

The Plantations – Peer-to-Peer Class

Learning Objectives	Context	Success Criteria
*Understand and interpret secondary sources *Closely read secondary documents *Awareness of bias *Create resources from which others can learn	*The Plantations *Ireland before and after the Plantations *Origins of the 1641 Rebellion	*Having learned with others * Discussed and debated * Having listened and expressed their opinion *Organised and evaluated information and data

In this lesson, students research an aspect of The Plantations from secondary sources and must present what they have learned to their peers. These secondary documents are provided in the form of articles from 'History Ireland'. The articles are short but quite sophisticated and teacher support may be needed to help students to interpret them. Between them, the documents cover much of the key information needed to understand the background to and impact of the Plantations.

Lesson Roadmap

1. Divide the class into their groups. Explain the idea of peer teaching and distribute an article to each group. If there are not enough articles one of the 'Plantations in Early Modern Ireland' can be given to two groups as the contents are complex and can be divided between two groups.
2. It may be necessary to support the students somewhat in their use of these articles – with terminology etc.
3. It is up to you as teacher to decide whether the students peer teach with digital technology or without.

The articles don't really work in chronological order, as they are mainly case studies and overviews. Here is a synopsis of each:

Plantations in Early Modern Ireland

Raymond Gillespie, *History Ireland*, Vol. 1, No. 4 (Winter, 1993)

- A description of the motivation of the planters
- The circumstances in which the plantations became possible (Desmond and O'Neill rebellions)
- Military occupation as a short-term solution – replaced by plantation
- The 'social engineering aims of the plantations

- After the plantations of Munster and Ulster there was some further land redistribution post 1610
- Mention of some of the contributing factors of the 1641 rebellion

Francis Cosby (1510-80), Stradbally, Queen's County and the Tudor Conquest of Leinster

Michael Quinn, *History Ireland*, Vol. 14, No. 5 (Sept-Oct, 2006)

- The question of how to address the power vacuum after the Kildare Rebellion
- Description of 'Surrender and Regrant'
- Description of the intentions of the Laois and Offaly Plantation
- A case study of Sir Francis Cosby as soldier and benefactor of the Laois and Offaly plantation
- The legacy of Sir Francis Cosby

Gaelic Lordship and the Tudor Conquest: Tír Eoghain, 1541-1603

Hiram Morgan, *History Ireland*, Vol. 13, No. 5 (Sept – Oct, 2005)

- Description of the power structure of Gaelic lordships in Ulster
- Description of 'Surrender and Regrant'
- Description of the political life of Shane O'Neill
- 9 Years War and Hugh O'Neill and the Flight of the Earls

Creating Facts on the Ground: The Destruction of Clandeboyne

Tom Murphy, *History Ireland*, Vol. 20, No. 3 (May/June 2012), pp. 22-25

- The important parliament of 1541 and the policy of 'Surrender and Regrant'
- Shane O'Neill – his rise and fall
- The earl of Essex and his brutal policies of suppression
- War amongst the Gaelic Irish in Ulster
- Chichester's policy of famine as an act of war
- Dividing the spoils of Ulster after the Flight of the Earls

Seventeenth-Century West Offaly: Accommodating the New Realities

James Lyttleton, *History Ireland*, Vol. 12, No. 1 (Spring, 2000)

- Talks about the theory of plantation and what it was really like in practice
- Raises questions about the idea of people's identity and how it is expressed
- The idea that architecture expresses a sense of identity
- Several small case studies such as that of the O'Carrolls building a Renaissance style house and newcomers, like the de Renzys, building a towerhouse. These 'identities' can be confused and confusing

Although these articles used different examples all have very many common themes that can be drawn out in a whole class discussion. These are:

- ❖ 1541 Parliament
- ❖ Surrender and Regrant

- ❖ The power structures in Ireland before the plantations
- ❖ Rebellion of the Old English and Gaelic Irish
- ❖ The theory of plantation
- ❖ The reality of plantations on the ground – undertakers, financial issues, architecture, farming
- ❖ The immediate outcomes of plantation
- ❖ The 1641 Rebellion