



Class level	5 th and 6 th class
Subject areas covered	SESE – History Working as an Historian: Time and Chronology Story: Stories from peoples lives in the past.
Single/multiple computers	Single or multiple
Time required	90 minutes

Suggested activity 1: Make a Yeats timeline for your classroom

This classroom activity provides instructions and information on how to construct a timeline of some of the main events in Yeats' life using the online exhibition *Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats*.

The following series of 16 questions has been designed to lead the class around the virtual exhibition and through Yeats' life, from his birth until his death. Once the class has found the answers to these questions they will be able to piece together a timeline of the life of William Butler Yeats.

In classrooms with multiple computers, the questions can be answered by individual/groups of students simultaneously working to complete their own timelines. In classrooms with one computer, the questions can be divided up amongst groups and a final 'class' timeline assembled upon completion. In the second case, the timeline activity might form one of a number of activity stations in the room. For example, as students wait to use the class computer they could complete their own timeline including important events from their lives.

Each question begins by stating the interactive area in which its answer can be found. Interactive areas can be selected from the menu which appears when you press the 'interactives' button on the toolbar at the bottom of the screen. Children should answer each question (writing the year and the fact for that year!) on separate pieces of paper. When all the questions have been answered, the class can assemble their timeline by hanging up the pages in chronological order around the classroom. Children may also wish to decorate each answer page.

Questions:

1. Interactive area: 'Yeats, His Worlds':

Yeats was born in a house on Sandymount Avenue in Dublin called George's Ville, go to **Ireland** on the map. Can you find the picture of his house?

(Clue: The picture you are looking for was drawn using pencil)

Do you see the up and down arrows? They allow you to scroll through the text, if you scroll to the title **Sandymount Avenue** you will find out the year Yeats was born. Have you found the year? Now you have the first date for your timeline!

Fact: This pencil drawing was done by WB Yeats' father John Butler Yeats who was an artist.

2. Interactive area: 'Yeats, His Worlds'

When WB Yeats was 2 years of age, his family moved to London so that his father could work as an artist. WB Yeats first attended school in London. Go to **England** on the map. Can you find the school WB Yeats attended? What was it called?

Scroll through the text - can you find the year Yeats was first enrolled in school? What age was he?

Can you find the subject he was good at and the subjects he found difficult?

3. Interactive Area: 'Yeats His Worlds'

The Yeats family decided to move back to Dublin when Yeats was a young man. They rented a house in Howth called Balscadden Cottage. Go to **Childhood** on the map and find Howth.

What year did the Yeats family move to Howth? What kind of hobbies did Yeats have while living in Howth?

4. Interactive Area: 'Yeats His Worlds'

A few years later the family moved to Ashfield Terrace, Terenure in Dublin. Can you find the year they moved?

The Yeats family had very little money and could only afford one lamp. Why did they finally decide to get William a lamp of his own?

5. Interactive Area: 'Yeats His Worlds'

When Yeats was 22 yrs the family moved to London again. Can you calculate what year this was?

While living in 3 Blenheim Rd, London Yeats wrote the poem *The Lake Isle of Innisfree*. If you go into the Verse and Vision section of the website, you can hear WB Yeats read the poem.

6. Interactive Area: 'The Countess Kathleen and Various Legends and Lyrics'

In 1889 Yeats met a woman called Maud Gonne. He soon fell in love with her and wrote a lot of poetry for her. Two years after they first met he asked Maud Gonne to marry him, but she said no. After he proposed to Maud, he wrote the poem *He wishes for the cloths of heaven*. Can you find the poem in the exhibition?

Can you work out what year Yeats first proposed to Maud Gonne?

7. Interactive Areas: 'Yeats, His Worlds'; 'Lady Gregory and Coole Park'

One of Yeats' best friends was a writer called Lady Augusta Gregory. She lived in a beautiful big house in Galway called Coole Park. Select **Ireland** on the map and you will find information about Coole Park. What year did Yeats first visit Coole Park?

If you go to the area called 'Lady Gregory and Coole Park', you will find a drawing by WB Yeats of Coole Park.

Fact: After WB Yeats left school he attended art college.

8. Interactive Areas: 'Written in Discouragement'; 'In the Seven Woods'

WB Yeats was very disappointed when he heard that Maud Gonne had married a man called Major John McBride. Can you find a picture of Maud Gonne and John McBride with their son Sean? What year did they get married?

[If you go to the area called 'In the Seven Woods', you will find a poem that WB Yeats wrote after Maud Gonne's marriage called *Do Not Love Too Long*. Can you guess how Yeats was feeling when he wrote this poem?]

9. Interactive Area: 'An Irish Literary Theatre'

Both WB Yeats and Lady Gregory were interested in the theatre and writing plays. They helped to found a theatre called the Abbey Theatre. Can you find a picture of what the stage looked like in the Abbey? What year did the Abbey Theatre first open?

Fact: Today The Abbey is Ireland's national theatre.

10. Interactive Area: 'Easter, 1916'

After the 1916 Rising, Yeats wrote many poems about the Easter Rising. Can you name one of poems Yeats wrote about the Rising?

11. Interactive Area: 'An Occult Marriage'

A year after the Easter Rising, WB Yeats got married. Yeats called his wife George, but what was her full name before she married Yeats?

What year did Yeats and George marry?

12. Interactive Area: 'The Public Man'

This section looks at all of Yeats' work and achievements during the 1920s. In what year was Yeats nominated to be a Senator of the Irish Free State?

While Yeats was a Senator he was asked to be Chairman of the Coinage Committee. The Coinage Committee were responsible for choosing the designs for Ireland's new coinage.

Can you find a picture of a coin with a horse? If you click on the horse you will see all the animal designs that were on Ireland's coins. Do you recognise a design which is on our coins now?

13. Interactive Area: 'The Public Man'

A year after Yeats was nominated a Senator, he won a very famous prize. Can you find his medal? What was the name of the prize that he won? Can you find an item of clothing that he wore to the award ceremony? What would you wear if you were attending an important award ceremony tomorrow?

14. Interactive Area: 'Growing Old'

In this section you will find some presents Yeats got for his 70th birthday. The PEN Society (a society for writers) threw a party for Yeats. Can you find the menu for Yeats' party in this section? What did they have to eat?

Yeats was also presented with a lapis lazuli stone. The stone has a beautiful design which was carved into the stone in China around 300 years ago.

15. Interactive Area: 'Last Years'

On the top shelf of the case in this section you will see a picture of Yeats smiling. What is he doing? What year was the picture taken?

16. Interactive Area: 'Last Years'

Yeats moved to France at the end of 1938, although he was ill, he was still working on his poetry and books. On 28 January ____ WB Yeats died in Rocquebrune in France. Can you find a picture of his gravestone?