



# THE STORY OF IRELAND



## Statues with a Story: Activity 3



A lot of modern place names in Ireland have their origins in ancient Gaelic names. Their Gaelic names will describe either what the place might have looked like or else describe something interesting or exciting that might have happened there. For example, **Derry** gets its name from the **Dóire** which means oak tree, because the area was originally very heavily wooded. **Limavady** comes from the words **Leim an mhadaidh** which means Dog's Leap. The name tells how a dog saved some of the O'Cahan clan from fierce raiders by leaping across a wide stream to bring help.

Do your local place names have similar interesting or exciting origins? Check the internet or at your local library for information on the origins of place names and use the box below to record what you find. The following websites are very helpful: [www.n-ireland.co.uk/genealogy/placenames](http://www.n-ireland.co.uk/genealogy/placenames)  
[www.booksulster.com/library/plnm/placenamesD.php](http://www.booksulster.com/library/plnm/placenamesD.php)