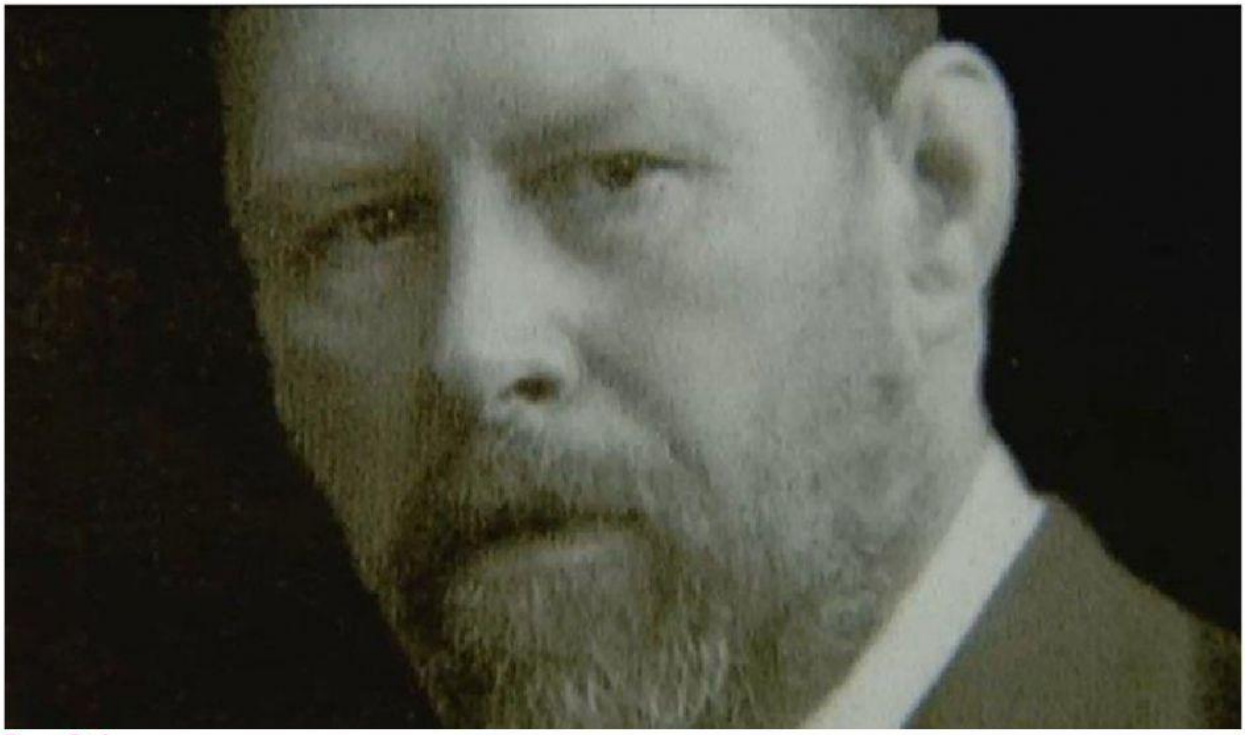
Five Famous Irish People in History Every Child Should Know about

Choose the correct option.

Glossary

- Bedridden: having to stay in bed because of illness or injury.
- Draw upon: use as a source of supply.
- Feature: play an important part.
- Malevolent: productive of harm or evil.
- Mannerism: exaggerated or affected adherence to a particular style or manner.
- Settle on: choose (something or someone) after thinking about other possible choices.
- Sweep: move quickly in a curving manner.



Bram Stoker

When you add up the figures, over 10 million men and women left Ireland over the centuries. But Irish history is more than just a long list of names, dates and statistics...

The interactive exhibitions at EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum explore why they left, as well as the lasting legacies of some famous Irish people in history. Here's just a few your kids will want to hear about...

Bram Stoker (1847-1912)

Abraham, or Bram, Stoker is most famous for writing the Gothic horror novel Dracula. But did you know that he also wrote romance novels? Or that he was _____ as a child?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Born in Dublin, Stoker was too sick to leave his house until the age of seven. During this time, he was told lots of Celtic stories, including tales of _____ fairies who sometimes drank blood!

These myths, along with other European folklore, inspired the story of Dracula. But Stoker _____ other influences too. After getting married, he moved to London to work for Henry Irving - a well-known stage actor who liked to dramatically _____ his cloak. Count Dracula developed some similar _____.

Stoker thought about calling his novel 'The Dead Undead' and naming the main character 'Count Wampyr'. But he later _____ Dracula for both, which means 'devil' in Romanian. Today, the devilish Dracula _____ in more than 200 films.

Glossary

- Desert: abandon
- Dispute: call into question or cast doubt upon.
- Don: put on an article of clothing.
- Fierce: given to fighting or killing.
- Pillage: take goods of value by force.
- Ruthless: cruel, having no pity.



Anne Bonny

Anne Bonny (Circa 1698)

Anne Cormac, aka Anne Bonny, was a notoriously _____ pirate who _____ merchant ships in the Caribbean.

Born in county Cork, she was the illegitimate daughter of a lawyer and his maid. Her father brought both Anne and her mother to South Carolina to start a new life.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Later on, Anne married a seaman named James Bonny and sailed with him to the Bahamas. Here, he made money by telling tales on pirates. But Anne preferred to join them and _____ Bonny for a colourful pirate called Calico Jack.

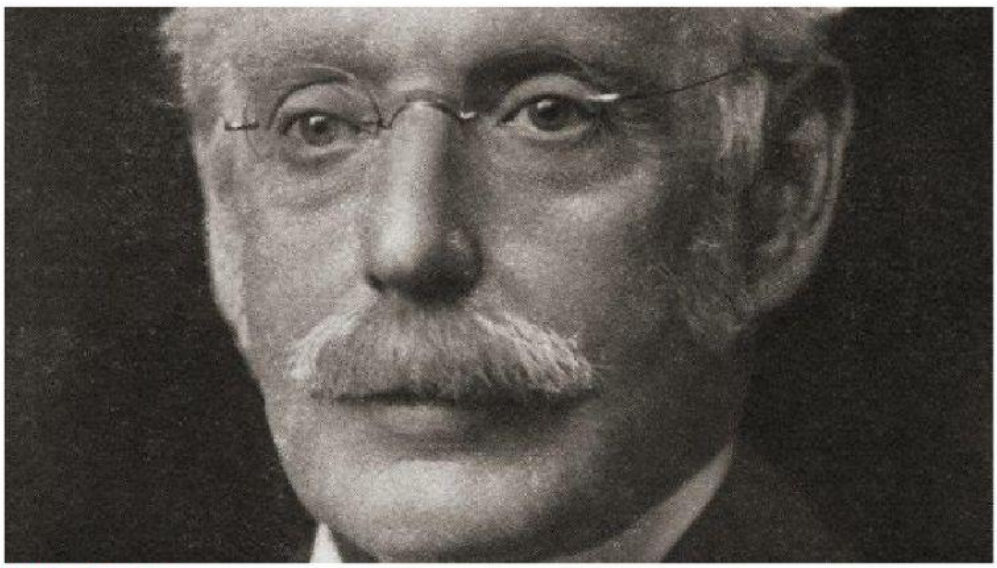
Sailors believed a woman's presence on-board brought bad luck. But Bonny didn't hide her identity. Only during attacks did she dress like a man, _____ a loose tunic, trousers and a cap. She was also equipped with a sword, pistols and sometimes a machete.

The British Navy captured their ship when most of the crew was drunk. But Anne and another female pirate, Mary Read, were its _____ defenders. The whole crew was executed but, being pregnant, Anne and Mary both escaped it.

What happened next is _____. However, many believe Anne returned to South Carolina and lived a long life. Today, her tale is a favourite among children who experience the EPIC exhibition.

Glossary

- Conglomerate: a widely diversified corporation.
- Harness: attach, fasten.
- Knight: in the UK, to be given the title 'Sir' by the king or queen.
- Peer: in the UK, a person who has a title and a high social position.
- Usher: serve to bring into existence.
- Widespread: involving a large well-dispersed group of people.



Sir Charles Parsons

Sir Charles Parsons (1854-1931)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Charles Parsons was the son of the _____ of Offaly, the Earl of Rosse, who was a famous astronomer and builder of the "Leviathan", which was at that time, the largest telescope in the world. It can still be visited at their family home at Birr Castle.

Charles invented the steam turbine. It was highly efficient and could be _____ directly to generate electricity. As a result of his invention, _____ and cheap electricity became possible and _____ in the modern electric world.

He also designed a turbine-powered yacht, the Turbina which was exhibited at Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and was at the time the fastest ship in the Royal Navy. Parson's turbine engines would also be used to power the famous HMS Dreadnought, the first modern battleship.

An engineering company he established in Newcastle still exists today nearly 90 years after his death and is now a subsidiary of Siemens, the German _____. Parsons was made a Fellow of the Royal Society in the United Kingdom and _____ for his contributions to science.

Glossary

- Churn: produce, proceed with, or experience violent motion or agitation.
- Encourage: stimulate.
- Fencing: wood or metal structures that goaround an area.
- Ignite: cause, excite.
- Label: designate with a descriptive or identifying word or phrase.
- Squiggle: a short wavy twist or line.



Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell (1943-present)

As an astrophysicist, Jocelyn Bell Burnell, is best known for her discovery of the first radio pulsars while still a student.

Born in Belfast, Bell's father was an architect for the Armagh Observatory. The time she spent there as a child _____ her interest in astronomy. The observatory's staff _____ her interest too and she went on to study physics.

In 1969, while at the University of Cambridge, Bell helped to construct an 81.5 megahertz radio telescope. It covered enough land to fit 57 tennis courts and looked like a field of wire _____!

She was the first person to run the telescope, which _____ out miles of paper readings every day. She quickly noticed some strange _____...

Even her thesis supervisor didn't know what they were. Initially, he thought they were artificial signals and _____ them 'LGM-1' - which stood for 'Little Green Men'. But as it turned out they came from rapidly-rotating, city-sized collapsed stars.

The discovery led to many other scientific developments and even allowed astronomers to make a map to direct aliens toward Earth.

Glossary

- Goal: the end toward which effort is directed.
- Retreat: recede from a position or state attained.
- Aspire: seek to attain or accomplish a particular goal.
- Embark on: begin something that will take a long time or happen for a long time.
- Shortage: a situation in which there is not enough of something that is needed.
- Apprentice: one who is learning a trade by practical experience under skilled workers.
- Sled: a vehicle for transportation especially on snow or ice.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Ernest Shackleton (1874-1922)

Born in Kildare and educated in London, Ernest Shackleton developed a passion for adventure by reading books as a child. At just 16, he became a ship's _____ and quickly rose through the ranks.

Shackleton _____ to be an explorer, but Europeans had already visited most of the world. So he wanted to be the first person to reach the South Pole.

In 1902, aged 27, Shackleton was just 400 miles from his _____. But his crew and _____ dogs fell ill, so he had to turn back. On another trip, he was only 97 miles away. But once again, he was forced to _____ because of a food _____. Shortly afterward, another explorer got there first.

Even then, Shackleton didn't give up and decided to cross the Antarctic instead. With 69 dogs on-board and a 1.3 metre bow for breaking ice, his ship - the Endurance - set out. But it got stuck!

To save his crew, Shackleton bravely _____ a legendary trip, crossing rough seas, mountains and glaciers...

LIVEWORKSHEETS