search

Your mission – find the words listed below in the jumbled up word search. The words can be found across, up, down or diagonal.

m	n	n	b	c	m	l	w	h	p	i	y	c	s	t
i	o	f	u	t	a	z	e	h	a	b	r	o	p	r
t	r	i	h	v	f	z	s	h	b	r	i	b	i	a
c	m	u	a	n	k	k	t	l	i	f	b	h	k	d
h	a	n	k	i	h	r	m	j	r	z	u	o	e	e
e	n	x	w	d	b	x	o	o	b	q	n	r	u	x
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l	b	s	b	y	u	j	e	m	o	c	h	u	d	a
v	i	k	i	n	g	s	l	t	i	t	a	n	i	c
v	o	h	a	r	f	h	a	i	x	z	o	u	w	l
p	u	v	x	j	g	p	n	p	r	i	s	o	n	g
j	i	h	r	b	n	a	d	w	l	u	k	m	s	e
m	o	n	a	s	t	e	r	y	v	o	n	p	f	t
g	u	x	e	n	n	n	e	o	l	i	t	h	i	c
m	i	l	i	t	a	r	y	t	r	e	a	t	y	b

- 1 cobh
- 2 harbour
- 3 military
- 4 mitchel
- 5 mochuda
- 6 monastery
- 7 naval
- 8 neolithic
- 9 normans
- 10 prison
- 11 spike
- 12 titanic
- 13 trade
- 14 treaty
- 15 vikings
- 16 westmoreland



# Cork harbour through time information panel

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c	m	u	a	n	k	k	t	l	i	f	b	h	k	d
h	a	n	k	i	h	r	m	j	r	z	u	o	e	e
e	n	x	w	d	b	x	o	o	b	q	n	r	u	x
l	s	o	i	w	y	e	r	t	c	e	a	u	o	r
l	b	s	b	y	u	j	e	m	o	c	h	u	d	a
v	i	k	i	n	g	s	l	t	i	t	a	n	i	c
v	o	h	a	r	f	h	a	i	x	z	o	u	w	l
p	u	v	x	j	g	p	n	p	r	i	s	o	n	g
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m	o	n	a	s	t	e	r	y	v	o	n	p	f	t
g	u	x	e	n	n	n	e	o	l	i	t	h	i	c
m	i	l	i	t	a	r	y	t	r	e	a	t	y	b

## Answers

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## Notes for teachers

### Information on the 'Cork harbour through time' panel on the Glacis Walk, Spike Island.

The concept of the panels and the information they contain was developed by Dr Tom Doyle of the Coastal & Marine Research Centre, University College Cork and Cork County Council.

#### The following were consulted during the development of the interpretation story boards:

- Dr Henry Alan Jefferies on the Vikings in Cork Harbour
- James O'Shea on the development of Cork Harbour as an important trade centre
- Dr Michael Martin on Spike and Cork Harbour history
- Tom O'Neill on the history of Spike
- Illustrations by William Helps.

#### Key reference books used include:

- Cork Historical perspectives by Henry Alan Jefferies
- Spike Island - saints, felons and famine by Michael Martin
- Old World Colony: Cork and south Munster, 1630-1830 by Prof. David Dickson
- Ireland in the middle ages by Dr Sean Duffy.

**Note:** If you spot any inaccuracies in the content please contact Dr Tom Doyle and the text will be modified appropriately.



Cork  
County Council  
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí



Coastal & Marine Research Centre  
University College Cork

SPIKE  
ISLAND  
CORK HARBOUR