



Brigid's crosses



A school class visited the National Museum of Ireland to see its collection of St Brigid's Crosses. After the visit, each pupil made their own St. Brigid's cross. Their teacher has to figure out which cross belongs to which pupil.

Aoife says: "Mine has four arms."

Barry says: "Mine has a diamond shape in the middle."

Ciara says: "Mine has three arms."

Dara says: "Mine has round shape."

Eoin says: "Mine has ribbons."

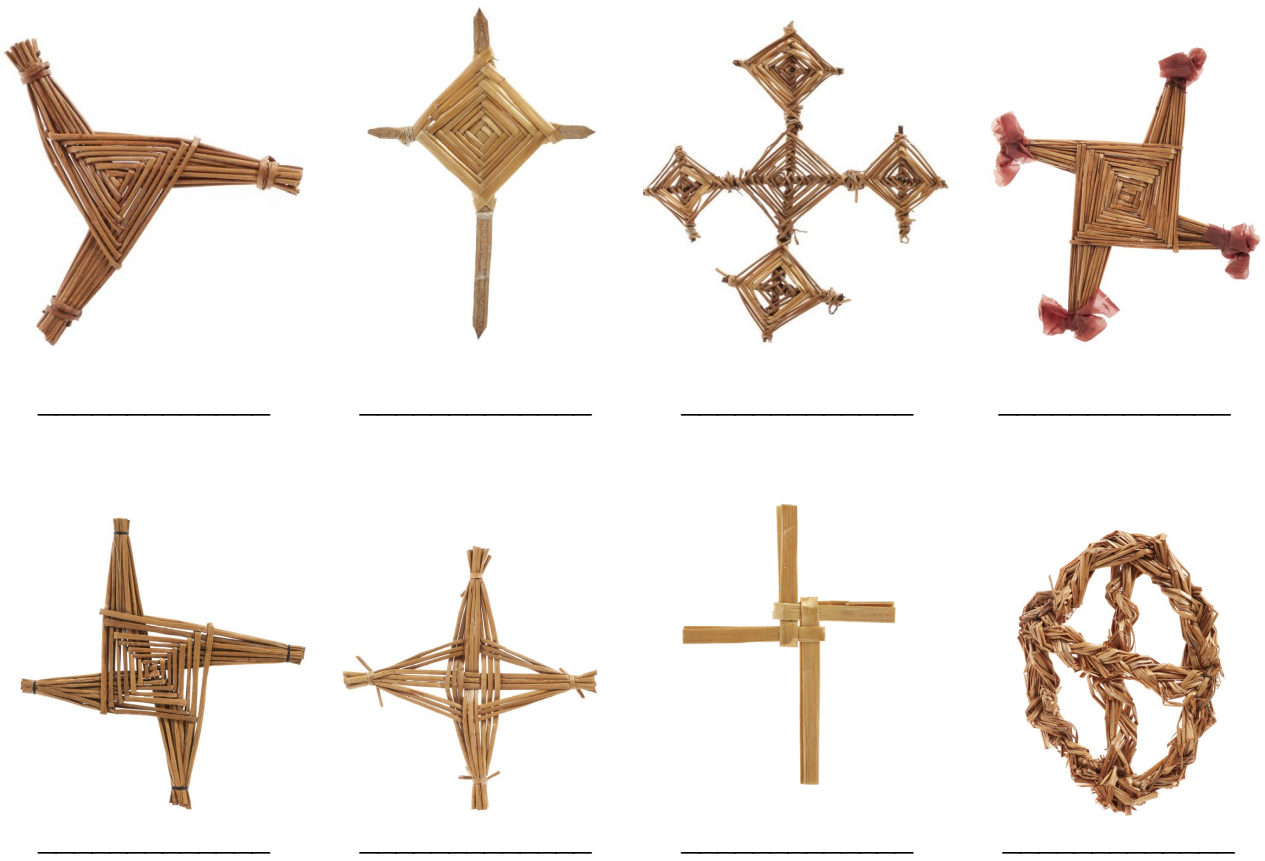
Fiona says: "Mine has more than one diamond shape."

Gill says: "Mine has one very long arm."

Helen says: "Mine is made with only four pieces."

QUESTION

Who made which cross? Write the name of the pupil under each.



Answer

A correct answer is:



Ciara



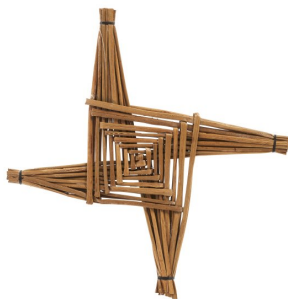
Gill



Fiona



Eoin



Barry



Aoife



Helen



Dara

Explanation of the answer

There is only one possible maker for following crosses so they can be named first:

- Only one cross has three arms → Ciara
- Only one has a round shape → Dara
- Only one has ribbons → Eoin
- Only one has more than one diamond shape → Fiona
- Only one has a very long arm → Gill
- Only one is made with four pieces → Helen

Of the two which are left only one has a diamond shape in the middle so we know that has to be Barry's and the last one left is Aoife's.



Connection to computational thinking

Logic: This task is an example of logical reasoning. We must check if a cross fulfils a specific logical rule to find out if a particular pupil may have made it. There is a clear answer, true or false, whether each cross follows each rule or constraint, e.g. if a cross has three arms it may be Ciara's and if not, it cannot be Ciara's. If only one cross satisfies a constraint, we know who has made it. However, if multiple crosses satisfy a constraint, we need to eliminate other possibilities using other rules first.

Pattern recognition: This task illustrates *figuring out similar/common elements*. To solve the problem most efficiently we should start with the crosses that do not share common elements with any other crosses. Recognising what are these unique features is key to solving this problem.

Acknowledgement of the pictures used in the task

The photos used in this task are from the National Museum of Ireland website <https://www.museum.ie/en-ie/collections-research/collection/st-brigid-s-crosses> . See this website for more information about each of the crosses.

Computational thinking resources for teachers by Maynooth University – pact.cs.nuim.ie

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