

The Irish Plantations

Headings	Notes
THE IRISH PLANTATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Irish Plantations is the name given to the 16th and 17th centuries in Irish history when Irish land was confiscated by the English Crown and then colonised by British settlers which coincided with the British Reformation.
IRELAND IN THE 1500S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ireland was home to three major groups of people: • The Old English – people living in the Pale who were loyal to the English Crown. As a result of the Reformation, tensions between the Gaelic Irish and the Old English increased. • The Anglo-Irish – Anglo-Norman descendants who adopted many Gaelic customs and laws into English ways of life. Powerful Anglo-Irish families included the Fitzgeralds of Kildare, the Fitzgeralds of Munster and the Butlers of Ormond/Kilkenny. • The Gaelic Irish – The Gaelic Chieftains who followed Irish Brehon Law which dated back to the Iron Age and did not recognise the English king as ruler of Ireland. Powerful Gaelic Irish families included the O’Neills of Tyrone, the O’Donnells of Donegal and the MacCarthys of Cork.
THE TUDORS AND IRELAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry VII came to power in England in 1485, beginning the reign of the Tudor Era. The Tudors had several reasons for wanting to fully conquer Ireland: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to expand their territory • to spread English customs, culture and laws • to prevent the Gaelic lords forming alliances with other Catholic countries (France and Spain) against England. • to spread their new religion (Protestantism) • to prevent further rebellions • to save money in the long term
HENRY VIII (1509-1547): SURRENDER AND REGRANT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry VIII initially tried to control Ireland through peaceful means through the policy of surrender and regrant. This meant that Anglo-Irish and Gaelic Irish lords would “surrender” themselves and their property to Henry VIII and he would “grant” them their land back along with an English title (lord, earl or baron). • Some families gained wealth and power under this policy. • Many Anglo-Irish and Gaelic Irish lords now accepted Henry VIII’s rule over Ireland. • Irish lands were now passed down under English system of succession (father to oldest son)
Keywords	Summary
Irish Plantations	<p>The Irish Plantations was the period of Irish history when Irish land was colonised by British settlers. The Old English who were loyal to the English Crown and resided in the Pale while the Anglo-Irish combined English and Irish traditions in their ways of life. The Gaelic Irish continued to follow Brehon Law from the Iron Age and did not recognise the English king as ruler of Ireland. The Tudor Era (1485 – 1603) saw the English Crown begin its consolidation of control over the island of Ireland. This process began initially under Henry VIII who wanted to use a peaceful approach; through the policy of surrender and regrant. This gave some families English titles while introducing the system of succession to the island.</p>
Old English	
Anglo Irish	
Gaelic Irish	
Tudor Era	
Surrender and regrant	
English title	
Succession	

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THE POLICY OF PLANTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When the king confiscated Irish lands, he allowed them to be rented by or sold to English settlers (plantation). The new settlers (planters) spread English language, customs, law and religion while also defending their new land from the Gaelic Irish.
THE EARLY PLANTATIONS EDWARD VI (1547-1553)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Henry VIII's only son, Edward VI, became king in 1547 when he was only nine years old. He died because of tuberculosis six years later in 1553. Edward was succeeded by his eldest half-sister Mary I who was a Catholic like her mother, Catherine of Aragon.
QUEEN MARY I (1554 – 1558): THE LAOIS-OFFALY PLANTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Gaelic Irish lords of Laois (the O'Moores) and Offaly (the O'Connors) raided the Pale for cattle and other resources frequently. Queen Mary I confiscated their lands before she had them divided into estates of between 350 and 1000 acres to loyal Englishmen who were born in England or Ireland. Laois was renamed Queen's County while Offaly was renamed King's County. The first plantation was a failure, mainly due to the fact it did not attract enough planters.
QUEEN ELIZABETH I (1558-1603): THE MUNSTER PLANTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queen Mary I died in 1558 with no heirs. Her younger half-sister Elizabeth I succeeded her. Elizabeth was Protestant like her father and mother, Anne Boleyn. Adventurers claimed land in Munster, declaring themselves to be descendants of Anglo-Normans who had been granted land in Munster by Henry II. Elizabeth I appointed presidents in the region as well; they were tasked with imposing English law, language and customs as well as spreading the Protestant religion. The Irish lords (the Catholic Fitzgeralds of Desmond) were angered by this, resulting in two failed rebellions (the Desmond Rebellions). Desmond lands were given to undertakers who agreed to do as they were told with the land given to them such as dividing land into estates of 4,000 – 12,000 acres, hire English tenants, import English cattle, sheep and horses. Not a complete failure; new towns like Mallow, Tralee, and Ennis set up but not enough planters.
Keywords	Summary
Plantation	<p>The policy of surrender and regrant was followed by the policy of plantation. Planters did not arrive in Ireland under the reign of Edward V but did under the reign of Catholic Queen Mary I. The Gaelic Irish Clans of Laois and Offaly had their lands confiscated by Queen Mary I who then granted their lands to English planters. The Laois-Offaly Plantations were a failure due to not enough planters arriving from England. Mary I was succeeded by her half-sister, Protestant Queen Elizabeth I who oversaw the Munster Plantation which saw the adventurers, presidents and undertakers plant previously owned Gaelic Irish land, spreading English laws, customs & language. The Munster Plantation had more success than the Laois-Offaly Plantations.</p>
Planters	
Edward VI	
Mary I	
Elizabeth I	
Adventurers	
Presidents	
Undertakers	

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KING JAMES I (1603 – 1625); THE PLANTATION OF ULSTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The most powerful Gaelic Irish clans in Ulster were the O'Neills of Tyrone and the O'Donnells of Donegal. In the Nine Years War (1594-1603), the Ulster chiefs fought against the spread of English law, religion, language and customs with the support of King Phillip II of Spain. O'Neill and O'Donnell were defeated at the Battle of Kinsale (1601). The Treaty of Mellifont was signed in 1603 to end the war, under terms that meant that the Gaelic Irish lords had to accept English control. In 1607, O'Neill and other Ulster chiefs fled to Europe (the Flight of the Earls) with hopes of returning with troops to take back control. Queen Elizabeth I died in 1603, also with no heirs, marking the end of the Tudor Era. Her cousin, James Stuart, succeeded her as King James I, marking the start of the Stuart Era. He would be responsible for the Plantation of Ulster after his successful plantation of Scotland. 		
BACKGROUND			
HOW THE ULSTER PLANTATION WAS ORGANISED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ulster Plantation took place in Armagh, Cavan, Derry, Donegal, Fermanagh and Tyrone. Land was divided into smaller estates than in Munster with no bigger than 2,000 acres. Estates were given to three kinds of planters: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Undertakers: English or Scottish planters – received most of the land. Servitors: English or Scottish soldiers who had fought for the Crown. Loyal Irish: native Irish who had stayed loyal to the English during the Nine Years War. The entire county of Derry was reserved for London craft guilds and renamed Londonderry. Each section of land in the county was given to a guild e.g. blacksmiths and goldsmiths. Catholics had to live in The Bogside (the boggy area outside Derry's town walls) 		
RESULTS OF THE ULSTER PLANTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ulster Plantation was a success, resulting in the following: <table border="0"> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large numbers of planters arrived. Protestantism rose leading to religious division and tensions between Catholic natives and Protestant settlers. New towns with markets, English style houses and stone castles were built. </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ulster became the most loyal to the Crown The 1641 rebellion and massacre of Protestants led to Oliver Cromwell's violent conquest of Ireland. New farming methods were introduced and tillage (crop) farming increased. </td> </tr> </table> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large numbers of planters arrived. Protestantism rose leading to religious division and tensions between Catholic natives and Protestant settlers. New towns with markets, English style houses and stone castles were built. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ulster became the most loyal to the Crown The 1641 rebellion and massacre of Protestants led to Oliver Cromwell's violent conquest of Ireland. New farming methods were introduced and tillage (crop) farming increased.
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Nine Years War	<p>The Ulster Chiefs, O'Neill and O'Donnell rebelled against the spread of English control during the Nine Years War before they were eventually defeated at the Battle of Kinsale in 1601. The war officially came to an end with the Treaty of Mellifont that forced Gaelic Irish chiefs to accept English rule in Ireland. The O'Neills and O'Donnells fled during the Flight of the Earls. In 1603, Elizabeth I died and was succeeded by James I who would organise the Ulster Plantation. Land was divided up between undertakers, servitors and loyal Irish. English way of life spread while Londonderry became home to English Guilds while the Bogside was home to the Catholic Irish. Oliver Cromwell would go on to violently consolidate English control over the island of Ireland.</p>
Battle of Kinsale	
Treaty of Mellifont	
The Flight of the Earls	
James I	
Londonderry	
Undertakers	
The Bogside	
Servitors	
Oliver Cromwell	
Loyal Irish	

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THE EFFECT OF PLANTATION ON IRISH IDENTITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protestant planters became the ruling social class. Lands of Catholic Gaelic Clans were taken over by Protestant British Planters. 								
RELIGIOUS IDENTITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious divisions mirrored colonised/coloniser divisions, especially in Ulster. The majority of Ireland's population remained Catholic but by 1700 owned 85% of the land, becoming the Protestant Ascendancy. Anger and mistrust between Catholics and Protestants grew more and more violent over the next few centuries, later developing into the Troubles in the late twentieth century. 								
POLITICAL CONFLICT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power difference between Catholics and Protestants added to the religious tensions. Protestants consolidated their power and control by the introduction of the Penal Laws in 1603. These laws suppressed the status of Catholics by forbidden Catholics from <i>buying or inheriting land; owning a good weapon or horse; working in government; attending Mass; voting</i>. The Penal Laws would greatly affect Irish identity and shape people's political beliefs. 								
CULTURAL CHANGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaelic Irish language and culture decline sharply – by 1700, English was the main language of trade and power on the island. Gaelic Brehon Law was replaced by English Common Law. English farming methods replaced the Gaelic ways in many areas as tillage farming increased. 								
GROWTH OF PLANTATION TOWNS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many new towns were planned and built all over Ireland during the Plantations: Birr, Tullamore, Derry, Portlaoise and Portlinton Plantation towns were very different to the medieval housing and had the following features: <table border="1" data-bbox="406 1281 1575 1491"> <tbody> <tr> <td>• Square layout with defensive walls.</td> <td>• Wide straight streets.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Market square “the Diamond”</td> <td>• Courthouse</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Protestant Church</td> <td>• A gaol</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Well</td> <td>• Cannons on the walls</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Gaelic-style houses stayed outside the walls, usually on poorer quality land. 	• Square layout with defensive walls.	• Wide straight streets.	• Market square “the Diamond”	• Courthouse	• Protestant Church	• A gaol	• Well	• Cannons on the walls
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Keywords	Summary
Protestant Ascendancy	<p>The Protestant Ascendancy became the ruling social class on the island of Ireland, owning 85% of Irish land while making up 15% of the population. Religious divisions and political differences between the native Irish Catholics and Protestant British settlers would lead to rising tensions that would sometimes boil over into violence and conflict such as the Troubles. Penal Laws discriminated against Catholics while the English Common Law replaced the Gaelic Brehon Law. Plantation towns, particularly those in Ulster such as Derry, were very well planned and organised. Each plantation town contained features such as a diamond (market square), a gaol, Protestant church and large defensive walls. Tillage farming grew in these plantation towns.</p>
The Troubles	
Penal Laws	
Gaelic Brehon Law	
English Common Law	
Diamond	
Gaol	
Tillage farming	

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CASE STUDY: THE PLANTATION TOWN OF DERRY (LONDONDERRY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derry stands on a monastic settlement from the sixth century, founded by St. Colmcille. • Derry grew rapidly during the late sixteenth century and early seventeenth century. • During the Nine Year War, the English placed a garrison here then gave it the status of city. • After coming to power, James I needed funding to plant Ulster. To do this, he offered the county of Derry to the London guilds in exchange for funding; the guilds accepted and renamed the county 'Londonderry'. • From 1610 to 1618, the guilds spent 8 years building a fortified city which was planned in a grid pattern – which still remains today (best seen through aerial photography). High defensive walls were built around the city to protect it from Gaelic Irish attacks which still stand today. • Derry is the only remaining walled city on the island of Ireland that remains intact.
PLANTATION AS A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Irish Plantations are an example of a contentious issue in Irish history. • The Plantations directly contributed to deep religious divisions (especially in Ulster) and a power difference between native Irish Catholics and British Protestant descendants. By the start of the eighteenth century, Protestants owned 85% of land while only making up 15% of the population, leading to growing anger and mistrust with occasional outbreaks of violence. • The Penal Laws of 1603 helped Protestants consolidate their position of power and control as they denied Catholics the opportunity to escape poverty or achieve social/economic security; this discrimination inflicted on Irish Catholics would forever shape their political beliefs in the centuries to follow with the rise of nationalism and unionism. • Differences between the two would lead to rising tensions, discrimination, conflict and violence across the island, particularly in Northern Ireland. • Derry became a recurring flashpoint of these increasing tensions and conflicts. • The Siege of Derry (1688-1689) saw Protestant supporters of King William of Orange resist a siege by the supporters of Catholic King James II; it is still commemorated each year. • The 1969 Commemoration of the Siege of Derry would spark three days of rioting that would become known as the Battle of the Bogside – one of the first conflicts of three decades of The Troubles.
Keywords	Summary
Contentious Issue	<p>The Irish Plantations are an example of a contentious issue in Irish history. The plantations led to religious divisions on the island of Ireland and created a political power difference between native Irish Catholics and British Protestant descendants. The Penal Laws were an example of discrimination between the two religious groups which mirror their political status.</p> <p>This discrimination would later lead to the rise of nationalism and unionism on the island. Derry would become a recurring representation of the boiling tensions with the commemoration of the 1688-89 Siege of Derry (William of Orange vs James II) leading to the 1969 Battle of the Bogside during the Troubles.</p>
Religious Divisions	
Penal Laws	
James II	
Discrimination	
Siege of Derry	
Nationalism	
Battle of the Bogside	
Unionism	
William of Orange	
Commemoration	

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Keywords	Definitions
Anglicisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becoming more English in a language and culture.
Anglo-Irish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A group of people descended from the Anglo-Normans. Most had adopted the Gaelic Irish way of life by the 1500s.
Anglo-Normans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A group of English people descended from the Normans. They invaded Ireland in the twelfth century. They spoke English and followed English common law.
Bawn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A defensive stone wall around a house or castle.
Brehon laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaelic Irish laws dating back as far as the Iron Age.
Colonisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where a country takes over another country, spreads its culture and settles its people there.
Colonist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A person who settles in a country that is under the control of their mother country.
Contentious Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An issue that people are likely to argue about.
Flight of the Earls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The event in 1607 when Hugh O'Neill and other Ulster chiefs left Ireland.
Gaelic Irish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A group of Irish people descended from the ancient people of Ireland. They spoke Irish and followed Brehon Law.
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The characteristics or features that make a person or people who they are.
Lord deputy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The English Crown's highest representative in Ireland.
Lordship of Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parts of Ireland that accepted the rule of the English Crown.
Loyal Irish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native Irish who had stayed loyal to the Crown during the Nine Years War.
Nine Years' War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A failed rebellion (1593-1603) against English rule in Ireland. It was led by Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone.
Old English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A group of people in the Pale who were loyal to the King and descended from the Anglo-Saxons.
Penal Laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laws that suppressed the status of Catholics in Ireland
Protestant Ascendancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the Anglican elite. They made up 15% of the population but owned 80% of the land. They were the only people allowed to take seats in the Irish parliament.
Servitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English soldiers and government officials who served in the Nine Years' War and were rewarded with land in the Ulster Plantation.
Surrender and regrant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A policy of control that avoided warfare. A Gaelic chief surrendered his land to the English Crown. The Crown regranted the land back to the chief in return for a promise of loyalty.
The Pale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area within and around Dublin where English rule was at its strongest.
The Plantations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A policy of control that replaced disloyal people in an area of land with loyal planters (settlers).
Undertakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English and Scottish settlers who came to Ireland during the Plantations.
Wattle and Daub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woven mesh plastered with a mixture of mud, dung, sand and straw.