



## Legend of the Tuatha de Danan

Long, long ago...

over four thousand years ago, a people came to Ireland...

*(¼ of the class stands at front of the room and acts out anything to do with Tuatha de Dana)*

...aboard ships,  
*students cluster as if in several ships*

using the wind and rowing to reach the island.  
*act out rowing*

When they arrived, they burned their ships (*act out setting ships on fire*) to ensure they could not turn back but must be successful in the new land. These were the Tuatha de Danan.

Now Ireland was already inhabited with people, called the Firbolg.  
*(the rest of the class stands up where they are and act out anything to do with the Firbolg).*

Now the Firbolg only saw the Tuatha de Danan arrive in clouds of smoke and thought they must be gods descending from the heavens.  
*students "watch" amazed as the Tuatha de Dana arrive*

The two peoples met...  
*(choose two students from the Firbolg and two from the Tuatha de Danan to meet)*  
... exchanged weapons as a sign of peace (*pantomime exchange of weapons*).

The Tuatha de Danan's weapons were far superior to the Firbolg's.  
*Firbolg students are amazed*

The Tuatha de Danan decided to negotiate with the Firbolg. There would be no war if the Firbolg would give the Tuatha de Danan half of Ireland.

The Firbolg declined. So both sides prepared for war.  
*students go back to their group*

The two armies met on the plains of Moytura and went to battle.  
*all students pretend to be at war: arrows, swords, etc.*

After the first day of fighting the Firbolg suffered heavy losses.  
*a quarter of the Firbolg students “die”; go back to their desks and sit down*

At the end of the day of fighting the two sides met again  
*choose one student from each army*

The Tuatha de Danan again asked if the Firbolg would split the island and have no more fighting. Again, the Firbolg declined.  
*students return to their group*

After much fighting the Tuatha de Danan defeated the Firbolg.  
*a third of the Firbolg students “die”, go back to their seats*

*one student from each side meet*

Even though the Tuatha de Danan won the battle, they decided to give the Firbolg a quarter of Ireland to rule – the province of Connaught.

*the Firbolg students move to the mid-west section of the room (Connaught is in the mid-west of Ireland). The Tuatha de Danan students spread out to cover the rest of the room.*

And so the Tuatha de Danan were successful in their goal of making Ireland their home.