

FINN'S COOL CAUSEWAY

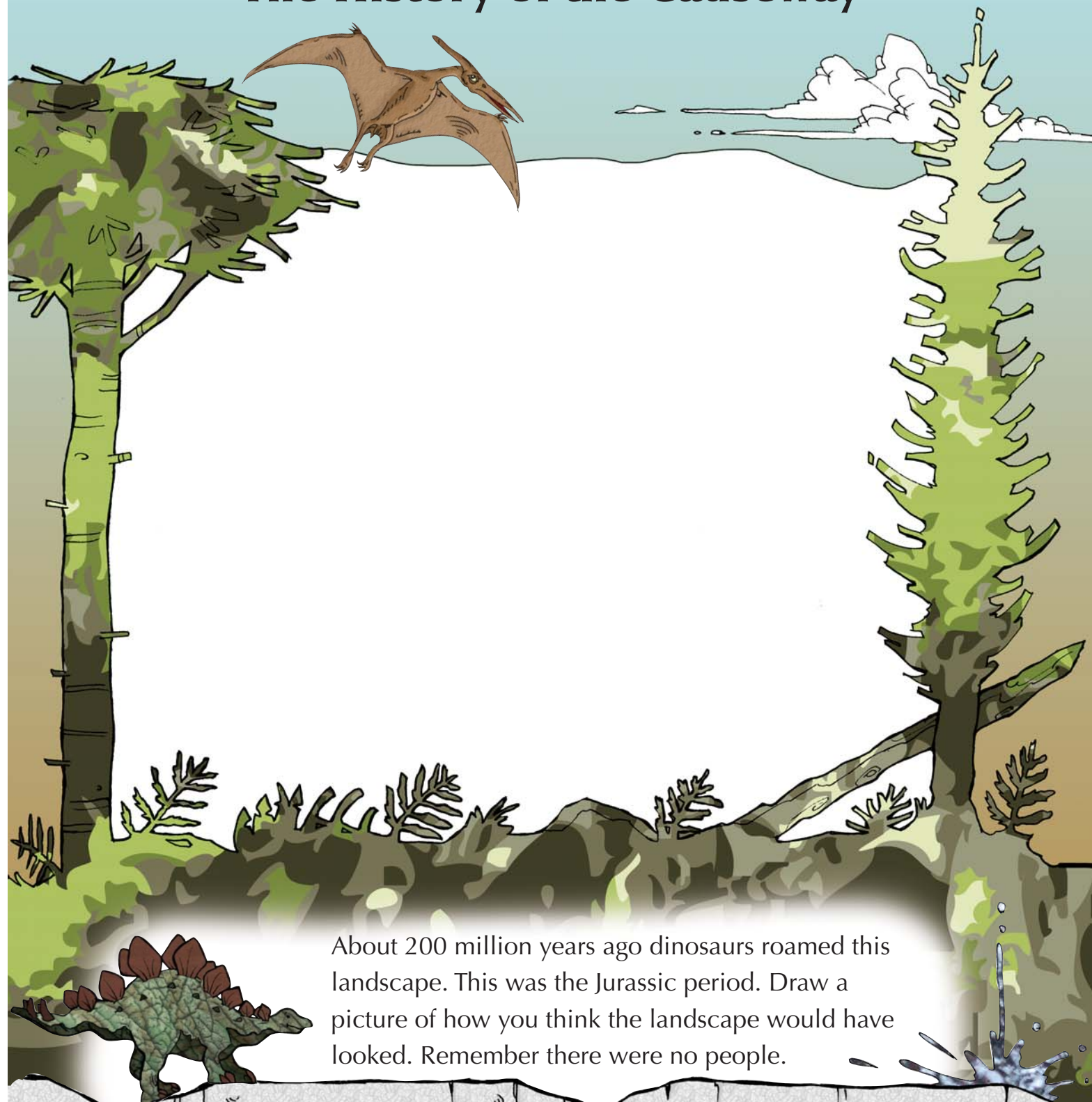


**Full of Cool
activities for
kids and their
grown ups!**



National
Trust

The History of the Causeway



About 200 million years ago dinosaurs roamed this landscape. This was the Jurassic period. Draw a picture of how you think the landscape would have looked. Remember there were no people.

200 million years ago

This was the time of the dinosaurs, the Jurassic period.

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60 million years ago

Hot magma bubbled to the surface and filled a river valley. The magma cracked as it slowly cooled, forming the basalt columns of the Giant's Causeway.



5,000 years ago

Neolithic people mined porcellanite stone at Rathlin Island, which they used to make smooth axe heads.



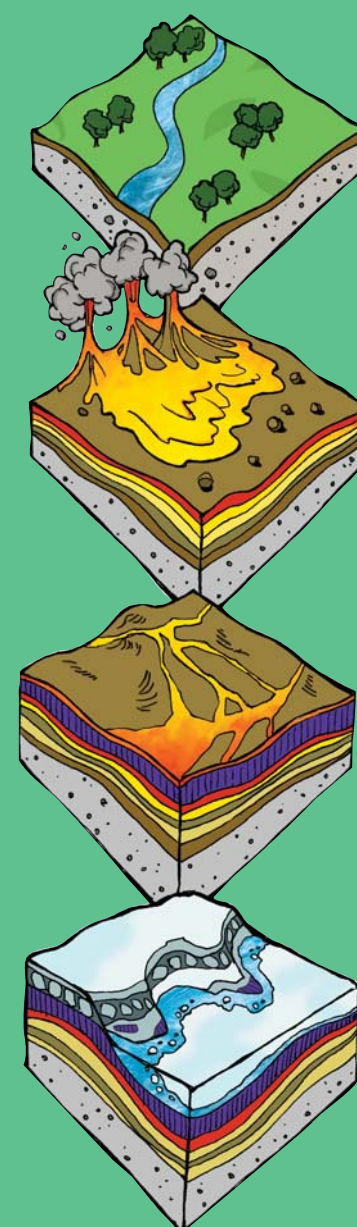
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Around 200 AD

Julius Caesar ruled in Rome. Around this time people believe that the warrior Finn MacCool might have lived.



How the Causeway was Made



About 65 million years ago the landscape was covered in plants. Gently rolling hills lay on a bed of limestone. Then, about 60 million years ago, the earth's plates began to move away from each other.

The molten lava, which lies deep in the earth's core, began to pour out of cracks in the land.

The lava became hard and formed layers of rock, called basalt. For about 2 million years there were hardly any volcanic eruptions and the warm, wet climate weathered the rocks, creating deep red soil. Then the cracks in the earth opened up again and more lava flowed out.

Some of this lava poured into a river valley where it cooled down very slowly. As it cooled it cracked evenly, forming the basalt columns of the Giant's Causeway.

Once the ice at the end of the last Ice Age had gone, about 15,000 years ago, the shoreline was exposed.

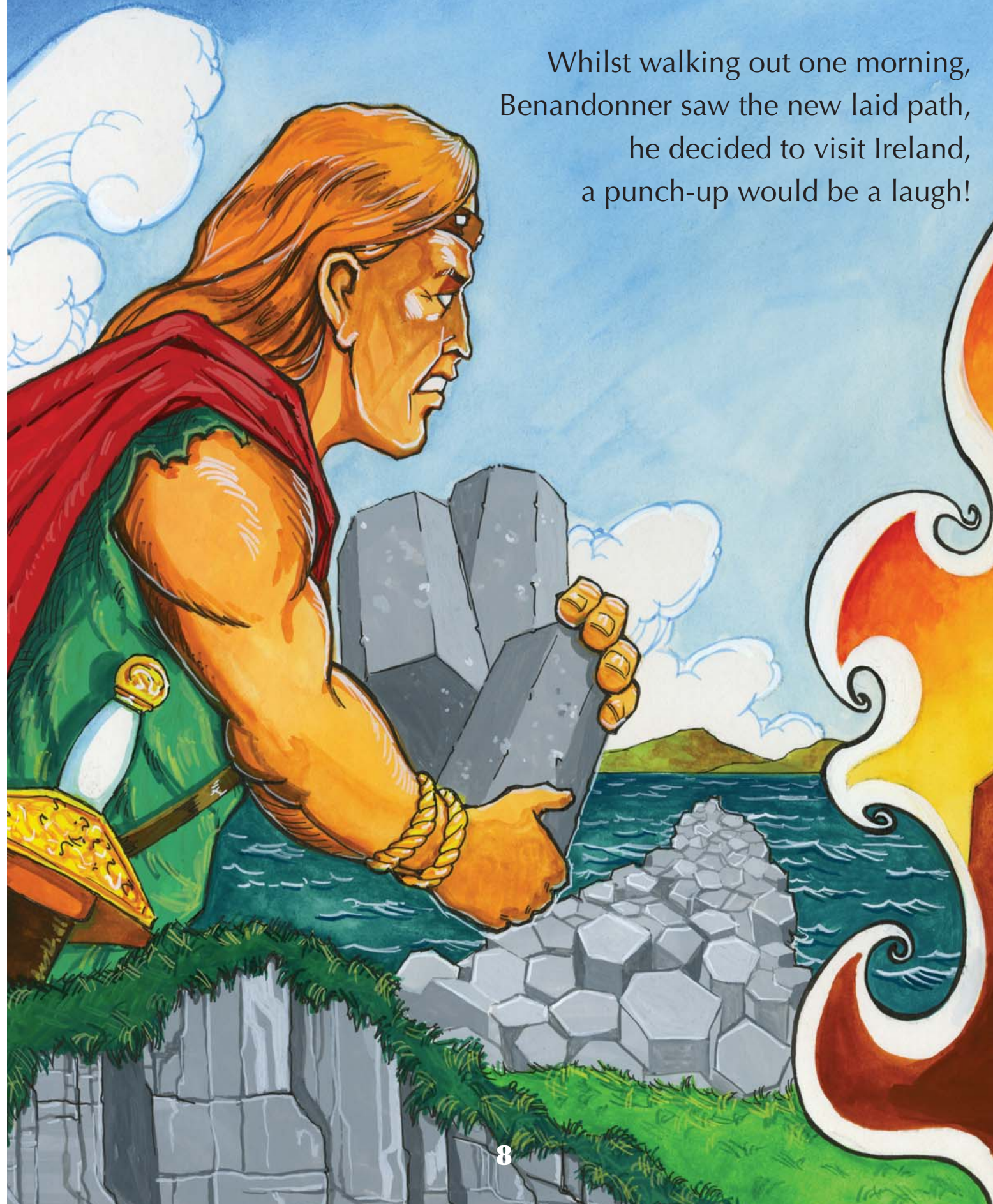
Finn's Cool Fact



Did you know that most of the basalt columns have five or six sides, but some have four, seven and even eight sides? Apparently there is one with only three sides and if you can find it you are a really Super Cool Sleuth!

Finn wanted to fight his rival,
a Scottish giant called Benandonner
so he built a path to Scotland,
that Highland Jessie was a gonner!

Whilst walking out one morning,
Benandonner saw the new laid path,
he decided to visit Ireland,
a punch-up would be a laugh!



Now Benandonner was massive,
he'd eaten all his greens,
he was used to fighting monsters
and snacking on human beings.

He searched around the island and Finn's cottage he finally spied,
but when Finn glimpsed the size of Benandonner, he very nearly died!

