

Heritage Hunters Award 2024: Starter Pack

Heritage Hunters is an award-winning local heritage competition open to all Kerry primary schools. Its main aim is to promote local heritage in the classroom and to showcase all the amazing heritage projects done in schools every year.



Heritage Hunters is based on three core ideas:

1. That your project creatively explores the heritage of your locality using your school as focal point
2. That your local heritage project is child-led, i.e. that your pupils are part of the decision making process from the start
3. That the process is as important as the finished project



How to get started?

Step 1: Have a brain storming session with your pupils to kick-start the project

Discuss with your students what heritage is, why it is important and what it means to them. You might want to capture their answers in writing or give each student a post-it note to write down a word or a sentence.

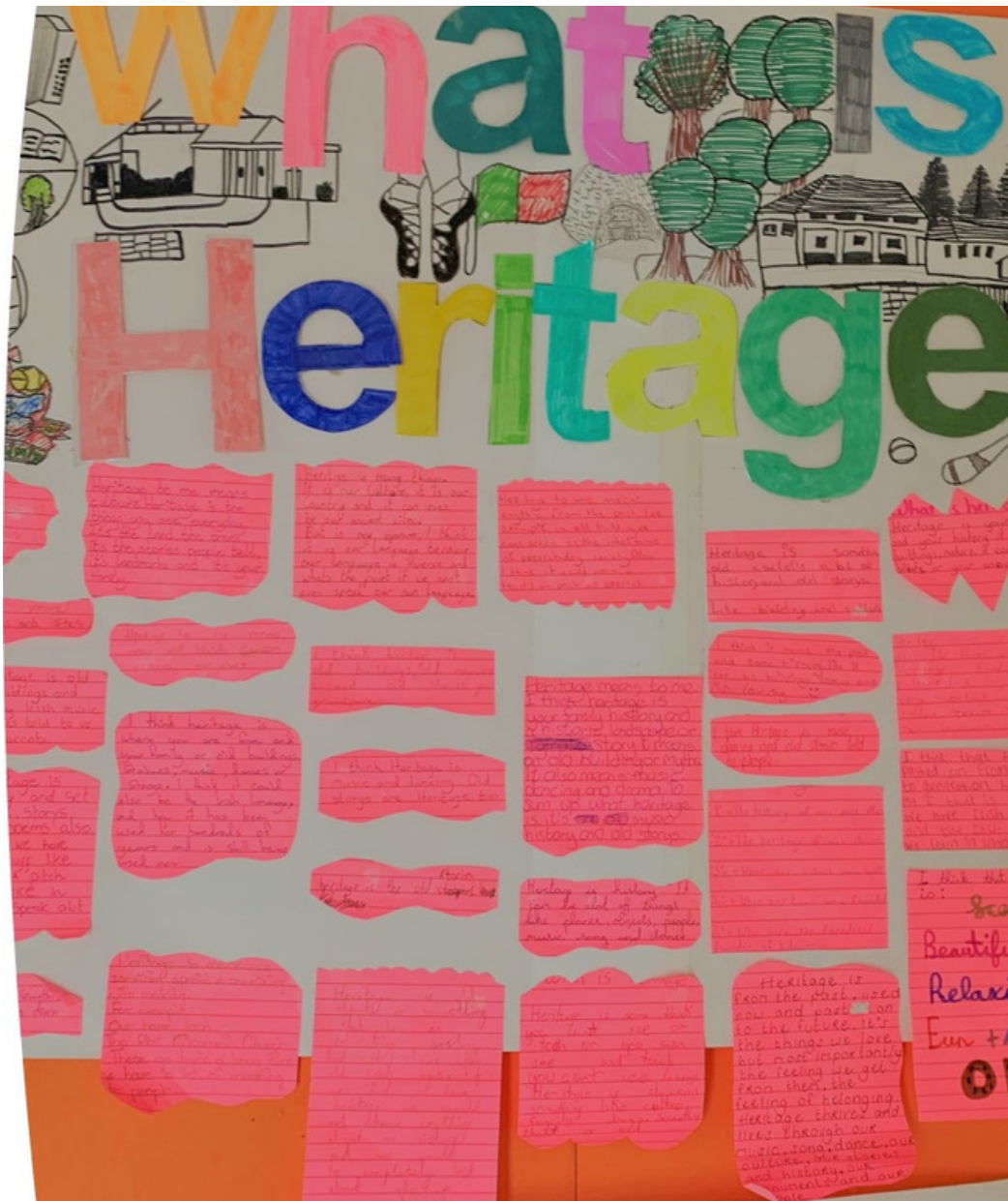


Image by Kilcummin NS

Step 2: Compile a Local Heritage Inventory with your pupils

Use your school building as a focal point and start from here. Possible questions for your pupils to think about include: What sites, buildings, monuments can be found nearby? What natural features can you see near our school? Are we near the ocean, a river, woodland, bog, a nature reserve? What animals can be spotted? Do you know any stories about ringforts, a local saint, myths and legends associated with our locality? Does our school have any famous past pupils? Your local heritage inventory will provide you with an abundance of possible project ideas!



Tip: You might find it handy to capture pupils' answers by sorting them into following categories: tangible heritage, natural heritage and intangible heritage

Our tangible heritage:

our historical & archaeological sites, old railways, ruins,
buildings, monuments, objects

Our natural heritage:

our waterways, mountains, landscapes, woodlands, bogs,
uplands, native wildlife, insects, plants, trees, birds and
animals

Our intangible heritage:

our customs, sports, music, dance, folklore, crafts, skills,
myths, legends, traditions, memories and knowledge



Step 3: Take a Vote!

Take a vote and let your pupils decide which aspect of their local heritage they would like to explore and then get started!

Your project might include pupils' creative writing, drawings, paintings, photographs, arts & crafts, drama, music and LEGO projects as well as old photographs, letters, medals, newspaper clippings, oral history recordings and objects and memorabilia that could help to document and illustrate your local heritage.



Step 4: Let us know what your project is going to be about - we would love to be part of it! We have a treasure trove full of ideas and resources and would love to discuss how we can help you.

Some ideas we can help you with:

- Designing a treasure map of your local area
- Curating a pop-up exhibition with objects from your schools
- Exploring the Local Folklore Commissioner's Schools Collection, a collection of folklore compiled by schoolchildren in Ireland in the 1930s:
<https://www.duchas.ie>
- An oral history project
- Researching old buildings, monuments and objects
- Find out what local heritage resources can be found in your local museum, library and archiv
- How to get in touch with local historians and people who are knowledgeable about local heritage
- How to access services (e.g. classroom visits from heritage experts) from the Heritage in School Initiative

... and much more!

Email: education@kerryhistory.ie