

The Forgotten Famine Field

We were on a nature walk when I noticed strange rows in the ground like waves frozen in the dirt, “What are these?” I asked.

One of my classmates said they had heard them called “lazy beds,” and that they were where people had been trying to grow potatoes during the famine. We hadn’t learned too much about the famine in school yet, but it really got me thinking about what it must have been like for the people living in my area back then. We asked our teacher if we could do a project focused on the famine and they agreed and helped us find information in books and online. To find out more we invited a local archaeologist to speak to us, and we visited a local museum.

As a class, we built a small model of a famine cottage using clay and lego and made a display about what life was like back then. We invited the whole school to see it. Everyone was interested to hear about this part of our local history. Standing there on exhibition day, I felt proud knowing we’d shared an important part of our past.