

# Using [www.nli.ie/yeats](http://www.nli.ie/yeats) as a classroom resource

## What is the purpose of this guide?

This introductory guide is intended to help you and your class to get the most out of the National Library's Yeats website, [www.nli.ie/yeats](http://www.nli.ie/yeats). It explains the purpose of the website, outlines how to use the site and suggests a number of ways it can be used within the classroom at primary level.

## What is this website?

The website is the virtual form of the NLI's award-winning exhibition *Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats* which opened in May 2006. The exhibition is about WB Yeats, his work and the Ireland he lived in.

## What does this website contain?

### The online exhibition includes

- The exhibition's physical material - digitised books, manuscripts, photographs and detailed caption information
- A timeline of the life of WB Yeats
- Excerpts of documentary footage commissioned for the exhibition
- Film tutorials examining how Yeats drafted the poems 'Sailing to the Byzantium', 'Leda and the Swan' and 'Nineteen Hundred and Nineteen'.
- A recording of Yeats reciting 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree'

In summary, [www.nli.ie/yeats](http://www.nli.ie/yeats) is a rich resource for teachers and students across a range of disciplines, in particular primary SESE and language.

## How is the website organised?

The website's layout mirrors that of the physical exhibition space so finding your way around the site is logical and straightforward, even if you have never visited the exhibition in person.

Navigation is controlled using the toolbar on the bottom of the screen:

The map in the right hand corner of the toolbar shows you your location relative to the rest of the exhibition.



The exhibition follows the story of Yeats' life around the room in an anti-clockwise direction; to tour the exhibition chronologically, turn to your right upon entry. You can move around the virtual exhibition in this way using the central compass device or you can go directly to a particular area by selecting it from the **areas** or **interactives** menu. You can also locate exhibition items, featured individuals or themes using the **search** function. The supporting **timeline** of major dates and events can be accessed at any time, either through the **interactives** menu or using the 'timeline' button at the bottom of the screen that appears at each interactive area.

The website's intuitive layout gives students the opportunity to discover and explore the exhibition for themselves, following their own interests at their own pace. There are literally, thousands of opportunities for students to interact with the site's featured content. The accompanying exercises and lesson plans have been designed to encourage students to interact with this material in a focussed way.

### **Technical requirements**

A broadband internet connection and Adobe Flash Player are required to view this site.

Users whose computers have a sound card will also be able to listen to the website's audio content. The accompanying exercises do not require student access to a printer, however, teachers may need to download and print off activity sheets in advance of the lesson.

### **How can teachers use this website?**

The Yeats exhibition online can be used prior to a visit to the National Library to preview the exhibition and prepare for the visit.

We have also compiled a number of suggested web-based activities for use in the class room if you are unable to visit the NLI.

### **Help and feedback**

We want the website, guide and suggested activities to be as easy to use and as beneficial to your class as possible. If you or your students have any queries or suggestions (including ideas about how else the website can be used in class), we would really like to hear them. Please email [learning@nli.ie](mailto:learning@nli.ie) or call us on (01)

6030346.