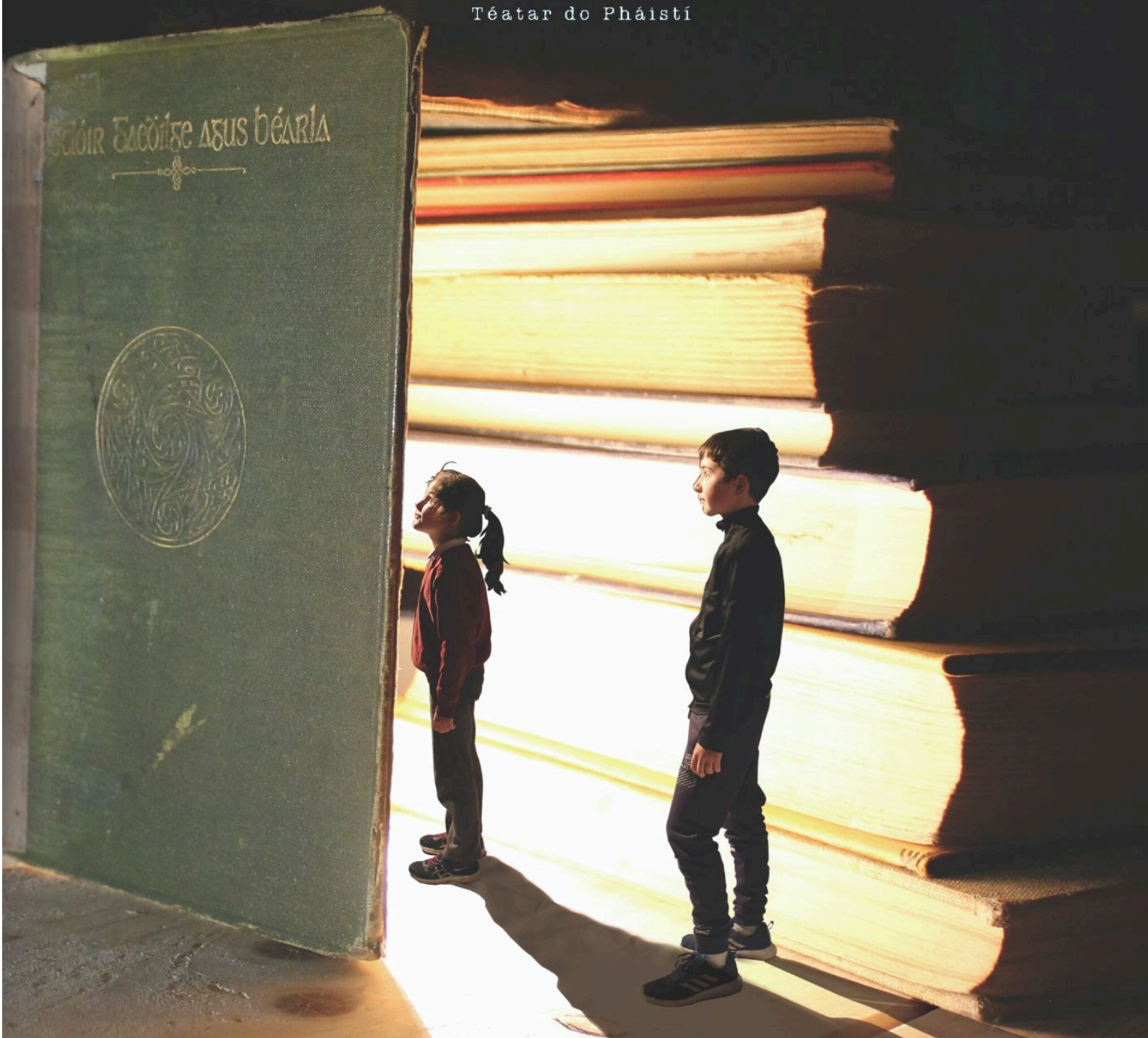


# Branar

Téatar do Pháistí



Sruth  
na  
Teanga

education pack

pacáiste foghlama

## About the Show

**Branar Téatar do Pháistí presents  
Sruth na Teanga  
commissioned by Galway 2020**

Sruth na Teanga is an bilingual immersive theatre event that imaginatively realises the evolution and life of the Irish language. Branar have created a unique experience that brings audiences on the epic journey of our native language.

Groups of 30 will enter at a time, traveling through 5 worlds that will inspire and bring the story of the language to life. Branar's signature storytelling combines puppetry, music, video mapping and live performance in an experience not to be missed.

**Age Group:** 8+



## Curriculum Links

### **Fine Arts:**

Drama, Puppetry, Physical Theatre, Visual Arts, Design & Technology

### **Language:**

Literacy, Reading, Critical Evaluation

### **History**

Stories, oral histories, The famine,

Collections, legends, penal laws, Monastic settlements

### **Music:**

Appreciation

### **Geography:**

Maps, Landscapes, Placenames,

### **Emotional and Social Development:**

## Sruth na Teanga



## Who We Are

### *CREATING BIG STORIES FOR LITTLE CITIZENS*

Branar Téatar do Pháistí is one of the leading theatre companies making work for children in Ireland. We create beautiful, innovative, high quality productions that inspire children and their families. We tour our work to venues and festivals locally, nationally and internationally. We support artists to make work for young audiences through our tailored programmes of resource sharing and Tiny Show creation. We create opportunities for children to explore their own arts practice in school settings.

The company tours extensively nationally and internationally every year. Our work has been presented throughout Ireland, Europe, USA, China and Japan.



## Sruth na Teanga



# Preparing for the Show

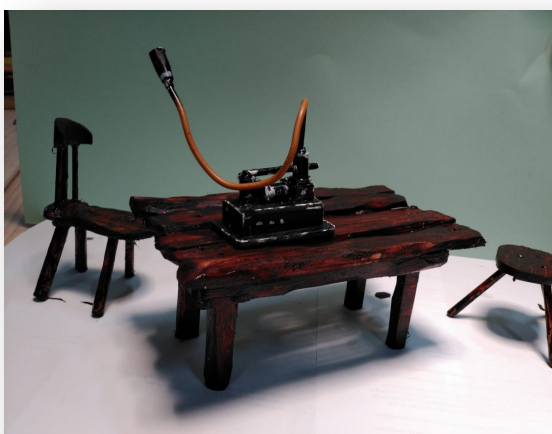
## What You'll See

You will visit Galway Airport in order to watch Branar's **Sruth na Teanga**

This is not a normal theatre show. It is called an immersive theatre show, because you will immerse yourself in the story.

Instead of sitting and watching the stage you will walk with the performers through the stages of the show.

You will visit 5 large rooms, including a Woodland, a projection room, a cave with tiny islands and room like a museum. You'll also see six performers. They will use many different theatre methods to bring the story to life.



## Stories that you will encounter

The first room that the children enter will bring them on a journey through the legends of Na Fianna and The Ruraíocht.

To help them it would be great to remind them of some of these stories.

### Tuatha de Dannan

**Deirde and Naoise/ The exile of clann Uisneach**

**Bradán Feasa / The Salmon of Knowledge**

**Torraíocht Diarmad agus Gráinne**

### Tír na n-óg

**Setanta agus an Cú : How Cú Chulainn got his name.**

**An Táin / The Brown bull of Cooley**

### Balor

**How Oisín got his name.**

## Sruth na Teanga



## Visiting the Theatre / Airport

For some of your students this may be the first time they will have visited a theatre and it's definitely there first time at a theatre in an Airport.

### WHILE WE'RE WAITING

1. Wait in foyer until staff tell us to go in.
2. Chat quietly and stay as a group.
3. There will be an activity for your class to do as you wait.
4. Take off our coats and put them in our bags. \*

### WHEN WE ENTER

1. Follow the Theatre staff instructions
2. Follow the teacher
3. Try not to touch the props in the show unless the performers ask you to. They are delicate
4. There are no seats it's a walking show.

### WHEN IT'S FINISHED

1. The teacher/staff will bring to the lobby.
2. Your coat and bag will be here.
3. If you are waiting for another group from your class they will be right behind you.



\*Reminder: It might be a little dark when we enter, the same as in a cinema, but the staff will show us the way.

We look forward to welcoming you to sruth na Teanga. If you have any questions regarding your visit, get in touch with us at Branar.

### For Teachers

We only ask teachers to intervene if their students are speaking very loudly on a constant basis or if the topic they are discussing is unrelated to the show, which would be considered disruptive behaviour.

We will ask the teacher to be at the front of the group. The performers rely on you to lead the group and help them control the movement of the audience. There will be a Branar team member at the rear for the performers reference.

## Sruth na Teanga



## DISCUSSION

In order to open a discussion about your visit to Branar's production of SRUTH NA TEANGA, find out how much your students already know about the story of the Irish language and about theatre in general.

We have created a document to get the children thinking about language and heritage.

- What do you think of the Irish ?
- Is the Irish language as important to Ireland as GAA
- Is the Irish language as important to Ireland as New Grange or a Castle
- Is Irish important to you?
- Would the Irish culture be the same without the language

*Did you know that Irish is one of the 10 oldest language in the world still spoken today.*

# Sruth na Teanga



## Na Seomraí ar an dturas



**An Choill**



**An Ré Orga**



**Faoin Talamh**



**An Iarsmalan**

Sruth na Teanga



# Seomra a h-Aon – Coill na scéalta

## Seomra a hAon

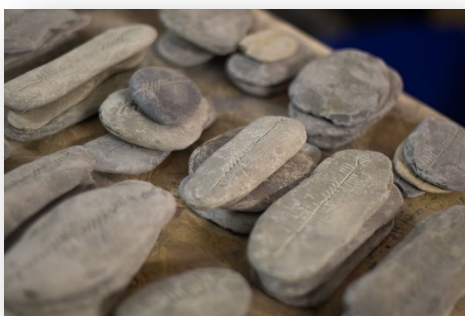
Sa seomra seo, we explore the beginning of the Language. We have created a magical woodland in which the stories may appear.

We use some old Irish here to show what it sounded like.

Don't worry though it will be very clear what is going on.

Stories to prepare that may help the children get the most from the room.

1. [Tuath de Danann](#)
2. Deirdre of the Sorrows
3. Balor
4. The salmon of Knowledge
5. Diarmuid and Gráinne
6. Tír na n-óg
7. Setanta



## Foclóir sean Ghaeilge

- Éiriú
- Banba
- Fodhla
- Gilla – giolla - servant
- Éad – jealousy
- Bradán – Salmon
- Fios – Knowledge
- Geasa – A spell
- Cú – hound
- Táin –
- Aillil
- Meadhbh
- Tarbh - bull

## Ogham

Ogham was the earliest form of writing in Ireland. The Ogham symbols play a central role within the show.

1. Discuss with the class how Ogham was written.
2. Ogham symbols were named after tree's. Discover the names

Here .

<http://blogs.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/taylorian/2018/02/19/ancient-scripts-ogham-old-irish-inscriptions/>

Letter	Name	Tree	Letter	Name	Tree		
24 Jul	B	Beith	Birch	M	Muin	Vine	
==	L	Luis	Rowan	==	G	Gort	Ivy
===	F	Fearn	Alder	===	NG	nGéatal	Reed
====	S	Sail	Willow	====	Z (st)	Straif	Blackthorn
=====	N	Nion	Ash	=====	R	Ruis	Elder
-----	H	hÚath	Hawthorn	-----	A	Ailm	Silver Fir
====	D	Dair	Oak	====	O	Onn	Gorse
====	T	Tinne	Holly	====	U	Úr	Heather
====	C	Coll	Hazel	====	E	Eadha	Poplar
====	Q	Quert	Apple	====	I	Iodhadh	Yew

## Sruth na Teanga





# Seomra a dó – An ré órga

## 4<sup>th</sup> century to the 17<sup>th</sup> century

In this room the children will follow the Golden era of the Irish Language.

We follow the story of the language from when the Monks began to write Irish in the Roman Alphabet.

We look not at the history but at the way in which these historical events influenced the language. Mostly the invaders enhanced the language and provided new vocabulary for the Irish to describe the changing world around them.

### Historical era's included

The coming of Christianity

The monks missions to Europe

The vikings

The anglo Normans

The literary families and great manuscripts

The English in Ireland

Queen Elizabeth 1 and the first printed book in Irish

The language becomes a political target.

The flight of the Earls

### The river metaphor:

Explain that this is what **Branar** did when they decided to tell **How to Catch a Star** on stage. Sometimes elements that work in the story book don't work on stage, or vice versa. The Branar creative team worked together to make both style and narrative changes, to ensure that the audiences could enjoy the stage version as much as they enjoyed the storybook. For example, stage lighting and music can be incorporated into the stage production but aren't possible to include in a book!

I wonder will Branar have made any of the same changes as your class did?

## Sruth na Teanga



# Loan Words from other languages

<b>The influence of the Christians was Latin</b>			
Latin		Old Irish	Modern Irish
Liber		Lebor	Leabhar
Penn		Penn	Peann
Litir			litir
Abbas			Ab
Offerendo			Aifreann
asellus			Asal
<a href="#">quaestiō</a>			ceist
Opera			Obair
matin			maidin
scribó			Scríobh
<b>The influence of the Vikings was Norse</b>			
Norse		Old Irish	Modern Irish
Brók			Bróg
Bjórr			Beoir
Markaor			Margadh
Gagarr			Gadhar
Sráit			sráid
Penninger			Pignin
Knappu			Cnaipe
Ankkeri			Ancaire
<b>The influence of the Normas was Anglo Norman</b>			
Anglo Norman			Modern Irish
castél			Casileán
tor			túr
coigne			Cúinne
Maire			Méara
			Baránta
lustais			Giústis
Garcon			garsún
Oeuf			ubh
Argent			Airgead
Chambre			Seomra
Page			Páiste
joignour			Siúnéir
chance			seans

# Seomra a trí – uisce faoi thalamh

We leave room 2 at the flight of the Earls. This is a significant point in the story of the language. The leaving of the earls, who were that last Gaelic Chieftan's, was the downfall of the Gaelic order that had been in place for hundreds of years. The Language moves from being a language of power to a language of the poor. The written language becomes less formal the poems and songs are now in the ordinary language of the people and less structured like the poetry that was composed for patrons in the past.

In this room we tell the story of the language as if its underground. There are six islands all representing the same Irish speaking town and its development from 1607 – 1911. We see the effects of historical events on this town and we use this as a methaphor for the Country.

On each of the tables the size of the Population who speak Irish is represented by a stone with Gaeilge on it. There is also a comparison stone with Bearla on it to represent that amount of English speakers.

## Borda hAon

1607

The language is still strong and spoken widely.

There is however more English being spoken by the Irish people in certain areas in the east.

With the leaving of the Earls the world of the File ( poets) collapsed and a lot to the themes of their poems now are of wishing for the old times to return and the earls to return.

Ordinary people now had a bit more freedom to own a home and land and earn their own money.

Plantations of English and Scottish settlers began.

## Sruth na Teanga



## Board a Dó

1667

On this table we hear about the penal laws and how they were used to try and control the Irish people.

There was a ban on playing native games like hurling

- But games were played in secret

There was a ban on celebrating Catholic Mass

- But mass was held in secret locations at mass rocks in the middle of fields

There was a ban on Catholic children going to school.

- But hedge schools were set up and children were taught Irish stories and poems.

There were many other penal laws but we only deal with a few

You could tie this into a lesson on history.

## Seomra a trí

1806

### Learscáil / mapping

On this table we look at the mapping commission of the 1800's and how the whole country was mapped by the British army. In doing so the Irish place names were Anglasized, which means the Irish names were given English translations or in most cases they were given Names that sounded similar.

Examples : Cnoc – Knock. ( Cnoc an Mhaigh = Knockma)

Compare the Place names in your area with the meaning in Irish to see how they changed

[Logainm.ie](http://Logainm.ie) is an excellent resource and there is a [primary school page](#) with activities.

## Sruth na Teanga



### Bord a cheathar

#### An Ghorta 1847

At this table we are met with the effect of the famine on our village and the loss of homes and people.

This had a huge effect on the amount of people that could speak Irish.

Many of them Died or as we see on the next table emigrated

### Board a cúig

Imirce 1849

This table shows dock side.

The people here are ready to board a ship. They leave behind them stones with "teanga" written upon them.

This signifies the amount of native speakers that emigrated and never returned.

This was a blow to the language

### Bord a sé

#### 1911

The Gaelic revival began in the 1870's and this led to a growing interest in the language and the Irish culture.

The GAA was formed to promote native games

Conradh an Gaeilge and other language movements were formed.

The Irish text society was formed and began studying manuscripts and old stories.

There was an interest in collecting stories, songs and music from native speakers.

On this table we see a story being collected from an old woman at her home in our same village.

## Seomra 4

### Sruth na Teanga



# An Taiscumar – The Reservoir.

In this room we celebrate these collectors and the collections

We try to represent all of the archives in some way.

1. A map of Ireland represents the place names – Logainm.ie
2. A fidil on a plinth represent the music that was collected
3. A manuscript represents the thousand of manuscripts that still exist
4. A heritage table with pop up books represents the various forms of Heritage – Sport, Dance, Built heritage, Crafts
5. A Book water fall suggests that the archive is still being filled daily
6. An Old tv represents the film and tv archives
7. A story spot lets you hear a story just from you
8. A cabinet of scenes represents the vast Bealoideas collections that exist.
9. A cabinet of record players represents all of the songs that were collected
10. A cabinet of Ogham stones shows the first archivists



Sruth na Teanga



# Seomra 5

## Anois

This is the response space

The audience have various stations that they can work at.

1. Decipher what is on the ogham stone
2. Respond on video
3. Respond on audio
4. Research your place name
5. Written responses.



## Sruth na Teanga



# After the Performance

## CRITICAL EVALUATION

Engage in a conversation with your students regarding their thoughts and feelings about the show. In order to fully engage in a critical response to the production, use these questions as prompts:

### Key Questions

What did you see?

What did you hear?

What did you feel (when...)?

What did you think (when...)?

### Top Tips for Teachers:

- a) The more open the question, the more options there are for responses.
- b) Repeat answers so the whole class can hear.
- c) It's important not to celebrate answers as all of the children will assume this is the answer you want. Repeat their answer, thank them for their contribution and move onwards.



Sruth na Teanga





## CRITICAL EVALUATION



Use the space below to draw your favourite moment from *Sruth na Tenaga*. Think about what you saw, what you heard.



# CROSS-CURRICULAR LINKS

## IMAGINATION

### Create your own ogham stone

- Using Poetry clay create a flat stone shape
- With a pencil draw the lines that represent the letters for the word you own
- Find the letters here [Ogahm.ie](http://Ogahm.ie)

### History

- There are so many historical link to the History curriculum
- The stories of room 1
- The Monks and coming of Christianity
- The Vikings
- The Normans
- The Flight of the Earls
- The famine
- Emigration
- Penal Laws
- The Gaelic revival
- Collections and Collectors
- Discover the Archives

### Geography

- Maps when were maps made of Ireland
- How to make a map
- Place names
- The life cycle of the river

## Sruth na Teanga



## The student pamphlet

We have designed a document to help the audience deepen their experience of Sruth na Teanga

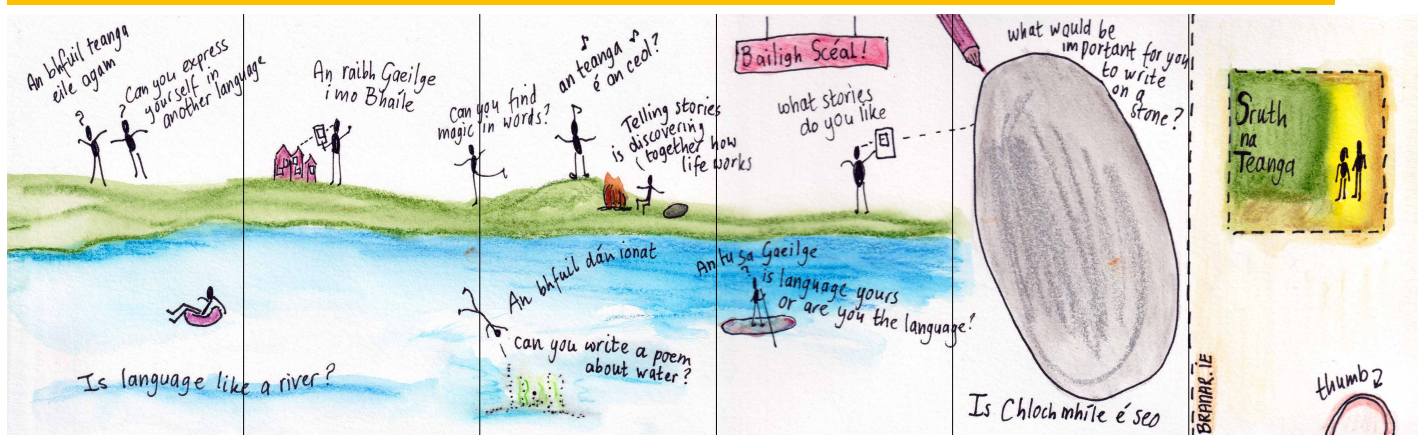
We would like each child to have time to look at the document and think about it. There are no right or wrong answers only personal responses. They should be given time to engage with the document and then have a class discussion about the opinions that come up.

## REPEAT THE DISCUSSION

Return to the discussion about your visit to Branar's production of SRUTH NA TEANGA, find out how much your students now know about the story of the Irish language and about theatre in general.

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- What do you think of the Irish ?
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# Sruth na Teanga



## Resources and links

<http://bealbeo.ie>

<https://www.duchas.ie/en>

<https://www.logainm.ie/en/>

<https://celt.ucc.ie>

<https://www.doegen.ie>

<https://www.itma.ie>

<https://www.ainm.ie>

<https://ogham.co>

<https://www.rte.ie/archives/>

<http://seannos.tg4.ie>

<https://www.cic.ie>

<https://www.charliebyrne.ie>

<https://www.osi.ie/education/>

<https://www.celticsteps.ie/our-story/the-history-of-irish-song-music-dance/>

<https://crokepark.ie/library>

<https://www.libraryireland.com/Pedigrees1/preface1.php>

<http://www.bealoideasbeo.ie>

[https://comhaltas.ie/music/treoir/detail/irelands\\_music\\_collectors/](https://comhaltas.ie/music/treoir/detail/irelands_music_collectors/)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Irish\\_music\\_collectors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Irish_music_collectors)

<https://sketchfab.com/discoveryprogramme>

<http://www.discoveryprogramme.ie/resources/digital-resources>

<https://folkways.si.edu/search?query=ireland>

<https://mirc.sc.edu/islandora/object/usc:31559>

## Sruth na Teanga



# OTHER INFORMATION

Let us Know What you Thought



We love receiving feedback and responses from our audiences around the world. If you would like to send us drawings, letters, postcards, stories from your class addressed to Branar, please feel free.

Email Us

[info@branar.ie](mailto:info@branar.ie)

Send Us Mail

**Branar Téatar do Phaistí**  
**15 Glenrock Business Park**  
**Bothar na Mine**  
**Galway**  
**IRELAND**  
**H91PW52**



**FOR TEACHERS:**

Let us know what you thought on our Social Media:  
Facebook/Instagram/Twitter: @BranarTeatar

THANK YOU AND WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE SHOW!



Sruth na Teanga

