

## THE HISTORY OF THE METALS AND DUNLAOGHAIRE PIER

Suitable for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class children.

Dublin Bay was known worldwide as a graveyard for ships throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> centuries because of the lack of shelter available for ships in stormy weather. In 1807 there was a double tragedy near Seapoint where two ships 'The Rochdale' and 'The Prince of Wales' sank causing huge loss of life. Following this, a campaign led by Captain Richard Toutcher got under way to construct an 'Asylum Harbour' at Dun Laoghaire where ships could take refuge in a storm.



The stone used in the construction of the pier was taken from local granite quarries. The Metals was originally laid out in 1817 as a truck railroad, paved with cast iron rails, designed to bring horse-drawn trucks laden with granite from the quarry for the construction of the Harbour at Dún Laoghaire. Today it is a 3.5km walk or cycle track from Dun Laoghaire to Dalkey Quarry- there for the enjoyment of all.








### Starting point:

-  Gather outside Meadows and Byrne
-  Face the sea.

### You will need:

-  clip board
-  pencil
-  crayon and paper

Where you are standing was a rocky wilderness two hundred years ago. The old village of Dun Leary, with about 60/70 houses, was to your left further along Crofton Road.

A road was built down to the coast in order to build the pier. It was called The Forty Foot Road and is now known as Marine Road.

- 1) Look at the top floor of the building behind you. What is the name of the Bar/Restaurant on the upper level?  
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- 2) Why do you think the road was called The Forty Foot Road?  
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- 3) Turn and face the sea. One of the buildings in front of you was the old train ticket office. Which one do you think it was? Why?  
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### Did you know?

When it was built, Dunlaoghaire Harbour was one of the largest harbours in the world and it still is!



**Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing, you are now facing the sea. Turn right and walk to the stone monument.**



## George IV Memorial

This monument was erected to commemorate the visit of George IV who came to see the harbour under construction. The first stone used in the building is underneath this monument. If you turn your back to the monument and face the road you will see the original harbour master's house. It is now called the Irish Design Centre.



- 1) Can you find the name of the engineer who was in charge of the construction of the harbour?

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- 2) What 3D shapes can you see in the monument?

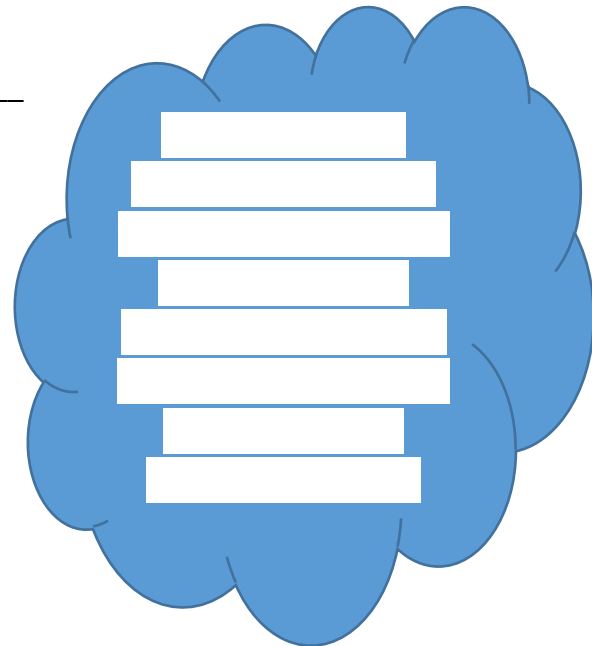
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- 3) How do you know that this is a royal monument?

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### Activity

Draw the George IV Memorial monument.



**Continue along this road. Cross the road at the next pedestrian crossing and walk over the stone bridge to the little white house.**



## The Harbour Master's Office

This white building was once the harbour master's office. It faces the entrance to the East Pier. A man called William Hutchison was the first harbour master.

1) What was the name of the first harbour master?

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2) Can you find an artefact in the wall? What do you think it once was?

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3) Why do you think the harbour master's house was built on this spot?

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Can you find an arrow on the wall?

This marks a military boundary.

Draw a picture of it.

Keep an eye for more as we move along.



**Face the house and turn left. Now walk along this path to the entrance of The People's Park. Stop at the gate to the park.**

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## The People's Park

The People's park is located on the site of one of the granite quarries. Originally it was also home of one of the Martello Towers, which housed the soldiers from the British army. Its proximity to the sea meant that the granite stones could be moved quickly and easily down to the pier to help with its construction. Many years after the harbour was completed, the quarry was filled in and developed into a recreational park by the Kingston Town Commissioners. It opened in 1890.

- 1) What letters can you see on the gate?
- 2) What Irish emblem can you see on the gate?

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- 3) What do the letters on the gate stand for?

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### Activity:

What sounds can you hear around you? List them below.

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**Continue along the path away from the village. Look down!! You will notice metal rails on the ground. These were the original train tracks.**





## MOVING A HILL



### The Metals

Vast amounts of locally sourced stone was required to ensure the success of the new harbour. That stone was granite and came from three nearby quarries – Dalkey, Killiney and Roches Hills. Stone laden wagons were pulled by horse along cast iron rails. The route of this railway became known as “The Metals”. Up to 250 horses and 250 drivers were employed to transport the granite down the steep hill, 3.5km away. Each horse pulled up to 8 tonnes of granite and made one journey a day. An adult Asia elephant weighs approximately 7.5 tons.

1. How much granite might one horse carry per day?  
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2. The wagons travelled on the tracks down this laneway. Estimate the width of a wagon given that there were two sets of rails. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why do you think the metals path was a curved path?  
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### Activity

Continue along the Metals.

Find a sign post with the Irish name for The Metals.

Take a rubbing of this sign for the group.

**This concludes our trail. We hope you enjoyed it and will return again**