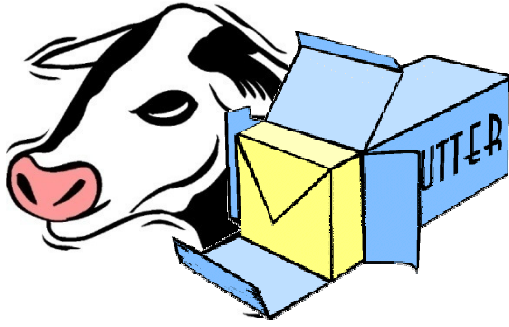


# **CORK BUTTER MUSEUM**

## Geography Lesson 2 Activity Sheets



# Butter Riches



## Lesson Three

### Geography

#### Strand:

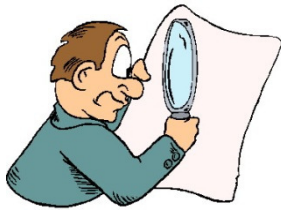
- Human environments.

#### Strand Unit:

- People at work.
- Settlements- Homes and other buildings.
- People living and working in the local area.

### What will I learn?

- The farmer's role in producing butter.
- Barter -A system of exchanging goods or services in return for other goods or services.
- The process of exporting butter to other countries.



## The Butter Museum Dictionary!

Match the word with the correct meaning. Use your dictionary to help you. There is one answer done for you. Match up the rest!

Exchange	Belonging to a group of people with a high rank or title.
Possessions	A long trip by air, land, or sea, or into outer space.
Barter	Things that are owned.
Source	To give something in return for something else.
Wealth	To make larger or wider.
Chieftains	A person or group that rents space to live or work in.
Nobles	To force someone to leave a rented property.
Rented	Something that has been made or produced.
Landlords	A large amount of money or property.
Tenants	A leader of a clan or tribe.
Evicted	To trade services or things for other services or things without using money.
Produce	The start of something.
Shipped	The act of renting; Paying the owner of a property for the use of a space.
Firkin	Transported by ship.
Cooper	A small wooden tub or keg.
Voyages	A man or woman who rents property to others.
Business	A person who makes and repairs wooden barrels, tubs, and the like.
Expand	Plural of business; An organisation that sells goods or services in order to make money.
Sealed	A group of Cork business men who came together to help Cork butter sell overseas.
Butter Roads	Men who were employed to test the quality of the butter and firkins.
Committee of Merchants	Roads that were built to connect Cork City with the surrounding countryside, where the dairy farmers travelled from.
Weighing houses	Buildings dedicated to testing the quality of every firkin.
Weigh masters	To close securely.



As Irish people, we count ourselves as very lucky. Our climate has given us the ideal conditions for making golden, delicious butter. However, besides climate, we have the butter-makers to thank for its high quality. These people worked hard; taking care of the cows and using family tested techniques and various equipment to produce their butter. The butter-makers not only played an important part in producing great butter, but even made it famous!



Butter-makers worked very hard, so they could make better quality butter and in larger quantities. In the past, this butter was produced as a source of food for the butter-makers families and as a form of payment. People had to pay for things like food, shelter, clothing and a comfortable lifestyle. Nowadays, people use money to buy even more things!



If you look back in time far enough, you will see that unlike today, people didn't use money as a single form of payment. People paid in other ways. They swapped **possessions** or **produce** for new items of a similar value. This type of **exchange** was known as **bartering**.



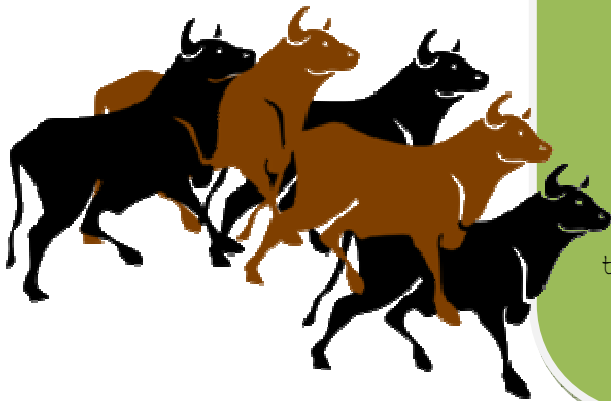
**Activity**

**Can you think of items that people may have bartered long ago?**

Animal products	Plant products	Rocks/Mineral products
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Think of living and non-living things in nature that people have used, such as animals, plants and rocks/minerals.





Did you know in that in ancient times, cows were seen as a possession of the highest value? They were not only a **source** of food, but also indicated a person's **wealth** and their position. For example, the **chieftains**, who were the richest men in ancient Ireland had the greatest numbers of cattle and this gave them the most power. To ensure their power, they even stole their neighbour's cattle!



The Irish people have used cattle in this way for thousands of years. It was only after the British began conquering Ireland in the 12th century that things began to change. The Irish owned lands were taken away and given to English **nobles**. The nobles often **rented** out parts of their land to the Irish people who used to live there.

#### Contract between Landlord and Tenant

##### Jobs to do

Milk the cows

Make butter

Sell the milk and butter at the markets

##### Payment

Land to live on

##### Failure to abide by this

contract will result in eviction

Signed: Patrick Healy Tenant

Signed: John Roche Landlord

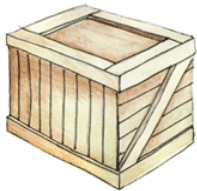
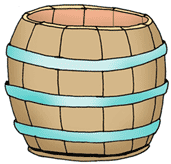


The new land owners, or **landlords** had a special agreement with the people who were renting from them, known as **tenants**. The landlords gave them lands to live on, but as payment they had to work hard to look after the landlords' cows, milking them and making butter from them. Sometimes the tenants were forced to bring the milk and butter to the market where they could be sold on behalf of their landlord. The tenants had no choice but to do these things, otherwise they would be thrown out, or **evicted** from their homes!



Before long, the hard work of the Irish tenants meant that larger amounts of butter were being produced, especially in the The Golden Vale area. In fact, so much butter was being made here that there was enough to sell outside of Ireland!

By the 18th century Irish butter started to be **shipped** out and exported to Britain and soon after, to other countries around the world. Other foods, like beef and pork were



soon being sold alongside the butter.



Cork harbour was chosen as the place from which most of these foods were being shipped. It became the starting point for these long **voyages**, because of its size and how close it lay to the Golden Vale.



**Activity**

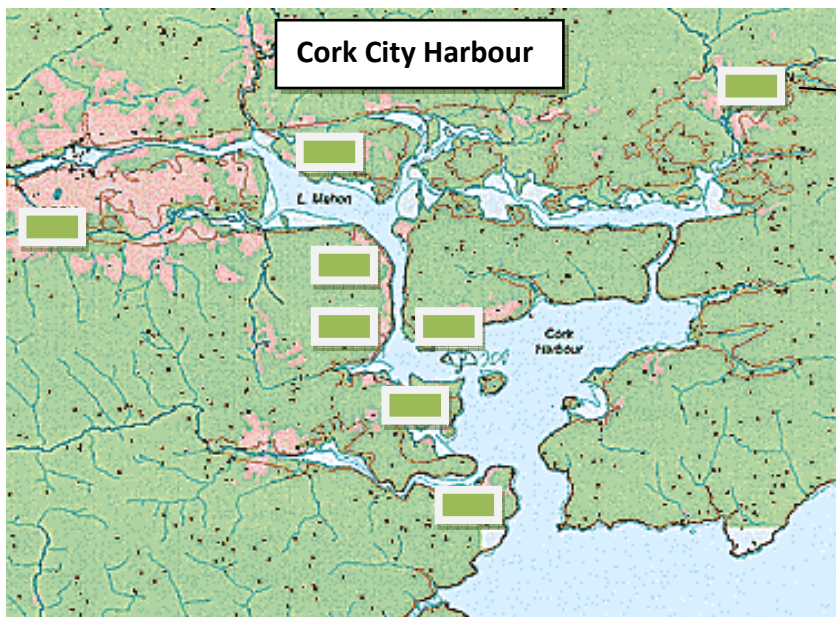
Did you know that Cork has the second largest natural harbour in the world? Can you find out on the internet where the world's largest harbour is?

**About Harbours**

Harbours are safe, sheltered areas of water for boats to be anchored or secured. They are situated at the mouth of the river; the point where the river enters the sea. Harbours are places where ships can rest, be examined for damage and where repairs can be made. Here, ships stock up on food, goods and fuel before travelling on voyages.

**This map shows Cork City harbor.**

**Can you match up these areas on the map?**



- Little Island
- Middleton
- Cork City Centre
- Mahon
- Cobh
- Passage West
- Crosshaven
- Ringaskiddy

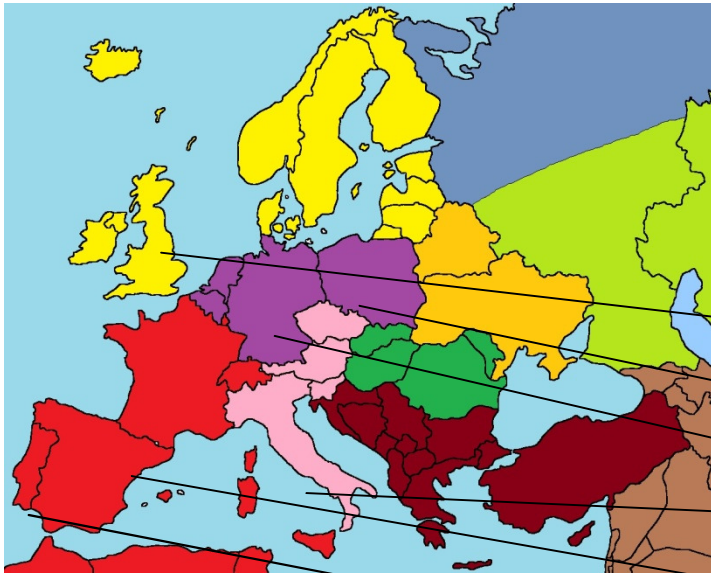
Transporting food over these long distances came with many difficulties. Food could easily go off without fridges in those days. People had to use other ways to keep the foods fresh or **preserved**. Salt was added to the butter, as a way of preserving it.

Another way to protect it was to have it **sealed** in air-tight containers, known as **firkins**. The firkins were made by people called **coopers**. Irish butter, now known as Cork Butter because it came from Cork could travel safely all over the world and be experienced in many countries.



**Activities**

**Cork butter was exported to many countries around the world and especially within Europe.**



**(a) Can you name the six countries on the map?**

**(a) Find the countries in the word search. One is circled already!**

E \_ \_ \_ \_ D  
 \_ \_ L \_ ND  
 \_ ER \_ \_ Y  
 I T \_ \_ Y  
 \_ \_ A I N  
 P O R T \_ \_ \_ L



Here is some help. Fill in the rest!

U	B	A	W	H	R	M	M	Q	I	P	P	W	T	Z
Y	Y	C	K	E	P	I	T	A	L	Y	B	Q	V	I
F	N	D	I	B	U	T	X	H	O	L	D	D	X	I
E	A	L	J	T	J	T	Y	A	V	W	P	P	Q	X
S	M	K	K	F	W	K	O	R	E	E	J	V	O	B
X	R	Q	T	Y	S	L	M	E	C	Y	Z	X	C	E
R	E	X	P	O	L	A	N	D	O	W	A	G	N	P
A	G	W	K	F	G	G	B	T	R	F	Q	H	Y	O
N	H	O	V	U	L	X	E	P	K	K	L	V	I	R
B	F	V	S	A	T	I	R	D	B	L	L	O	W	T
Z	T	B	N	Q	U	A	L	F	U	F	Y	D	N	U
Q	A	D	I	G	K	N	J	V	T	O	D	K	Q	G
T	B	K	A	R	S	S	Y	B	T	K	Z	P	N	A
G	R	W	P	Z	N	R	U	I	E	L	Y	J	Q	L
N	B	G	S	T	J	D	Y	C	R	U	G	L	U	H

**(c) Can you find the secret message? Write it in the box!**

From all the butter being sold, Cork City began to get much wealthier. However as years went by, other butter companies began to compete with Cork butter. The people of Cork decided that they needed to protect their butter, because it was the source of their city's wealth. Therefore, a number of laws were introduced to improve the quality of all Cork butter in the hope that it would remain popular and continue to bring money into the city.

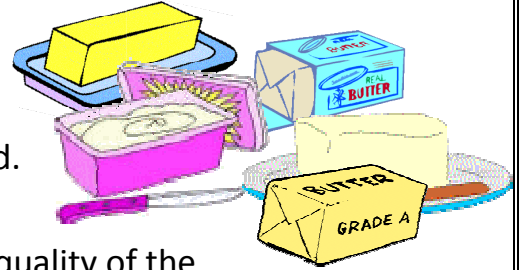


Special buildings called **weighing houses** were built where the butter had to be tested.

This brought changes to the city. Inspectors called **weigh masters** carefully checked the quality of the firkin in which the butter was packed and the butter itself. It was a weigh master's job to decide whether a firkin of butter could be sold or not. If he was happy with the quality of the butter and the way in which it was

packed he would put a stamp of his approval on the firkin. If he was displeased the butter it could not be sold.

These new laws meant that any farmer who wanted to sell his butter had to come into Cork City. The farmers often travelled great distances to get to Cork and when they arrived they had long shopping lists for other things they needed to buy. Soon Cork City **businesses** were thriving with the money the farmers were spending there.



Did you know that the main weigh house of Cork was situated in Shandon? This building still exists today and is an important historical site. Use the internet to find out the name of the building. \_\_\_\_\_



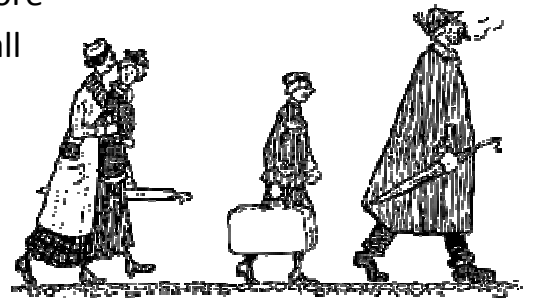
### Activities



**(a) Think of other things farmers may have needed to buy in Cork. Write a shopping list for them!**



Cork City was fast becoming a wealthier place. The money that the farmers were bringing in helped the businesses to be able to afford to grow larger and supply better goods. These improvements attracted new customers into the city. More importantly, workers and tradesmen were attracted by all the new jobs available and businessmen saw Cork as a good place to make money. Soon people were not only coming into the city for the day, but staying to live and work there, bringing with them more money still.



The city grew so busy that the people of Cork decided that bridges needed to be built, so that people could easily travel into the city and from one side to the other. In addition to this, new roads were built for the same reason. These roads were known as the **Butter Roads**.



The purpose of the Butter Roads was to help connect Cork City with the surrounding countryside. In this way, people could make their journey much more quickly, bringing with them money and business into the city. The Butter Roads were also important to the small towns along

the route. These towns thrived from the traffic coming through on the way to Cork City. Some of these towns still exist today and have grown very large, despite the roads no longer being in use. Some of the Butter Roads, however, such as the Macroom to Cork road is still around.



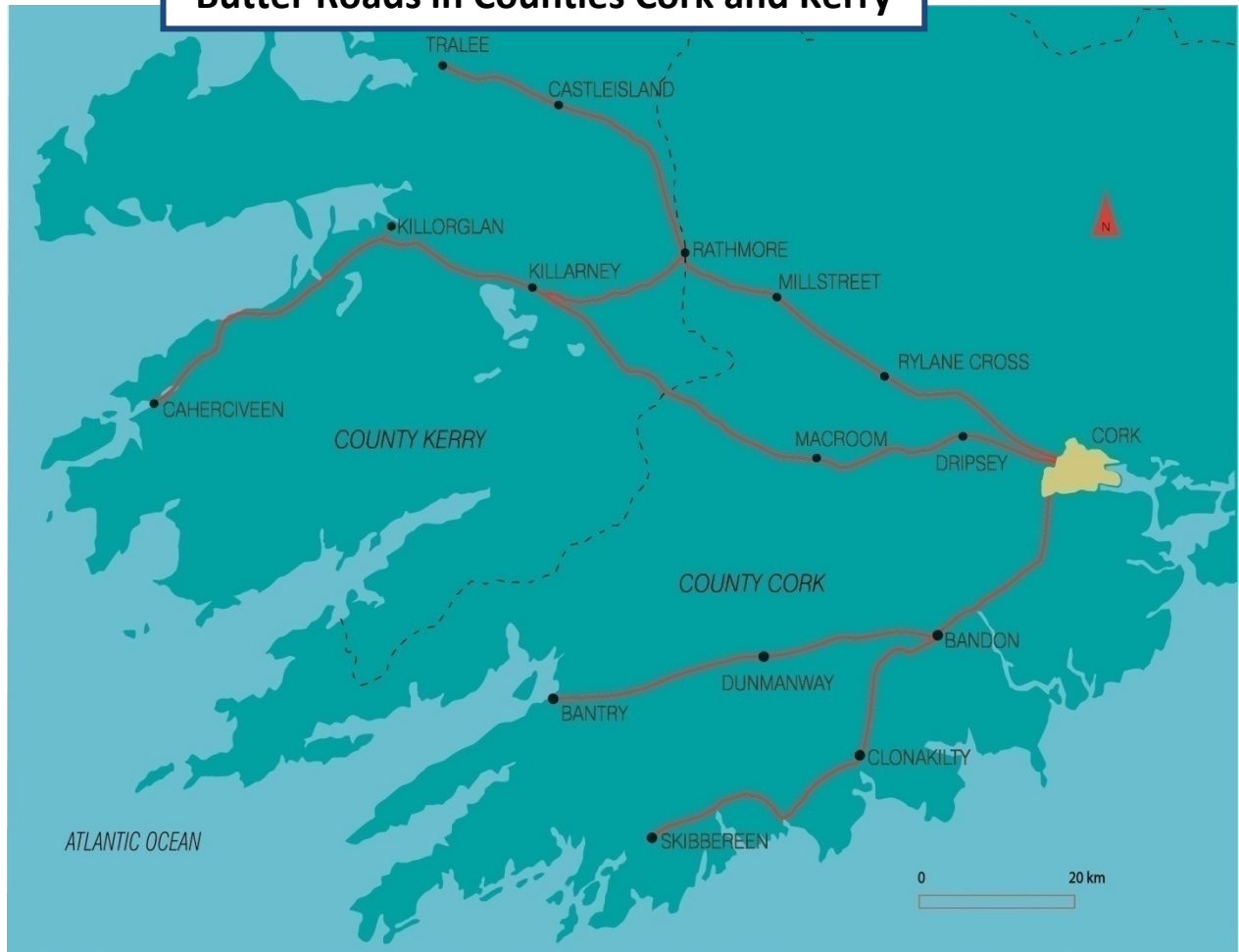
### Activity

**(a) Draw a picture of a farmer travelling by the Butter Roads to Cork.**





## Butter Roads in Counties Cork and Kerry



For many years, no other butter could match Cork butter. However, this was not to last. Growing competition outside of Ireland meant that Cork butter was becoming less popular overseas. The farmers soon worried that they wouldn't be able to sell any of their butter. A number of business men came together and set up a group called the **Committee of Merchants**. Their aim was to make sure Cork butter continued to be sold overseas.



The Committee of Merchants realised that if the quality of the butter could be improved, it would be able to compete with the new butter products. They invented a clever way of grading the butter, to help improve and guarantee the quality of Cork butter. A marking system of 1-5 was brought in. 1 indicated the best quality and 5 was the poorest. The butter was also examined very carefully at all stages. Not only was it inspected before it was packed into its firkins but even when it was waiting to be shipped and on the ship itself. Soon Cork butter was one of the favourites again and people all over the world recognised it as a symbol of great taste and the guaranteed quality!

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
#####	####	###	##	#

**What have I learned?**

**Record four new facts that you didn't know before!**



**Fact 1:**

A light blue tray containing three yellow rectangular blocks of varying sizes on the left and a large yellow rectangular box for writing on the right. The box is labeled "Fact 1:".

**Fact 2:**

A light blue tray containing three yellow rectangular blocks of varying sizes on the left and a large yellow rectangular box for writing on the right. The box is labeled "Fact 2:".

**Fact 3:**

A light blue tray containing three yellow rectangular blocks of varying sizes on the left and a large yellow rectangular box for writing on the right. The box is labeled "Fact 3:".

**Fact 4:**

A light blue tray containing three yellow rectangular blocks of varying sizes on the left and a large yellow rectangular box for writing on the right. The box is labeled "Fact 4:".