

SOURCES TASK SHEET

Artefact 3 – Bell

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Name Class

Study **Artefact 3** in the **Sources** section and fill out this task sheet.

QUESTIONS

1. On what type of excavation was the bell found?

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2. How old is the bell?

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3. What was the bell used for?

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4. Name one person in medieval Dublin who would have used this bell.

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5. Name two ways to date artefacts.

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CLASS DISCUSSION – What this bell can tell us about medieval Dublin.

Discuss as a class for 5 minutes how this artefact may tell us about life in medieval Dublin.

Use these topics:

- There were no clocks in medieval Dublin. How did Dubliners know what time it was?
- The bell was rung from the top windows of a round tower or church to call parishioners to prayer. Do you think this was an effective way to call parishioners?
- Look closely at the image. The bell looks almost perfect even though it is about 800 years old and was uncovered from the ground. What risks are there to artefacts on an excavation site?
- Conservators in the National Museum found wood or straw packed into the bell. This probably silenced the bell. Why do you think the bell might have been silenced?

SOUNDSCAPE TASK

In medieval Dublin the odour from outdoor toilets and animal dung on the streets would mean the city was a very smelly place. But what did it sound like? There was no traffic, ambulances or noisy airplanes like today.

Create a soundscape of medieval Dublin.

Spend 10 minutes discussing with your class what sounds you might have heard on a street in medieval Dublin. Use these points.

1. People – chatter and work
2. Transport – carts and horses
3. Animals – pigs, dogs, cats
4. The Fair – sellers at stalls
5. Weather – rain, wind

Helpful hint: Look at the source image in the Streets hotspot to inspire you.

Once you identify a number of sounds divide the class into a choir. Create 5 sections using the points above.

Record the soundscape on a mobile phone.