Project for HAVO 4 or 5.

This assignment is for two people.

Here you will find a letter sent to The Irish Times in 1996. It is an angry letter, that speaks of the naming of the so-called six counties of Ireland. Read this letter and give your opinion of the matter.

You will make an essay of at least 500 words. In it you will show that you understand what the six counties are, the history of the six counties and you will give your own opinion of the subject. You will also look up the meaning of the phrase “To Hell or to Connaught”.

When your paper has been approved, you will present your findings together to your class. This can be a short presentation; five to ten minutes will suffice.

THE SIX COUNTIES

Tue, Jun 18, 1996, 01:00

**ETHNA DEVANEY**

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Sir, - Ireland is an island surrounded by water. It has 32 counties and four provinces. One of these provinces, Ulster, has nine counties, six of which are occupied by a foreign country.

The occupation of these six counties was forced on this country by a threat of war. This all happened in 1922, after the first World War when many Irish men had been killed and the Irish leaders had been executed in 1916 - not exactly the time to threaten war!

With this invasion came a new race, new religions and a packed majority that ruled the roost. It was another to Hell or Connaught.

Up to date this foreign country, its politicians and people refer to the six counties as either the province of Ulster or Northern Ireland. This is illegal. It is six counties of the province OR of Northern Ireland OR of Ulster. Remember Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan are part of the province, but not occupied.

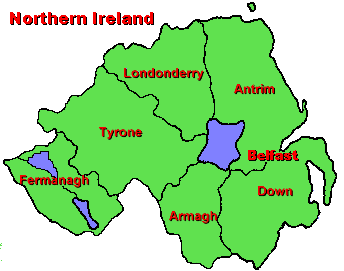
I hope the politicians and people on both sides of the Irish Sea will bear this in mind in future discussions and in the Dail and House of Commons. Hansard must be in a bad way with illegal statements regarding the six counties. Is there a politician in Ireland who would go to the trouble of righting this wrong legally and officially? - Yours, etc.,

Killiney Hill Road,

Killiney,

Co. Dublin

Source: Guardian.com, The Irish Times, Wikipedia



Practiced skills:

* Reading
* Writing
* Looking up information
* Working together
* Speaking

Project Northern Ireland.

*Subject: The Famine.*

VMBO TL Year 4

Skills:

* Reading
* writing
* Looking up information
* Enlarging vocabulary
* Speaking

Read the following article carefully and answer the questions in complete sentences.

http://www.historyplace.com/worldhistory/famine/ad-thin-blue-728.jpg

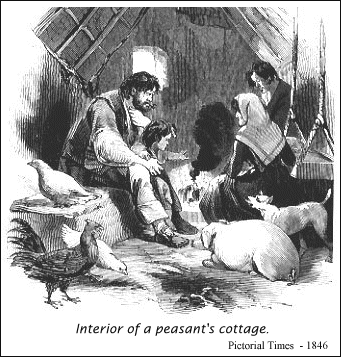


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Introduction

Beginning in 1845 and lasting for six years, the potato famine killed over a million men, women and children in Ireland and caused another million to flee the country.

Ireland in the mid-1800s was an agricultural nation, populated by eight million persons who were among the poorest people in the Western World. Only about a quarter of the population could read and write. Life expectancy was short, just 40 years for men. The Irish married quite young, girls at 16, boys at 17 or 18, and tended to have large families, although infant mortality was also quite high.

A British survey in 1835 found half of the rural families in Ireland living in single-room, windowless mud cabins that didn't have chimneys. The people lived in small communal clusters, known as clachans, spread out among the beautiful countryside. Up to a dozen persons lived inside a cabin, sleeping in straw on the bare ground, sharing the place with the family's pig and chickens. In some cases, mud cabin occupants were actually the dispossessed descendants of Irish estate owners. It was not uncommon for a beggar in Ireland to mention that he was in fact the descendant of an ancient Irish king.

Most of the Irish countryside was owned by an English and Anglo-Irish hereditary ruling class. Many were absentee landlords that set foot on their properties once or twice a year, if at all. Mainly Protestant, they held titles to enormous tracts of land long ago confiscated from native Irish Catholics by British conquerors such as Oliver Cromwell. The landlords often utilized local agents to actually manage their estates while living lavishly in London or in Europe off the rents paid by Catholics for land their ancestors had once owned.

Throughout Ireland, Protestants known as middlemen rented large amounts of land on the various estates then sub-divided the land into smaller holdings which they rented to poor Catholic farmers. The middleman system began in the 1700s and became a major source of misery as they kept sub-dividing estates into smaller and smaller parcels while increasing the rent every year in a practice known as rack-renting.

The average tenant farmer lived at a subsistence level on less than ten acres. These Catholic farmers were usually considered tenants-at-will and could be evicted on short notice at the whim of the landlord, his agent, or middleman. By law, any improvements they made, such as building a stone house, became the property of the landlord. Thus, there was never any incentive to upgrade their living conditions.

The tenant farmers often allowed landless laborers, known as cottiers, to live on their farms. The cottiers performed daily chores and helped bring in the annual harvest as payment of rent. In return, they were allowed to build a small cabin and keep their own potato garden to feed their families. Other landless laborers rented small fertilized potato plots from farmers as conacre, with a portion of their potato harvest given up as payment of rent. Poor Irish laborers, more than anyone, became totally dependent on the potato for their existence. They also lived in a state of permanent insecurity with the possibility always looming they might be thrown off their plot.

The most fertile farmland was found in the north and east of Ireland. The more heavily populated south and west featured large wet areas (bog) and rocky soil. Mountains and bogs cover about a third of Ireland. By the mid-1800s, the density of Irish living on cultivated land was about 700 people per square mile, among the highest rate in Europe.

Potatoes are not native to Ireland but likely originated in the Andes Mountains of Peru, South America. In the early 1500s, Spanish conquerors found the Incas growing the vegetable, which the Spanish called patata. They were taken back to Europe and eventually reached England where the name changed to potato. About 1590, potatoes were introduced to Ireland where farmers quickly discovered they thrived in their country's cool moist soil with very little labor. An acre of fertilized potato field could yield up to 12 tons of potatoes, enough to feed a family of six for a year with leftovers going to the family's animals.

By the 1800s, the potato had become the staple crop in the poorest regions. More than three million Irish peasants subsisted solely on the vegetable which is rich in protein, carbohydrates, minerals, and vitamins such as riboflavin, niacin and Vitamin C. It is possible to stay healthy on a diet of potatoes alone. The Irish often drank a little buttermilk with their meal and sometimes used salt, cabbage, and fish as seasoning. Irish peasants were actually healthier than peasants in England or Europe where bread, far less nutritious, was the staple food.

Irish farmers utilized an ancient 'lazy bed' planting technique. Using a simple spade, they first marked long parallel lines in the soil about four feet apart throughout the entire plot. In between the lines, they piled a mixture of manure and crushed seashells then turned over the surrounding sod onto this, leaving the grass turned upside down. Seed potatoes were inserted in-between the overturned grass and the layer of fertilizer then buried with dirt dug-up along the marked lines. The potato bed was thus raised about a foot off the surrounding ground, with good drainage provided via the newly dug parallel trenches.

Planting occurred in the spring beginning around St. Patrick's Day. Most of the poor Irish grew a variety known as Lumpers, a high yielding, but less nutritious potato that didn't mature until September or October. Every year for the poor, July and August were the hungry months as the previous year's crop became inedible and the current crop wasn't quite ready for harvest. This was the yearly 'summer hunger,' also called 'meal months,' referring to oat or barley meal bought from price gauging dealers out of necessity. During the summer hunger, women and children from the poorest families resorted to begging along the roadside while the men sought temporary work in the harvest fields of England.

By autumn, the potatoes were ready to be harvested, carefully stored in pits, and eaten during the long winter into the spring and early summer. The Irish consumed an estimated seven million tons in this way each year. The system worked year after year and the people were sustained as long as the potato crop didn't fail.

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http://www.historyplace.com/worldhistory/famine/thin-blue-865.jpg

[The History Place - Irish Potato Famine: …](http://www.historyplace.com/worldhistory/famine/introduction.htm)

[Deze pagina vertalen](http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=nl-NL&dl=nl&lp=EN_NL&a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.historyplace.com%2fworldhistory%2ffamine%2fintroduction.htm)

www.historyplace.com/worldhistory/**famine**/**introduction**.

Answer these questions in full sentences.

1. In the mid-1800s Ireland had 8 million inhabitants. How many people live there now?
2. How long were people expected to live then? And what is the life expectancy now?
3. What is the word the author uses for a very small house?
4. What does “the dispossessed descendants of Irish estate owners” mean?
5. What is an “absentee landlord”?
6. Explain the “middleman system”.
7. What does it mean to de evicted?
8. How did Irish peasants become so dependent on the potato?

In 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848 and in 1849 the potato crop in Ireland failed. Look up what happened in Ireland in this period. Give a short presentation about this terrible time.