

Ireland: Easter 1916

Cartoons and Biographies

These activities were produced by Emma Thornton and Stuart Scott in 1983. Carol Ross drew the cartoons and portraits. The activities went with a book on the History of Ireland written by Emma, and printed by the ILEA learning materials service.

Like most collaborative materials they still work well. The recent film by Ken Loach, *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*, may stimulate more interest in this shameful period of our history. Certainly, our current prime minister shows little sign of having learned anything from it. The government (via QCA) has decided we can teach about the British Empire, but we suspect they didn't mean this. We have materials on the Great Famine of 1841 and can put them online if there is demand.

We produced a series of cartoons and a series of captions. This can be used as a prediction activity to stimulate discussion and perhaps launch a web search. BBC history website has a section on the Easter Rising and Anglo-Irish war.

We drew on evidence to produce biographies and opinions of people living in Dublin in 1916. We revisited them in 1922 to see how their views had changed.

The webaddress for this activity is:

<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/ireland1916.pdf>

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

Project Director: Stuart Scott

Supporting a cooperative network of teaching professionals throughout the European Union to develop and disseminate accessible teaching materials in all subject areas and for all ages.

17, Barford Street, Islington, London N1 0QB UK Phone: 0044 (0)20 7226 8885

Website: <http://www.collaborativelearning.org>

BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to develop and use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We run teacher workshops, swapshops and conferences throughout the European Union. The project publishes a catalogue of activities plus lists in selected subject areas, and a newsletter available on the internet: "PAPERCLIP".

*These activities were influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in mixed classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of speaking and listening. They provide teachers opportunities for assessment of speaking and listening and other formative assessment.

*They support differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opinions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts, discuss, paraphrase and move them about physically, they help to develop thinking skills.

*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in mother tongue and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

*They are generally adaptable over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work effectively with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

Ireland: Easter 1916 - Teacher notes

The 1916 biographies and 1922 interviews can be used in a variety of ways. You can make the biographies up as an A5 booklet or print them on separate sheets of A4 after enlarging them. The class can work in groups and after reading about their character (you can provide supplementary material for them to refer to: photos, maps, newspaper cuttings, or anything else you can find on the net or elsewhere), they can present their character to the rest of the class.

We have provided interviews with four of the characters in 1922. Some schools, who had staff who were Irish, taped these. Pupils listened and worked out after each one, who had been speaking. They could have the A5 booklet or they could use their joint memories. We provided a timeline: 1916 - 1922 and pupils recorded events on the line by skimming the biographies. Pupils worked in groups to select events and decide which characters changed their views after the events - eg who was affected by the Croke Park football match shootings? Pupils were given an opinion line and placed their characters on it at different times:



The final aim of the work for for groups to discuss whether a Civil War was likely in 1922, and if so who would fight who, and to present their findings to the rest of the class.

Easter 1916 - Cartoons

You have six cartoons depicting events around the Easter Rising. You also have eighteen captions. Only six captions are correct. Can you work out the sequence of events and which are the correct captions?

English troops left Ireland to fight in Europe.

Dublin citizens always enjoyed playing soldiers

Everyone in Ireland knew what was going on.

A German ship, carrying weapons for the Irish rebels was captured.

Dubliners set fire to their own city.

The English surrendered and the rebels were delighted.

People welcomed the rebels into their houses.

The English burned down large parts of Dublin.

Three English boats collided near south west Ireland.

Irish rebels all over Ireland prepared to fight.

The rebellion was called off, but a few in Dublin decided to go ahead anyway.

The rebels got into the most important buildings.

The English and the Irish compared weapons.

Houses in Dublin were often used for target practice.

The rebels surrendered and got no sympathy from Dublin's inhabitants.

The rebels barricaded themselves into building where they hoped they could attack English troops.

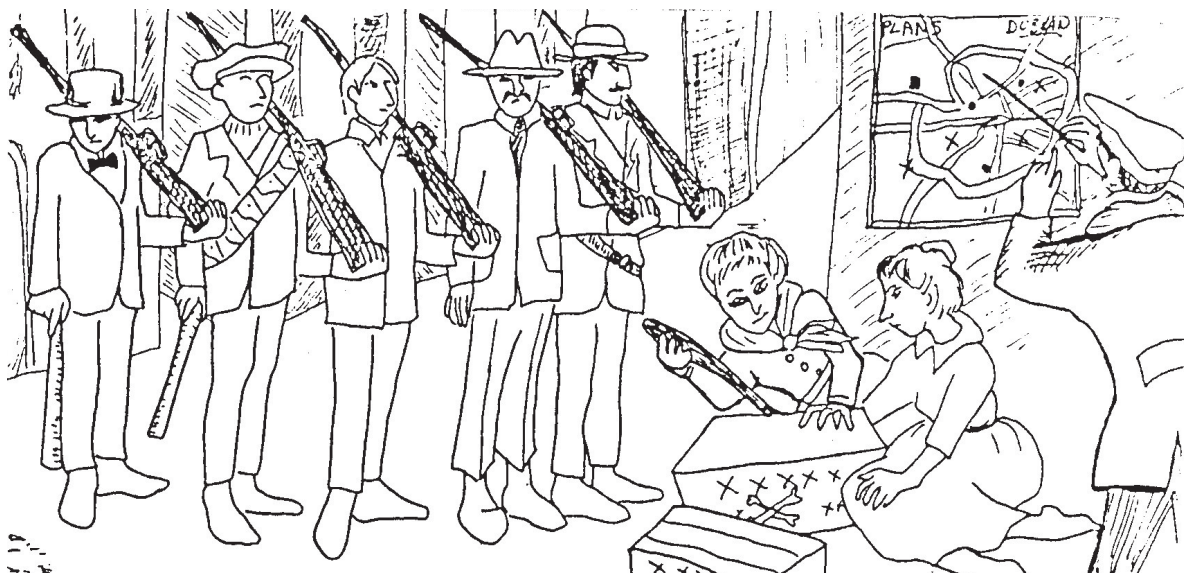
The rebellion was called off.

The English and German navy together invaded Ireland.

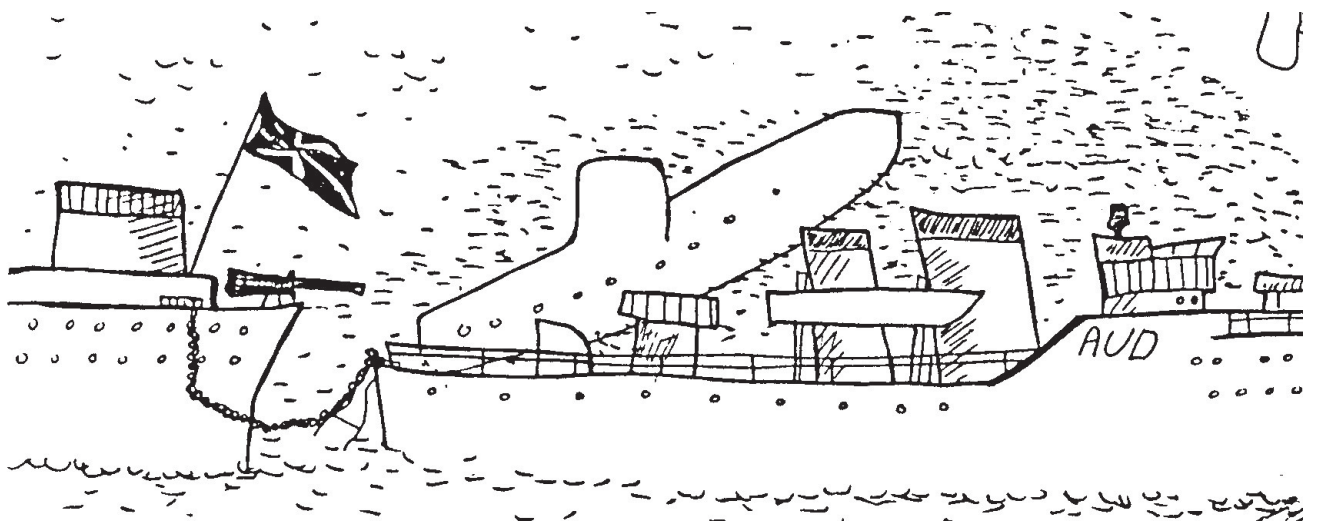
Easter 1916 - Cartoons



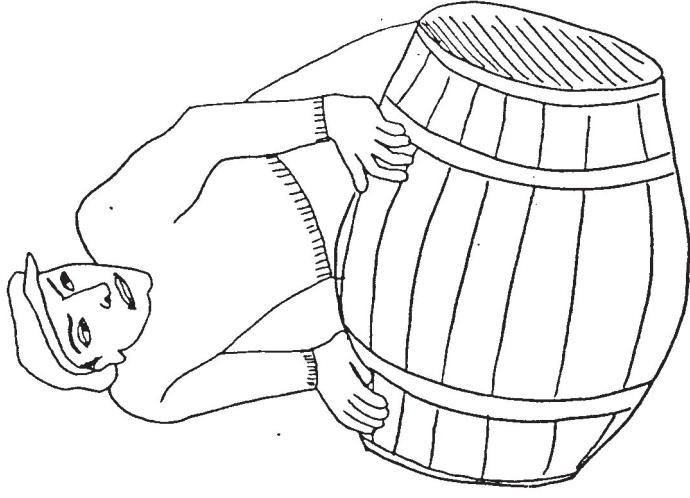
1

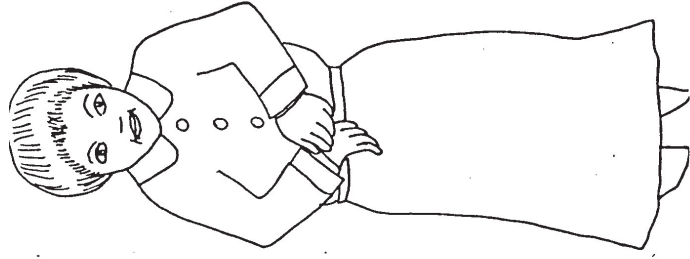


Easter 1916 - Cartoons

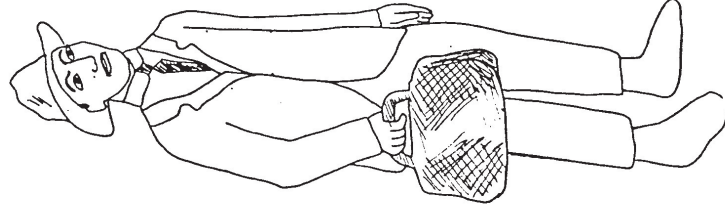


Ireland 1916





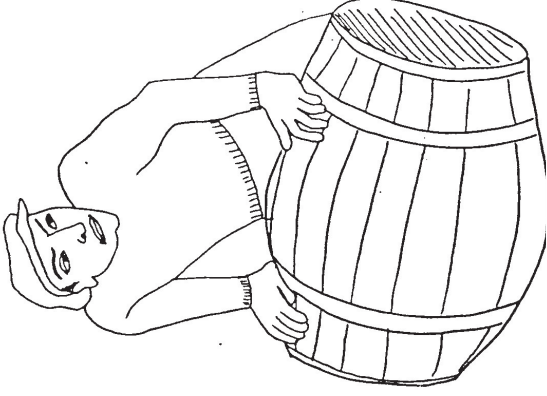
Maude Stanley-Grant is an aristocratic Protestant about thirty years old. Her husband was killed in France in the early years of the war. She has no children. She lives in a grand house by St. Stephen's Green in Dublin. The Gaelic League meets there. She knows many Volunteers, but she is beginning to grow impatient with them. She thinks that they are too soft. Last year in England she joined a suffragette demonstration. She was put in Holloway prison and went on hunger strike. She thinks that Germany is no worse nor no better than England. She has many German friends. Her best friend, Lady Childers, is there at the moment. She's buying weapons for the Volunteers.



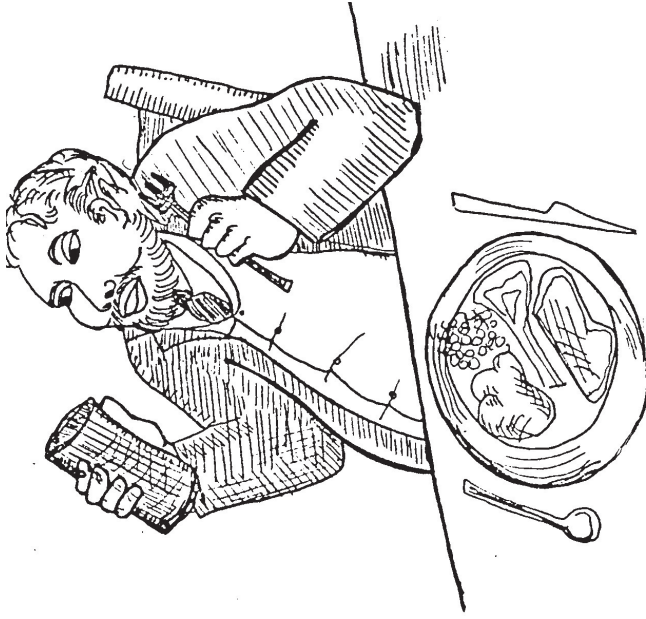
Patrick Costello is a middle class doctor. He is twenty-five years old and engaged to be married. He lives in a modern detached house on the edge of the village of Castletown. He is well educated and has travelled a lot. His family have always been passionate nationalists. Many of them have spent time in prison for their beliefs and their activities. He and the priest are leaders in the local branch of the I.R.B. They are organising anti-war demonstrations. He has contacts in the United States who send money.



Thomas Sullivan is a working class Catholic. He is fifty. He works for himself as a cobbler. He is married and both his children have left home. He lives in a single room with his wife. She wants to leave Belfast and move to Dublin. He believes in Home Rule, but can understand why the northern Protestants are against it. His brother often comes to shelter in his house because he is a rebel. Thomas believes that the war with Germany is silly and unnecessary. He thinks that all violence is wrong.

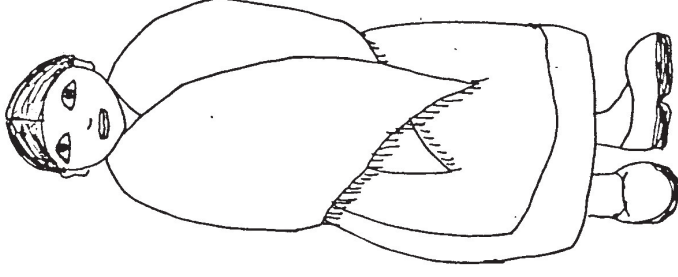


James Malone is a working class Catholic. He is forty years old. He is married and there are four children in his family. He rents two rooms on the fourth floor in a high slum housing block in Gardiner Street in central Dublin. He moves barrels in the Guinness brewery. He is a trade union organiser. He has worked in England and in America, where he met Barnes Connolly. He joined the Citizens' Army during the 1912 strikes and is still an active member. He doesn't trust England or think that the Home Rule Act gives Ireland enough power. He cannot understand why Irishmen have volunteered to die for England and the Empire in the war with Germany. He hopes and believes that there will be a revolution throughout Europe soon. Then the workers will take over from the upper classes.



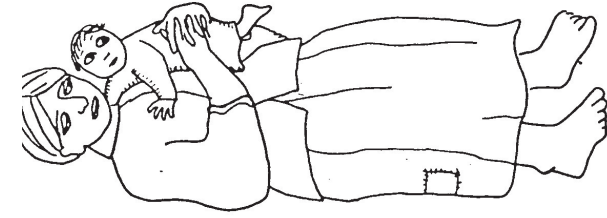
John Logan is a Catholic farmer. He is thirty-five and has just got married. Last year he got a grant from the British government. He was able to buy an estate near Killarney. It used to belong to an Englishman who never visited it. He lives in the big house and has taken on some of the old servants. He had to evict some of the poorer tenants who never paid their rent. He is selling grain to the government to feed the troops, and is doing very well. He has always supported Home Rule, but doesn't believe in going further than that. He supports the fight of the church against socialism. His brother is in the volunteers and against the war. His wife accuses him of thinking more about himself than Ireland. He is certain that Ireland needs to keep its links with England.

page 10



Nvalia Lydon is an unemployed Catholic girl. She is eighteen years old and unmarried. When she can, she works as a seamstress. She shares a room in Gardiner Street with another girl. She has only recently come to Dublin from the countryside. She enjoys town life. She knows some of the soldiers in Dublin Castle and some of the men in the citizens' army. She doesn't have any strong opinions on the war or Home Rule.

page 3



Kate Driscoll is a Catholic peasant. She is thirty-five and lives with her five children. Her husband is away in England doing factory work. Her family live in a one roomed cabin near Skibbereen, and they farm three acres of land. In a good year they manage, but often they have to do farm labour for others to make ends meet. When things are really bad they go on poor relief. The land reforms have not helped them one bit. They have a new Irish landlord instead of the English one, but he is just as greedy. She has a daughter living nearby who writes letters full of revolutionary ideas. The bishop says that it is sinful. She's got a son in the British army. She doesn't like it because the family have always been anti-English. However, he sends money home and she needs every penny.

page 6

FACTORY



Paul McMurray comes from a rich Protestant family. He is fifty years old. He owns a factory and lives in a big house in the suburbs of Belfast. He is against Home Rule for Ireland. He thinks that it will be bad for trade. He supports the British war effort. The war is creating big orders for his products. He is a respected member of the Orange order. He feels he is fair and treats his Catholic workers just like his Protestant ones.

page 7

Ireland: 1922 - Interview 1

"Since the war ended, my sales have not been so good. However, I still see England as my main market. I've always been against Home Rule, and the events of the last six years have proved me right. Those rebels in 1916 were traitors, getting Germany's help when we were at war. Of course we had to shoot the ringleaders. It was the only way of preventing any more trouble. I used to have some sympathy for the Nationalists, but those Sinn Feiners down south are a mad bunch.

I don't approve of what the Black and Tans did - especially that business at the Croke football match - but the IRA had to be taught a lesson.

Thank God we have now got a border between us and them now. This new treaty means that we can stay British. We'll have to protect ourselves from the traitors in our midst though. I have already had to sack some workers for holding a meeting against the Special Powers Act."

Ireland: 1922 - Interview 2

"We knew there was something planned for Easter 1916. Still, we thought that they were mad to go ahead with it after the British captured Roger Casement and the German ship full of arms. We read about the executions in the Killarney papers. Our bishop said that they were evil men. I could not agree and wept and prayed for them.

Around here everybody voted Sinn Fein in 1918. Over the last four years I've sheltered a lot of IRA boys on the run from the Tans. They held me for questioning when the new landlord got shot for informing to the Brits. I said nothing, but I was sorry for his wife.

I've just been told about the treaty. It's a sell out. I cannot believe that Mikey Collins agreed to it. Not after the deaths of so many Irishmen. Being in the government has made him soft. I cannot see the people around here going along with it."

Ireland: 1922 - Interview 3

"I shall be retiring soon. The 1916 rising was over before we knew it was begun. Out here in the suburbs we heard some booming noises, but we didn't know what it was until we read in the papers about the bombardment. Personally I thought the rising was rash, foolhardy thing. However, I felt a lot of sympathy when the executions were carried out.

That May, there were huge crowds waiting in the Post Office for news. You could have heard a pin drop. In the 1918 election I voted Nationalist. I was very against the Sinn Fein. I still think that they are ungodly communists, but they have let me keep my job. They have even promoted me!

When my son came out of the British army, he went and joined Sinn Fein at once. God save his soul. And my daughter is no better. She is working over the water and dancing the Charleston with a shocking bunch of people. I don't know what the world is coming to.

It's a good thing that they have finally signed the Treaty. For the last three years the IRA have been everywhere, murdering people in their beds. But I must say that I never thought the British would sink so low as to allow some of the things the Black and Tans did. The way they let them burn down the centre of Cork and that shooting of the harmless football crowd. 1920 was a terrible year. I don't care if the Treaty means that we lose the north, as long as we can get peace to build up the country again."

Ireland: 1922 - Interview 4

"I haven't married. The man I was engaged to got shot during the rising, six years ago this April. I'm in a different house now. Gardiner Street, where I used to live, was shot to bits by the British, looking for rebels. We told them that there were none there, but that didn't make a difference. I must say, I thought the lads were mad then, having a rising when all their guns had been captured. But when the executions began, I wish I had been with them earlier. I remember waiting with Nora outside the prison every day, waiting for news of who was the latest to die. Although I couldn't vote in 1918, I was pleased when the Sinn Fein won the election, and then refused to go to Westminster. I supported the new government that they set up in Dublin. Madame Markiewicz is a bit off with her strange clothes, but I love Mikey Collins. I don't like all the things his IRA gets up to, but after the Black and Tans shot up the crowd at the football match, my neighbour among them, I don't care what they do as long as we get independence. I can't believe that this treaty they signed last week will be the end of it, though I sincerely hope it is."