

THE ARTS / PE / PDMU · P3–P7

CLG i dTuaisceart Éireann — GAA in Northern Ireland

Classroom Resource — P3–P7

The GAA in Northern Ireland

1

CLG — Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

The Gaelic Athletic Association — the organisation that runs Gaelic football, hurling, camogie, and handball. Founded 1884. All-Ireland structure — NI counties compete in the same competitions as Republic counties.

2

Ulster GAA

The provincial council for the 9 Ulster counties (including the 6 NI counties). The Ulster Championship (Gaelic football) is one of the most competitive provincial championships in Ireland.

3

Casement Park (Belfast)

The main GAA stadium in Belfast, in Andersonstown (west Belfast). Undergoing major redevelopment to become an 34,000-seat international stadium. Home to Antrim GAA.

4

GAA and community

The GAA club is the centre of many NI Catholic/nationalist communities. The local GAA club provides sport, social events, and Irish language classes. Every parish has a club.

5

Cross-community GAA

The GAA has actively developed cross-community programmes — particularly in schools. Coaching in non-traditional communities. The 'Football for All' programme works in controlled schools.



6

Ulster hurling

Hurling is less dominant in Ulster than in Munster or Leinster, but the Ulster Hurling Championship is growing. Antrim has the strongest Ulster hurling tradition.

Our Gaelic games

An introduction for the class

- PEIL GHAELACH (Gaelic Football): 15 a side. Players can carry the ball for 4 steps, then must bounce or solo. Score: goals (3 points) through the net; points (1 point) over the bar.
- IOMÁNAÍOCHT (Hurling): 15 a side. Players use a hurley (camán) to hit a leather ball (sliotar). Fastest field sport in the world. Ancient — played in Ireland for over 3,000 years.
- CAMÓGAÍOCHT (Camogie): women's version of hurling. Same basic rules. Powerful, skilful, and growing rapidly in Northern Ireland.
- LIATHRÓID LÁIMHE (Handball): played in a court against a wall. Individual or pairs. A traditional skill, now declining but still part of the GAA.
- FUN FACT: Tyrone, Armagh, and Derry (all NI counties) have won All-Ireland Senior Football Championships. NI counties compete at the very highest level of Gaelic football.
- CLASSROOM ACTIVITY: learn the basic solo in Gaelic football (balancing the ball on the foot and flicking it to the hand). Takes 10 minutes and every child can do it.

