



## Student's Workbook



# Photocopiable Worksheets

This project is a joint project  
Of  
OPW  
And  
Laois Education Centre



## CIRCULAR WALK AT EMO COURT

### **STOP ONE: At front of house.**

Tigers – Coade Stone  
Panels – Coade Stone  
Coat of Arms  
Wellingtonias

Continue to right of house  
Tunnel

### **STOP TWO: at side of house**

Urns  
Croquet lawn

Continue to start of beech walk

### **STOP THREE: at statue by pond**

Yews  
Statues  
Trees – oak, beech, davidia,  
Chimneys of house

Continue through beech walk to lake

### **STOP FOUR: at lake**

Swans  
Ducks  
Oak tree  
Lake

Continue across field towards house

### **STOP FIVE: before gate to garden**

Haha  
House

Continue towards house and right to exit

### **STOP SIX: at game store**

Game store  
Side view of house and side buildings  
Squirrels

## **NOTES TO CIRCULAR WALK AT EMO**

**Time: about 1.25 hours**

### **Stop 1: Front of House**

As you look up at the front of the house, there are two panels right and left below the roof. They are made of Coade stone, an artificial stone material resistant to weathering (see notes for more detail on Coade stone).

The panel on the right details the arts and architecture. One cherub holds a harp, another paints at an easel. Others are involved in building and building design. One holds the plan of Emo Court in his hands.

The panel on the left has agriculture as its theme. The pastoral scene shows a sheepdog lying down and cherubs harvesting corn and playing pan pipes.

The centre panel is the coat of arms of the Earls of Portarlington. It represents ..... Below it is the date in Roman numerals of the initial building of the house (see notes for more detail of Roman numerals).

The two heraldic tigers are also made of Coade stone, but are covered in the winter for protection from frost. They each hold one quarter of the coat of arms ...

The Wellingtonia trees were planted as an entrance avenue to the house in 1853, and it is the longest avenue of its kind (one mile), turning to go out towards the Dublin road. The Wellingtonia (or Sequoiadendron) is the largest species on earth, and gets its common name from the Duke of Wellington who had died shortly before the species was introduced to Europe from the United States. Squirrels are very fond of the cones.

Continue on to the right of the house.

As you walk through the iron gates, you are walking over the servants' tunnel, which originally led from the stables area to the basement of the house. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, vaulted brick tunnels were designed so that servants were not seen as they went about their business between the house and the kitchen garden or stables. An excellent example of a servants' tunnel can be seen at Castle Coole near Enniskillen.

### **Stop 2: at the side of the house**

From here the whole sweep of the gardens can be seen.

The urns which are placed along the terrace at the back and side of the house were originally placed on the roof, and were put in their present positions by Cholmeley Harrison. There is also a Roman bath (presently under cover for protection) which was purchased by the ??? Earl of Portarlington. Check J Duffy for story.

The flat area to the side of the house was originally a croquet lawn, and was occasionally used by the Jesuits as a tennis court if the main tennis court near the beech walk was too wet. Below the croquet lawn stood a sun dial.

Continue down towards the trees and statue by the pond.

### **Stop 3: at statue by the pond**

From here there is an excellent view of the yew tree walks which were planted in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. All Irish yew trees are descended from a yew tree discovered at Florence Court Co Fermanagh in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and have an upright rather than spreading habit. They can only be propagated from cuttings, and the berries are poisonous. They are thinned from the centre outwards, thus necessitating wire to keep their shape.

There are many statues throughout the gardens at Emo Court, dating mostly from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Some were stored for safety by the Jesuits in the basement of the house during the novitiate here. There was a statue of St Bernadette at the pond, which known as the Grotto. The present statue is Ceres (see notes for more details)????.....

If you look back at the house from here, 29 chimneys can be seen on the house. Originally there were 16 at each end, and a further eight on each side – 48 in total. Spare a thought for the small boy who was the chimney sweep, and the under housemaid who had to clean out the ashes and the footman who replenished the coal every day, usually before breakfast!

In this part of the garden (called the Vista down through the gardens to the gates), there are many beautiful and rare trees (see notes for more details) such as the Handkerchief Tree (*Davidia Involucrata*) known for its unusual white flowers in May, and the Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron*) with its glorious yellow foliage in autumn. Many of these trees were planted by Cholmeley Harrison. It was also the tradition of the Jesuits that each novice planted a tree before he left.

At this part of the garden there was once a wall or hedge across the garden. When the Portarlington family lived here, it was permitted for local people to walk in the lower part of the gardens below the wall but not to come close to the house.

Continue down through the beech walk towards the lake

### **Stop 4: at the lake**

The lake is man-made, and was made by the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Portarlington when the house was built. Until recently there was a boat-house near the path. The sluice gates at the north end of the lake were made by Mallet and Company in Dublin, and while there were originally cascades nearby, nowadays the river ???name is not full enough. There was/is ?? a bog on the far side of the lake where ?? turf was cut for the house. (see Father Browne photo?)

The swans and ducks remain on the lake all year round, and are fed crushed barley in the winter. Wild bird seed is better for them than white bread!

The small oak tree has grown from an acorn from the large oak tree.

Continue on across the field and up towards the house.

### **Stop 5: at the gate as you leave the field**

Here there is a very clear view of the haha or sunken fence. It is the boundary to the garden, designed not to interrupt the view and to be invisible until closely approached. This garden feature originates in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and it is a trench, the inner side of which is vertical and faced with stone and the outer side slopes towards the field. Its purpose was to keep out deer or cattle which were grazing on the pasture. The origin of the word 'haha' is uncertain – Horace Walpole (in 1780) guessed that it was the expression of surprise that people uttered when they discovered this unexpected check to their walk (see notes for more details).

Continue up the path and turn right towards the car park.

### **Stop 6: at the Game Store or Salting House**

This small but beautifully designed building was used for hanging and storing game after it had been shot on the estate. The hooks of different sizes remain in the ceiling. Pheasants were kept nearby during the Jesuits' time here - although in the early days, there was a pheasantry nearer the old farm and stables.

There is a good view here of the smaller buildings which were originally attached to the main house by the Serpentine Corridor which has been demolished. The small building is known as the Bachelors' Quarters or the Dower House, and was used for accommodation when large parties were staying at the house. Nb did the Dowager Countess live here???

Emo is fortunate in that there are many red squirrels in the estate. Grey squirrels have not as yet taken hold, and the red squirrels can often be seen in the beech trees near the car park. (See notes for more details on squirrels)

## Trees at Emo Court

Write the names of the trees .See <http://www.----->

		
		
		
		
Bark of the	Bark of the	Fruit of the

## Statues at Emo Court

Write the names of the trees .See <http://www.----->

		
		
		
		
	Draw a statue	Draw a statue

## **MAKING A DETAILED STUDY OF ONE TREE AT EMO COURT**

Choose one tree situated in a safe and accessible place. Look at the tree closely and answer the following questions:

1. What is the name of the tree you have chosen? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Does it lose its leaves in autumn? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are the leaves needle-like or flat? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the width of the tree (measure one metre from the ground)? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Is the bark rough or smooth? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What colour is the bark? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Is there any lichen or moss growing on the bark? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Is there any ivy or fern growing on it? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Is there any damage or disease to be seen? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Look at the leaves. Which words describe their shape? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Describe the edges of the leaves. \_\_\_\_\_
12. What plants are growing under the tree? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Can you see any nests? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Are the branches growing upwards, outwards or down? \_\_\_\_\_
15. Has the tree any seeds? If so, describe them. \_\_\_\_\_
16. Disturb the leaf litter under the tree. What did you find? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Draw a picture of the tree over the page.
18. Draw a picture of the leaf over the page
19. Make a bark rubbing on a separate sheet of paper

## ROMAN NUMERALS

The Romans developed a system to indicate numbers which lasted for many centuries and still has some specialized use today (for example, it is the tradition to write the order of rulers using Roman numerals: Queen Elizabeth II).

The system also lives on in the English language, which uses Latin root words to express numerical ideas eg century, millimetre.

The Romans had no symbol for zero.

**I** Little strokes indicate the number you want to write down ie I means 1, II means 2, III means 3. IIII seemed rather too many, making things complicated, so

**V** is the symbol for 5. Placing I in front of V – or any smaller number in front of a larger – indicates subtraction. So IV means 4. After V, there are additions – VI means 6, VII means 7, VIII means 8.

**X** is the symbol for 10. Following the above rule, IX means 9. XI means 11, XII means 12. XX means 20, XXX means 30. XXXVI means 36.

**L** means 50. Following the same rules again, LI means 51. XL means 40. 60, 70 and 80 are LX, LXX, and LXXX.

**C** means 100. We find the Latin word *centum* in many of our words: cent, century, centurion, centilitre. The subtraction rule means that 90 is XC. The addition rule means that CXX is 120. CCC is 300.

**D** means 500. So CD means 400, CDLX is 460.

**M** is 1000, from the Latin *millis*. We find that Latin word in many of our measurements: millimetre, millilitre, and so on. Roman numerals were often used to indicate dates: MMVII is 2007. You often see a date written on special stone plaques in old houses. You also see it at the bottom of some TV programmes to indicate when they were filmed.

**Now can you work out the date that Emo Court was built? Over the front door, on the tympanum, is written**

**MDCCXCVI**

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## Internet Links

<http://www.laois.ie/LeisureandCulture/Heritage/LaoisHeritageTrail/EmoCourt/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emo\\_Court](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emo_Court)

<http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/HistoricSites/East/EmoCourtLaois/>

<http://www.fatherbrowne.com/>

[http://www.irish-architecture.com/architects\\_ireland/gandon.html](http://www.irish-architecture.com/architects_ireland/gandon.html)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Gandon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Gandon)

[http://ga.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Gandon](http://ga.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Gandon)

<http://www.environ.ie/ga/EolasFuinn/StairnaRoinne/JamesGandon/>

<http://www.environ.ie/en/AboutUs/HistoryofDepartment/JamesGandon/>

[http://www.southdublincountyhistory.ie/Lucan/lucan\\_people.htm](http://www.southdublincountyhistory.ie/Lucan/lucan_people.htm)

<http://www.irishreports.ie/html/FourCourtsHistory.htm>

[http://www.askaboutireland.ie/show\\_image\\_gallery.do?institution\\_id=42&topic\\_id=25](http://www.askaboutireland.ie/show_image_gallery.do?institution_id=42&topic_id=25)

[http://newsweaver.ie/jesuits/e\\_article000753041.cfm?x=b11,0,w](http://newsweaver.ie/jesuits/e_article000753041.cfm?x=b11,0,w)

<http://www.opw.ie/familyconnections2006.pdf>

[http://www.offalyhistory.com/content/reading\\_resources/books\\_articles/tullabeg\\_rahan.htm](http://www.offalyhistory.com/content/reading_resources/books_articles/tullabeg_rahan.htm)

<http://www.lilliputpress.ie/listbook.html?oid=2732969>

Just an ad for a book but it describes life in Emo as a novice

<http://homepage.eircom.net/~heathschool/HEATH.htm>

# Object Detective:

## Deer's Foot Cigarette Holder in the Dining Room

**1. Draw a sketch of the deer's foot on the other side of this page**

**2. Label what materials it is made from**

**3. Try to find out when it was made**

**4. Do you think it was made by hand or by machine?**

**5. Has it been used a lot? How can you tell?**

**6. What kind of person would have used it?**

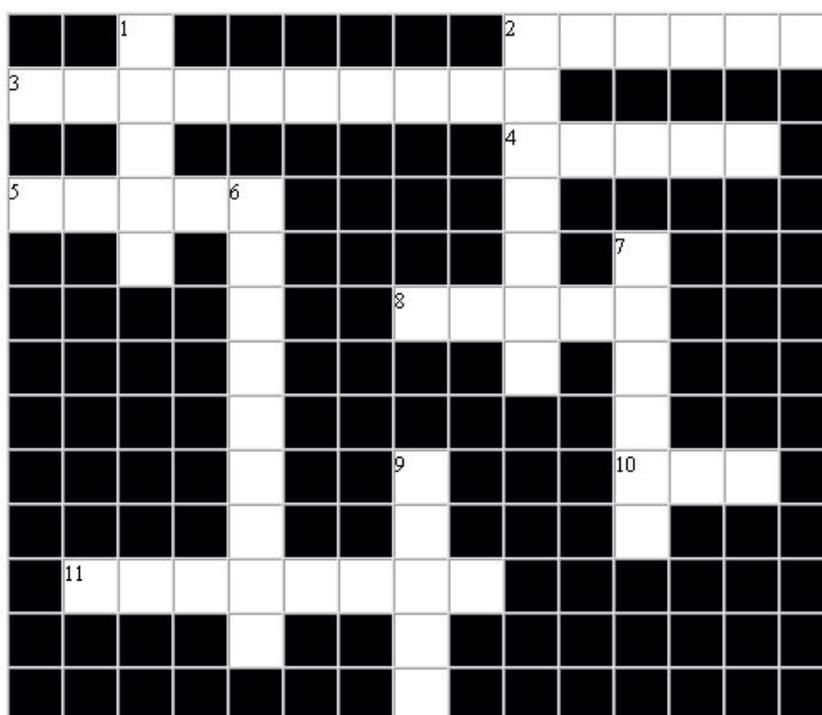
**7. What was it used for? Who might have offered it to other people?**

**8. Would we use it today? Why? Why not?**

**Name:**

## Emocross1

Crossword



### Across:

- 2 He took photos on the Titanic.
- 3 Muse of Sacred hymns
- 4 Goddess of cereals and growth.
- 5 The ----of Portarlinton owned Emo Court
- 8 A word for animals.
- 10 Office of Public Works
- 11 Once a Jesuit novice

### Down:

- 1 A word for plants.
- 2 The god of wine.
- 6 A nice rodent.
- 7 The designer of Emo Court
- 9 Benedict ---- was a writer who studied in Emo Court.



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_



# EmoWordSearch

Why is the sky so high? So birds don't bump their heads!

Complete the activity.

P	H	J	D	A	F	X	X	X	F	X	X	A	B	R	O	W	N	E	V	N
O	D	L	N	S	Y	C	L	S	T	A	T	U	E	S	T	V	T	Y	Z	B
N	L	V	S	C	A	L	K	U	W	G	D	D	B	C	P	D	Q	C	L	C
M	B	W	A	P	O	L	Y	H	Y	M	N	I	A	L	O	E	T	H	J	K
L	J	C	R	I	K	V	S	S	J	R	C	Q	C	U	R	V	F	E	A	J
K	E	D	A	V	I	D	I	A	I	O	L	I	C	C	T	E	A	S	F	S
J	S	U	X	X	U	M	I	L	A	M	M	V	H	K	A	R	U	T	Y	S
I	U	X	C	E	R	E	S	X	S	A	L	Q	U	E	R	G	N	N	D	Z
H	I	G	V	D	A	W	S	O	N	N	D	L	S	R	L	R	A	U	L	T
G	T	E	L	P	Z	J	E	M	O	C	O	U	R	T	I	E	E	T	T	Y
F	S	V	E	S	F	P	E	S	O	R	B	U	S	Z	N	E	U	Z	A	P
E	N	U	M	E	R	A	L	S	X	F	Z	G	Q	C	G	N	G	X	M	H
D	T	L	F	N	B	N	F	L	O	R	A	A	T	I	T	A	N	I	C	F
C	W	X	Z	G	E	V	Q	D	K	V	V	G	F	M	O	A	L	S	W	L
B	X	F	S	Y	H	T	M	U	U	H	X	U	C	T	N	O	S	W	W	B
A	Y	C	Q	X	K	G	A	N	D	O	N	E	L	J	M	T	L	R	U	G
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

EMOCOURT	POLYHYMNIA	STATUES	FAUNA
GANDON	CERES	TITANIC	SORBUS
BROWNE	CLUCKER	NUMERALS	CHESTNUT
PORTARLINGTON	DAWSON	ROMAN	EVERGREEN
BACCHUS	JESUITS	FLORA	DAVIDIA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

# Vocabulary Challenge

What goes tick-tick, woof-woof? A watch dog.

Complete the activity.



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

- |                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. LBLSZBX _____  | 11. ZJTFCSYA _____      |
| 2. XVFALZJL _____ | 12. ICPNZF _____        |
| 3. XFCFA _____    | 13. WSZKPZ _____        |
| 4. HFAJBLA _____  | 14. RYPCS _____         |
| 5. ISXXVJA _____  | 15. DPCLSCYBZWLPZ _____ |
| 6. XYJXOFC _____  | 16. FTPXPJCL _____      |
| 7. KSMBKBS _____  | 17. APCIJA _____        |
| 8. CPTSZ _____    | 18. RSJZS _____         |
| 9. KSNAPZ _____   | 19. DPYGVGTZBS _____    |
| 10. ALSLJFA _____ | 20. FMFCWCFFZ _____     |

EMOCOURT	POLYHYMNIA	STATUES	FAUNA
GANDON	CERES	TITANIC	SORBUS
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\_\_\_\_\_ Total Grade