



# Quicklook at "Food and Babies"

Sample text

Three hundred years ago people who could not find work in the country moved to the city. They often became servants for richer people and were paid very little. Cities like Dublin in Ireland and London grew very quickly. Many servants became mothers. They could not afford to keep their babies. They used to leave them on doorsteps or in churches. These babies were called foundlings. Most large cities in Europe set up hospitals for foundlings. There was one in Dublin and one in London. In Dublin they fed the babies on goats milk mixed with bread. 98% of the babies died. In London they paid mothers to breastfeed them. 30% of these babies survived.

Collaborative Reading Materials with an information gap.

There are four different texts with a common question sheet. The principle here is that readers will be unable to complete the questions by simply using the information in their version, but will have to collaborate with other readers, asking questions and eliciting information, possibly arguing and negotiating. There is also an opportunity to draw on their own previous knowledge.

Each text covers different aspects:  
Text A looks at life in Ireland for the poor.  
Text B is the sample text.  
Text C looks at cash cropping in former colonies.  
Text D looks at the history of protest

The activity was planned to support the reading of "A Modest Proposal" by Jonathan Swift. His satire proposed raising babies for food rather than letting them starve.

Food and Babies - Question sheet with space for answers.

1. What do you know about Jonathan Swift?	2. What is a foundling?	3. How long was Ireland a colony of England?	4. Name two things you can do if you are angry about something
5. Why did people move from country to city three hundred years ago?	6. Name three countries that used to be colonies of England.	7. Why did more foundlings die in Dublin than in London?	8. What is the best way to get your views across nowadays.