

All-Ireland Glory

The All-Ireland championship season starts every year in May and finishes in September when the All-Ireland football champions and the All-Ireland hurling champions are crowned. Each year thousands of GAA fans from all over the country make the annual pilgrimage to Croke Park in search of All-Ireland glory.

The first All-Ireland finals were played in 1887. At that time county teams were represented by the best GAA clubs and finals were played at different locations around the country, not in Croke Park! That first year Thurles, representing Tipperary, won the Hurling Final which was played in Birr, County Offaly and Limerick Commercials won the Football Final which was played in Clonskeagh, County Dublin. It wasn't until nine years later in 1896 that the All-Ireland finals were first played at Croke Park, then known as Jones' Road.

All-Ireland finals are held each year on two Sundays in September. Once in a while an unforgettable All-Ireland comes around. In 1939 the All-Ireland Hurling Final between Cork and Kilkenny was played during a ferocious thunder storm on the very same day that World War II began. In 1947 the All-Ireland Football Final between Kerry and Cavan was played in New York City. In 1957 the All-Ireland Hurling Final pre-match parade of Waterford and Kilkenny players was filmed for the movie 'Rooney' with actor John Gregson lining out with Kilkenny players. In 1961 the largest-ever crowd attended the All-Ireland Football Final between Down and Offaly. In 1982 a last minute goal from Offaly denied Kerry a historic five-in-a-row. In 1984 the All-Ireland Hurling Final was played in Semple Stadium.

Since the first All-Ireland finals in 1887 the ultimate dream of any GAA footballer or hurler has been to lift one of the All-Ireland trophies. For football the Sam Maguire Cup is awarded while for hurling the Liam MacCarthy Cup is awarded.

Sam Maguire Cup

The Sam Maguire Cup is awarded each year to the All-Ireland gaelic football champions.

The cup was designed by Hopkins & Hopkins in Dublin to look like the early Christian Ardagh Chalice. The famous cup stands 16 inches high and weighs 12lbs.



The cup was named in honour of a Cork man, Sam Maguire, who lived in London and was very involved in the GAA scene there at the turn of the 20th Century. The cup was presented to the GAA by a group of Sam Maguire's friends and on September 30th 1928 the Sam Maguire Cup made its first appearance in Croke Park. It was presented to Kildare after they defeated Cavan 2-6 to 2-5 in the All-Ireland Football Final.

In 1988 it was decided that the famous cup should retire and a replica cup was made. The first team to win the 'new' Sam Maguire was Meath when they defeated Cork 0-13 to 0-12. Since 1988 the 'new' Sam Maguire Cup is presented annually to the All-Ireland football champions while the original Sam Maguire Cup remains on display in the GAA Museum in Croke Park.

Liam MacCarthy Cup

The Liam MacCarthy Cup is awarded each year to the All-Ireland hurling champions. The cup is designed to look like a medieval drinking cup and was made by Edmund Johnson Jewellers of Grafton Street in Dublin.



The cup was named in honour of Liam MacCarthy, a former President of the London GAA County Board. Liam was a lifelong fan of GAA games and in 1920 he donated £50 to the GAA to make a silver cup. On March 4th 1923 the Liam MacCarthy Cup made its first appearance in Croke Park when it was presented to Limerick after they defeated Dublin 8-05 to 3-02 in the delayed 1921 All-Ireland Hurling Final.

By 1992 the Liam MacCarthy was 69 years old and the GAA decided to retire the cup and introduce a replica. That year Kilkenny became the first team to win the 'new' Liam MacCarthy. Since 1992 the 'new' Liam MacCarthy is presented annually to the All-Ireland Hurling Champions while the original Liam MacCarthy remains on display in the GAA Museum in Croke Park.

Curriculum links

History. Strand – Local Studies. Strand Unit – Games and Pastimes in the Past.

History. Strand – Local Studies. Strand Unit – Buildings, Sites or Ruins in my Locality.

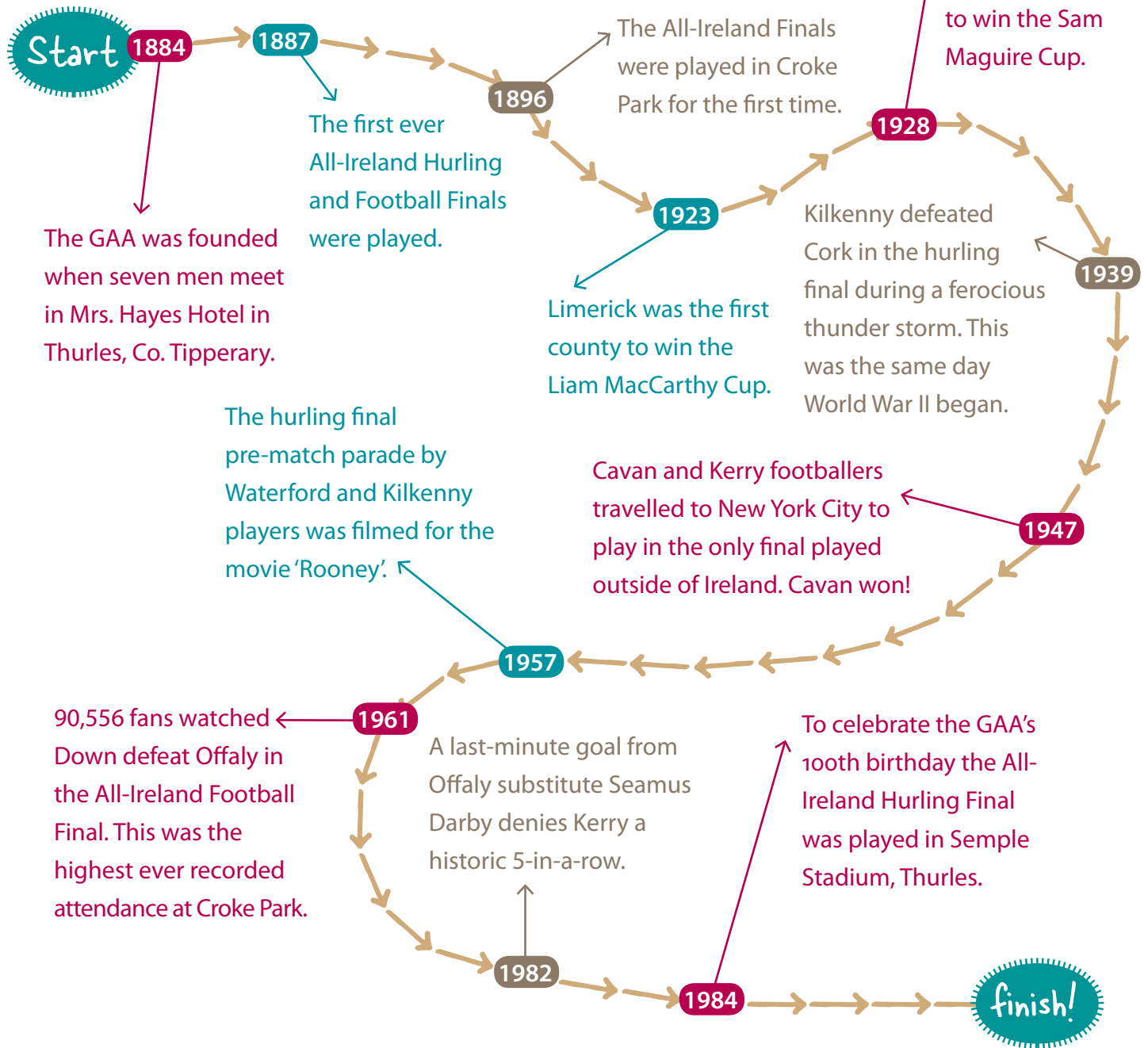
At the GAA Museum

Visit the GAA Museum trophy room.

Complete the *GAA Museum Trophy Trail*.

The Big All-Ireland Final Timeline

Follow the timeline and answer the following questions:



<p>QUESTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where and when was the GAA founded? 2. What year were the first finals played in Croke Park? 3. Who was the first county to win the Sam Maguire Cup? 4. What movie was filmed at the 1957 hurling final? 5. How many fans went to the 1961 football final? 	<p>ACTIVITY</p> <p>Imagine that you have won an All-Ireland final! You worked and trained hard and now your moment of All-Ireland glory has arrived as you take to the podium in Croke Park to receive the trophy in front of thousands of fans.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe your feelings? 2. Write your All-Ireland winning speech
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