

IRELAND: A DIVIDED COUNTRY

Key Focus: Why is Ireland a divided nation?



Key info:

Where should I hand it in?

To whom should I hand it in?

When should I hand it in?

Where and when is the homework club?

Effort (1 = outstanding,
5 = unacceptable)

House Points (/10)

WWW:

IOTI:

Glue this bit to stick in your exercise book (after it has been marked...)

What part of the booklet could be improved to develop your work?

What do you need to do? (Look at the IOTI comment)

Make your improvement here:

Map of Ireland



The island of Ireland is split into two separate nations, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

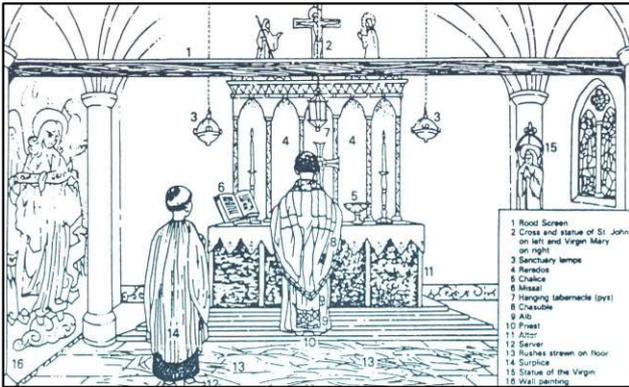
Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom, while the Republic of Ireland is a completely independent country.

As you work through this homework booklet you will discover the reasons why Ireland has ended up divided today.

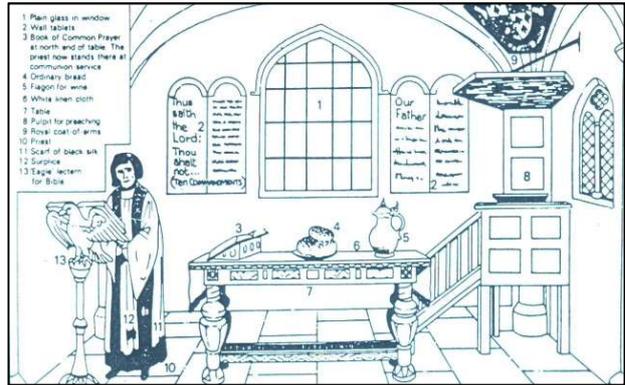


Task 1

Different Religious Beliefs



Catholic Church services are full of old traditions. The churches are highly decorated and services are often read in Latin. Catholics believe in the practise of confession to cleanse their sins. The Irish during the Middle Ages was almost entirely Catholic. Everything was done in Latin.



Protestant Churches are very simple. When Henry VIII changed the English religion many of the old statues and decorations were removed from churches. Protestants believe that Christians should not need riches to be close to God and that straight forward simple churches and services in English were much more important.

List the similarities and differences between the Catholic church and the Protestant church. Look at the picture as well as the writing.

The Normans had tried to interfere with Ireland in the 1100's and every king that had attempted to rule Ireland had failed. Ever since Henry VIII changed the English religion to Protestant the problems in Ireland had worsened. Many of the Tudor monarchs decided that it would be easier to control Ireland if they sent Englishmen to live there. This upset many Irish people as the English settlers took their land and they were also Protestant. The native Irish people often rebelled against the new landowners and every time they did the rebels had even more land taken away. As more English settlers arrived the relations between the two groups got worse and worse.

Answer these questions on the next page.

1. What did Henry do that worsened relationships in Ireland?
2. How did Tudor monarchs try to control Ireland.
3. Explain why the Tudor approach to Ireland caused problems.

Why was religion a problem?

Answer the questions from page 4 here

Task 2

Relationships Worsen

By 1640 over 25,000 English settlers were living in Ireland. The hatred between the English Protestants and the Irish Catholics turned into violence in 1641 when thousands of English settlers were killed by the Irish. England was in the middle of the Civil War. A war between King Charles I and Parliament about who should run the country. This meant that revenge for the killings in Ireland would have to wait.

Parliament won the Civil War and the new leader of England was a man named Oliver Cromwell. Cromwell and Parliament were very strict Protestants who hated Catholics. The Irish Catholics had supported the King during the war and after Charles I had his head chopped off, they wanted his son to become King instead of being ruled by Cromwell.

In 1649 Cromwell decided he would sort out the Catholics once and for all. He went to Ireland with an army of 12,000 men to get revenge and take control. Find out what happened below.

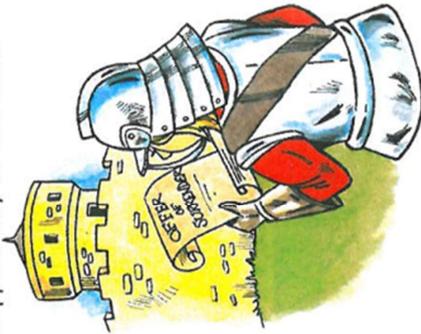
‘So that spilling of blood may be prevented, I thought it right to summon you to surrender this place. If this is refused, you will have no cause to blame me.’

↑ **SOURCE C:** Letter written by Cromwell to Sir Arthur Aston, in command of the Royalist soldiers in Drogheda. The rules of war at the time meant that if an enemy is given the chance to surrender and doesn't take it, they can later be killed if caught. If they do surrender, it would be wrong to kill them.

Read this page and the cartoon on page 8. Then answer these questions on page 9.

- 1. Why did the English want revenge?**
- 2. Explain why the Irish Catholics may hate the English after the events shown above?**
- 3. What interpretation do you have of Cromwell? Write a list of 5 words you would use to describe him.**
- 4. Ext: How might English people's opinions of Cromwell differ from the Irish?**

1. Cromwell took his army to the coastal town of Drogheda. He gave the Royalists inside the town the opportunity to surrender.



2. The town was very well protected with a 20-foot-high wall and 29 huge guard towers. The Royalist defenders were so confident they could keep Cromwell out that their leader, Sir Arthur Aston, said, 'He who could take Drogheda, could take Hell.'



Cromwell's offer was turned down.

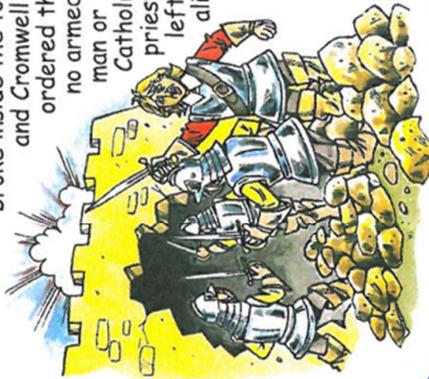
3. Cromwell immediately ordered his huge siege guns to fire at the town. By the following morning, a hole had been blown through the solid stone wall.



4. Cromwell sent his troops to attack the hole in the wall. The hole was too small for the cavalry to get through and the infantry were beaten back by fierce Irish resistance. Cromwell grew mad with frustration!



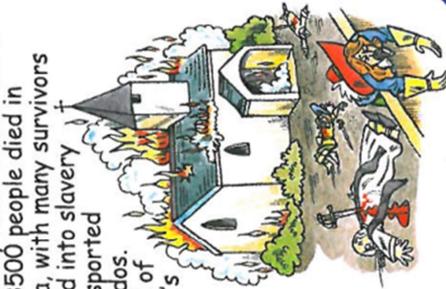
5. Growing furious and desperate, Cromwell personally led the third attack on the hole. His men finally broke inside the town, and Cromwell ordered that no armed man or Catholic priest be left alive!



6. Cromwell's men swept through the town, slashing down holy men as if they were soldiers. Sir Arthur Aston was bludgeoned to death with his own wooden leg after rumours had spread that it was full of gold coins!



7. A church containing 300 of Drogheda's defenders was set on fire and they were burned alive. Around 3500 people died in Drogheda, with many survivors being sold into slavery and transported to Barbados. Just 150 of Cromwell's troops died.

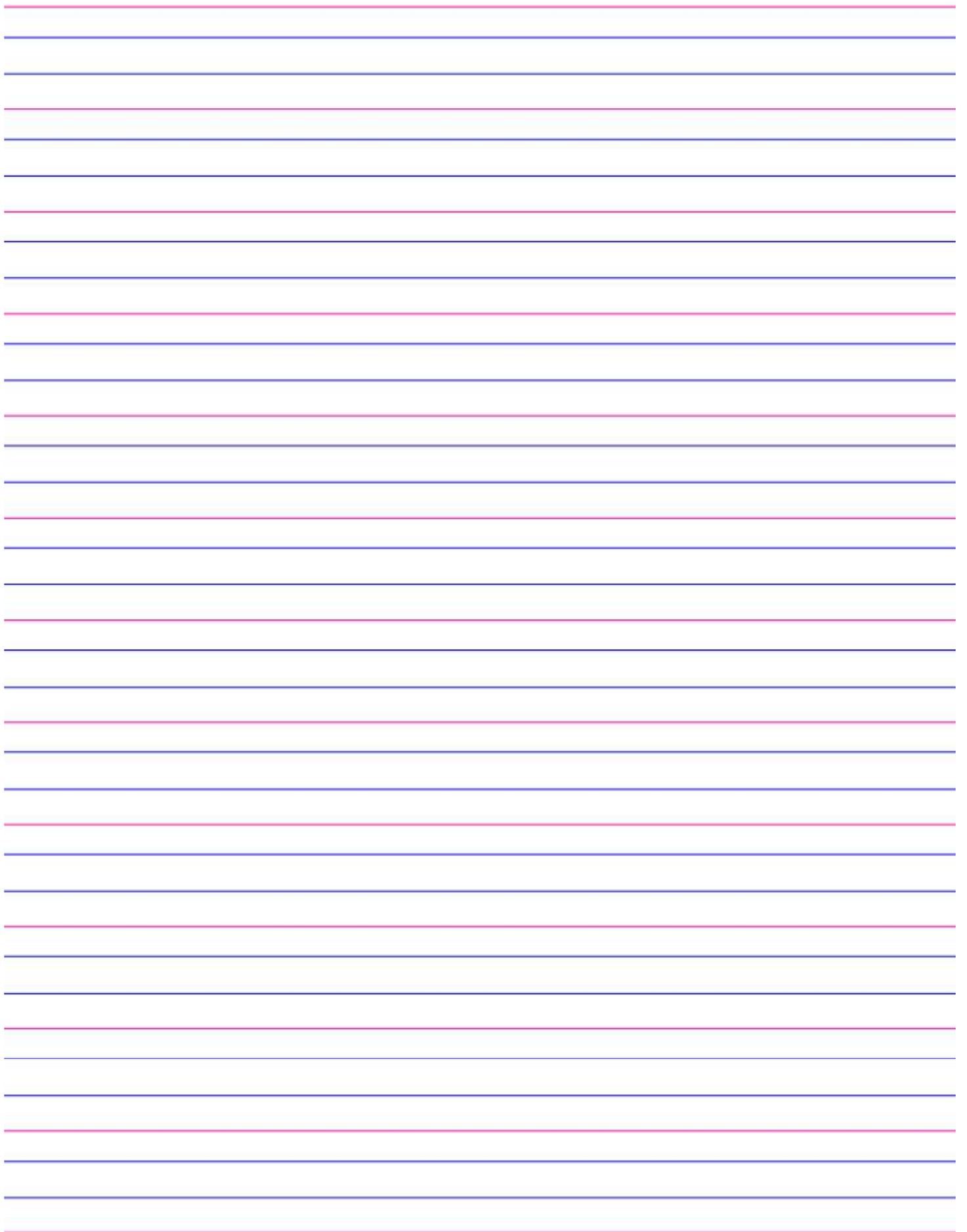


8. Cromwell then moved his army south and attacked the town of Wexford where another 2000 defenders, priests and civilians were killed. Over the next ten years, around a third of the entire Irish population were either killed, died of starvation or were sold into slavery. Nearly all land in Ireland owned by Catholics was taken off them and given to English and Scottish Protestants.



Relationships Worsen

Answer the questions from page 7 here



Task 3

Ireland in the 19th and 20th Century

During the late 1800's opinions in Ireland were very different to each other . Some people want to remain part of the United Kingdom, these people were called Unionists and were mainly protestants. Other people wanted Ireland to be an independent nation that controlled itself. These people were called Nationalists and were usually Catholic.

The Nationalists had tried a number of times to persuade the British government to give them Home Rule (control of Ireland). However, each time it failed because the House of Lords rejected the idea. They did this because many of them would have lost money and land they had in Ireland.

The Anglo-Irish war

Eventually some Nationalists got fed up of waiting and decided to use violence. In 1919 they began a violent campaign against Britain. Many volunteer groups known together as the Irish Republican Army (IRA) began to attack government buildings, carry out raids to get money and assassinate important British individuals. The British responded with force through both the Irish Police Force and the army. Incidents continued to happen up to 1921. However, when the British Government and many Irish Nationalist got tired of the violence the British Government offered to negotiate with the Nationalists.

The result of the discussions was that Ireland would be split in two. This was called partition. The southern part of Ireland would have its own government and make its own decisions, but it did have to stay in the British Empire. The Northern part of Ireland, where most Unionists lived would stay as part of Britain.



- Not everyone in the new independent Ireland was happy. They wanted all of Ireland to be free and they did not want to be part of the British Empire at all. These people kept pushing for complete independence and in 1949 the southern half of Ireland officially became the Republic of Ireland, meaning they were no longer attached to Britain at all. The only thing left that some Nationalists really wanted was to make all of Ireland a republic.

The Troubles

Northern Ireland had two groups of people with different views about Ireland. The Unionists wanted to stay with Britain, but the Nationalist living in Northern Ireland wanted to join with the Republic.

A 30 year campaign of violence began. Many people lost their lives. The IRA planted bombs and assassinated many Unionist supporters. The British responded harshly, imprisoning people without trial and sending in the British Army. The most Famous incident of the troubles occurred on 30 January 1972, a demonstration through the streets of Londonderry in north-west Northern Ireland ended with the shooting dead of thirteen civilians by the British Army.

In 1996, Manchester city centre was bombed by an IRA terrorists who planted a bomb in a van, destroying a huge area around the Arndale Centre.

By 1996 both sides had realised that violence alone would not solve the problems. All sides committed to try and sort out Ireland's differences peacefully.

The peace talks ended successfully in 1998 when the Good Friday Agreement was signed. This agreement said that Northern Ireland would run its own affairs but stay British. Importantly politicians from both the Unionist and Nationalists would be in government together. Both leaders of both Northern Ireland and the Republic also agreed that any future unification of Ireland had to happen only if the people of each country voted to join together at the same time.

Since then, the number of bombings and violence attacks have fallen. However, relationships are still a little strained. There are still instances of violence between IRA and police.

**Use the information on pages
11 and 12.**

Explain how and why Ireland is a divided nation.

Think about

- What differences there were between Unionists and Nationalists.
- The impact of the Anglo-Irish War.
- How the Troubles affected the attitude of the sides toward each other.
- You can also use other information from this booklet to explain why people in Ireland had a long history of being divided. Remember, things that happened a long time ago can affect the attitudes of people years after.

Notes –

This should be written in paragraphs.

Good answers will use dates, names and other specific examples to back up their points. You could say “One example of this is...”.

Better answers will say whether or not a reason is more or less important

The best answers will make an overall decision about what the most important reason for the divide is.

**Tricky extension challenge – can you solve a problem that was never fully solved?
If you were British Prime Minister, how would you have resolved the Troubles?**

Explain how and why Ireland is a divided nation?

