

Can you be a story teller?

Nial and Owen were two farmers. They lived by the river Wandera in the land of Icretia. One spring they fell out over where their sheep should feed. Nial wanted them to feed high on the hills as they had always done while Owen wanted to try something new and let them graze down by the river.

One night there was a great storm in the mountains. After that, the river began to dry up, the land became dry too and the crops failed. Even the emerald ducks that were only found on the Wandera flew away. Nial and Owen thought that Wando, the god of the river, was angry with them. So they left their sheep on the hillsides and went to the next country, Kindolan.

Nial and Owen asked the people of Kindolan if they could live there and set up a farm. The people said there was not enough land for newcomers and that they must move on. Sadly they moved on to the country of Ruchanwin. Here the people were more welcoming. We have enough farmers but we make iron goods like knives and cauldrons and trade them everywhere. You could work at the furnaces smelting the iron out of rocks. Reluctantly the farmers agreed. One day as they laboured at the hot furnace a pair of emerald ducks flew over. "Look they are flying towards Icretia," cried Nial. "Perhaps the Wandera flows again." The farmers decided to go back and see.

When they arrived they saw that the river did indeed flow again and met an old man on the river bank. He told them that in the storm rocks had broken off from the mountains and blocked the path of the river. The water built up behind the rocks and formed a lake but then pushed the rocks out of the way and let the river flow again. The farmers looked up at the mountains. "It was nothing to do with Wando then," laughed Owen as he turned back to face the old man but all he saw was an emerald duck flying away.

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Age range

- Use with years 3/4 (SP4/5) as a story telling exercise.
- Use with years 5/6 (SP6/7) to study why people migrate from one country to another and what happens to them.

Resources

A copy of the worksheet.

Using the worksheet

The aim of the worksheet is to illustrate how the British communicated their information from one generation to the next. They told stories and others memorised them. This is in contrast to the use of writing which is explored in activities **7B** and **7C**. This fictional story is also about people migrating from one country to another and this can be explored by older children and contrasted with the way that the Romans came to live in Britain.

Younger students

You may let the students use this as a homework activity or they could work in groups and memorise parts of the story then tell them in the correct sequence. You could also read part of the story to them a few times and see who can remember it. The students should appreciate that there is skill in remembering and telling a story just as there is in writing and this should help to dispel the barbarian image of the British. It may help the students if they make the story into a play.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Appreciate the story teller's art.
- Work together as a group.
- Appreciate story telling as a way of communication.

Older students

The following approach needs sensitivity but by setting the issues in a fiction story they may be more comfortably addressed.

The students can read through the story and consider reasons why people like Nial and Owen have to leave their homelands. They can look at reasons why migrant people may not be welcome in another country. They can look at reasons why people would be made welcome in another country. They could explore how migrants feel when they are rejected by people in a country and how people in a country feel when migrants arrive.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Discuss issues related to the migration of people.