



The Great Challenge

Programme 4

Granda explains to the children how important cattle were to the economy of Ireland long ago and that rivalry and jealousy were as rampant then as now. Queen Maeve of Connaught wants to own the fabled Brown Bull of Cooley. She offers to buy it but the rejection of her offer angers her so much that she decides that she will own that bull come what may. Maeve lines up a formidable army against Ulster and invokes magic against the Ulstermen. Since Cú Chulainn is not a born Ulsterman he is unaffected by the spell. Single-handed our hero takes on Maeve's men. Clever and cunning Maeve uses her wiles to make the great Ferdia jealous of Cú Chulainn. Against his better judgement Ferdia is lured into facing his friend and kinsman Cú Chulainn. Granda leaves the story to be continued.

Key words/concepts:

barter, cattle as money, enchantment, spells, honour, jealousy, four Provinces.

Before the Programme:

- ◆ Talk the pupils through the storyline, explaining this is only Part One.
- ◆ Discuss the key words and concepts.

After the programme:

- ◆ Discuss why Maeve wanted the bull so badly. Should the bull have been sold to prevent a war? Should Maeve have gone to war to get it?
- ◆ On your computers create some spells and magic potions.

- ◆ On the video freeze the frame showing the Brown bull. Draw him and make up an advertisement as if he were for sale.
- ◆ Using percussion, create sounds to fit the various battle scenes involving Cú Chulainn.
- ◆ Begin a cartoon strip version of the Brown Bull of Cooley story so far.
- ◆ Mark your **Worksheet One** with the Four Provinces of Ireland. See :<http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/images/symbols/flags.htm>
- ◆ Update your **Worksheet Two** with Creatures from the Episode.
- ◆ **Worksheet Four** : Mock up of a newspaper report on Cú Chulainn's heroic defence of Ulster. News report to be composed on computer if possible.



BBC Northern Ireland Schools

Cú Chulainn



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Worksheet 4

Write a report on Cú Chulainn's heroic defence of Ulster:



The Ulster News



Thursday 16th August 602

Cú Chulainn Battles On

Exclusive Report by _____



Cú Chulainn preparing for battle