



THE RAVENS OF FARNE

Saint Emmelia Ministries Homeschool Curriculum

Orthodox Christian Homeschooling

Title: The Ravens of Farne: the Tale of Saint Cuthbert

Author: Donna Farley

Illustrator: Heather Hayward

Guide by: Monica Klepac

Social Studies: Geography-Farne

Farne is a group of islands off the Northeast coast of England. Find them on a map of Great Britain. Print off a map of Great Britain and color in the countries (Wales, Scotland, Ireland, England). Mark where the Farne Islands are. What country are they near? How could you get to those islands today?

Social Studies: Geography-Islands

An island is a piece of land surrounded by water. Farne is an island. Look at a globe or a world map and find other islands around the world. Older students can draw a map of Farne or another Island.

Social Studies: Culture-rock buildings/ walls

In some regions, there are not many trees and rocks are plentiful and used for buildings. St Cuthbert's chapel is made from stones. Make your own stone wall or chapel by gluing sugar cubes together. You can paint them gray to look like rocks.

Language arts: Adjectives

An adjective modifies a noun. Use adjectives to describe some of the things in St Cuthbert's world like water, stones, birds and grass. You can go outside and feel these things and use that to help you think of adjectives.

Language arts: Vocabulary-

The following words are used in the book. Look up the definition and use them in a sentence. Older children can write down the definition and write down a sentence using the word.

cheeky

crusted

mocked

flocked

Art- St Cuthbert cross

At the end of the book we see a drawing of St.Cuthbert's cross. Make your own copy of St Cuthbert's cross. You can use paint, crayons or markers.

Art- Boat in the sea

Draw a picture with crayons of the boat that St. Cuthbert's friends rode in to get to the island. Make the marks really dark and thick. Then take blue watercolor paint and make the sea all around the boat. The crayons should resist the watercolor paint and stay dry.

Math- Raven subtraction

Have out seeds (sunflower, pumpkin work well) and blades of grass. Create subtraction problems with the ravens stealing seeds and grass

Math- Measuring to build a church and wall

Use a tape measure or yardstick to measure how big a chapel would be or how long a wall would be. Older students can measure height as well and calculate area and perimeter.

Science- types of Birds

This book mentions several types of birds. Look up the following birds and compare and contrast their features. Look at their size, color, type of beak, and where they live.

Ravens, linnets, pipits, warblers, sparrows

Science-Life cycle of bird

The ravens in this book build a nest. Create a chart of the stages of bird development. Egg, baby, juvenile, adult. Older students can look up specific stages of raven's development

Science- Float/sink

Just like the monks visiting St Cuthbert, create a boat that will float in a tub of water. You can use household items like plastic tubs and trays, or you can try to make one from natural materials like the monks did like wood and straw. Use lego mini figures to try and get your boat to float safely across the tub.

Science- Grain growing

Using chia seed, grass seed, or wheat berries, plant the seeds in soil and put in a sunny window. Record every day the progress of the growth.

Discussion questions for spiritual connection:

How did the ravens' behavior change over time in this story?

How can we learn from the ravens about how to change?

What does it mean to be greedy?

What is the opposite of greed?

Why would God want us to be generous instead of greedy?

How did St. Cuthbert's friends help him?

Tell about a time your friends helped you or you helped a friend.