



THE STORY OF THE UNIVERSE

To encourage us to rethink our relationship with other than human life-forms

To reawaken in all of us, adults and children, a sense of wonder, awe and reverence for the natural world

To have this story as a context/backdrop/basis for living life

Scéal na Cruinne

Cabhrú linn machnamh a dhéanamh ar an ngaol atá idir muid féin agus an dúlra

Iontas faoi'n nádúr a athmhúscaílt ins na daltaí agus urraim dá réir

An scéal seo a bheith mar bhunsraith dár saol

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THE STORY OF THE UNIVERSE

*[adapted from The Cosmic Walk by Miriam Therese Mc Gillis,
Genesis Farm, New Jersey, U.S.]
for use in Ireland*

ORGANISATION:
GREEN SOD LAND TRUST - AN FOIDIN GLAS
www.greensodlandtrust.ie

Green Sod Land Trust - An Foidín Glas is a Charity which facilitates the conservation and protection of land for its own sake and for the sake of its indigenous inhabitants in every bioregion of Ireland for the benefit of present and future generations.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Through engaging with The Universe Story Project students will grow in awareness of our Earth and the whole earth environment and will develop a relationship of wonder and reverence for the natural world. The project involves working in a participative way with people in weaving together the scientific facts that give us a 'new' story of our beginnings on earth as opposed to the 'old' biblical one. The students take on the 'personae' of the story – planets, insects, mountains, mammals etc., thus improving their knowledge of history, geography, religion, storytelling, science and they then present the story in creative ways using art, music and drama. Students develop interactive and cooperative skills and learn to work as part of a team. The course also encourages critical/independent thinking. It also functions as a stand-alone unit of simply telling the story and singing the songs.

When students have researched and understand the story, the next step is to look at some of the implications of all of this for the way we live today, in particular:

- the invitation to respect all life on this planet
- the challenge to reduce, re-use, repair, recycle
- the opportunity to question contemporary lifestyle, for example need v want

Look at the Green Schools Programme as a model for practical ways through which we might care for the environment especially in relation to the minimisation of waste and litter in schools, homes and local communities.

This project:

- provides a philosophical/spiritual dimension to all anti-litter awareness initiatives and motivates action against waste and litter.
- reawakens in all of us a deep respect and a sense of awe and wonder for the natural world.