

Language layers in Ulster names

Name _____

- 1 THE PIECES INSIDE THE NAMES:** Say each piece aloud, then write it once in the last column.
These turn up on road signs all over the country.

THE IRISH PIECE	WHAT IT MEANS	WRITE IT
doire (DIRR-a)	an oak grove	
dún (DOON)	a fort	

- 2 BREAK THE NAMES OPEN:** Each of these names is a plain description, once you can read it.
Write what picture each one paints.

PLACENAME	ITS IRISH NAME	THE PICTURE THE NAME PAINTS
Donegal	Dún na nGall	
Cavan	An Cabhán	
Monaghan	Muineachán	
Derry / Londonderry	Doire	

- 3 NAME A PLACE YOURSELF:** Irish placenames were built from whatever was really there. Build one the same way.

One thing you can actually see from your window or your street:

An Irish-style name for it, using one of today's pieces:

What your name means: