

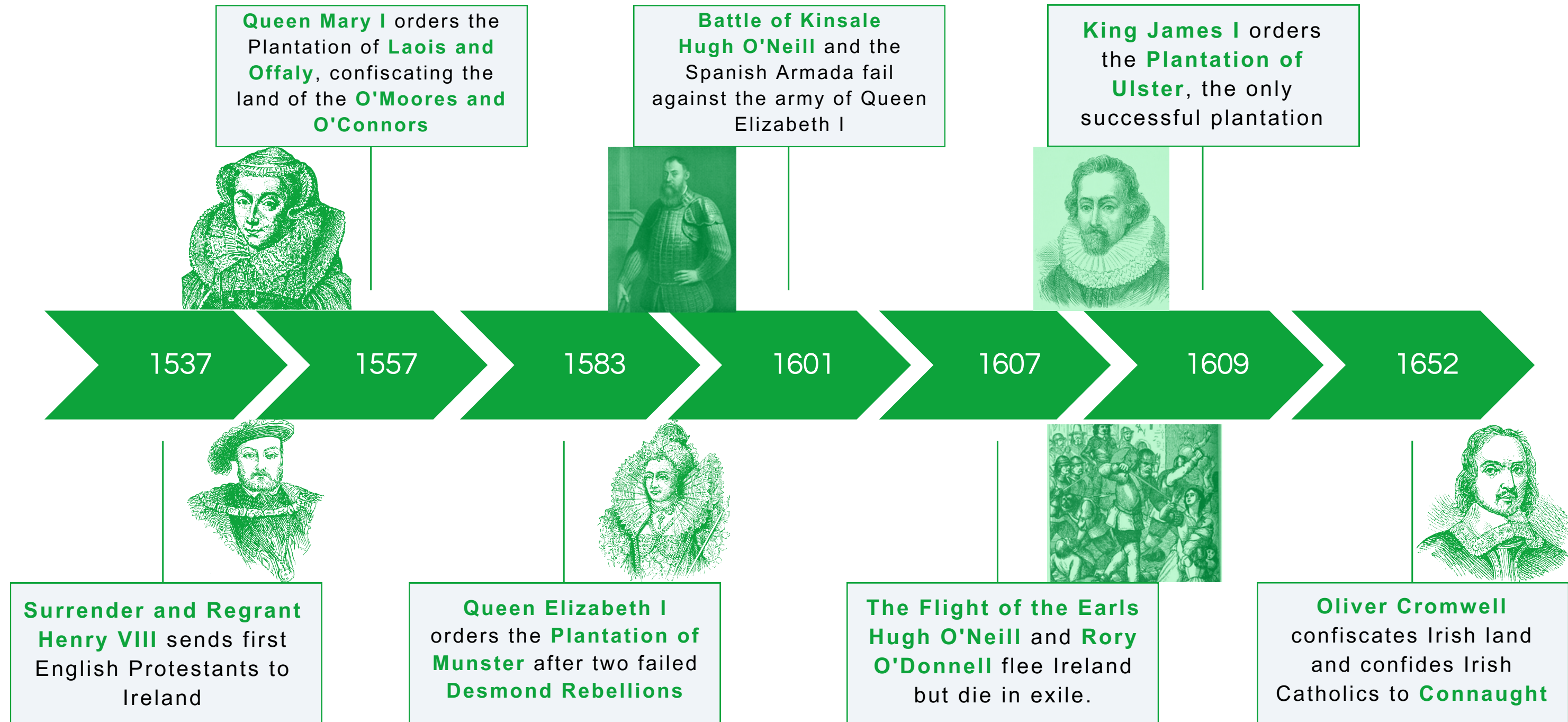


*THE IRISH PLANTATIONS*

THE IRISH PLANTATIONS



**2.1 RECOGNISE** how a pattern of settlement and plantation influenced identity on the island of Ireland, referring to one example of a pattern of settlement, such as the growth of towns, and one plantation



# Learning Outcomes

- **2.1 RECOGNISE** how a pattern of settlement and plantation influenced identity on the island of Ireland, referring to one example of a pattern of settlement, such as the growth of towns, and one plantation
- **1.2 CONSIDER** contentious or controversial issues in history from more than one perspective and discuss the historical roots of a contentious or controversial issue or theme in the contemporary world
- **1.7 DEVELOP** historical judgements based on evidence about personalities, issues and events in the past, showing awareness of historical significance



# Introduction

**The Plantations** is the name given to the period of Irish history when, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Irish land was confiscated by the English Crown and then colonised by British settlers. The Plantation set in motion major changes to Ireland and also influence identity on the island in a lasting way. The roots of many recent events in Irish history date from this period.



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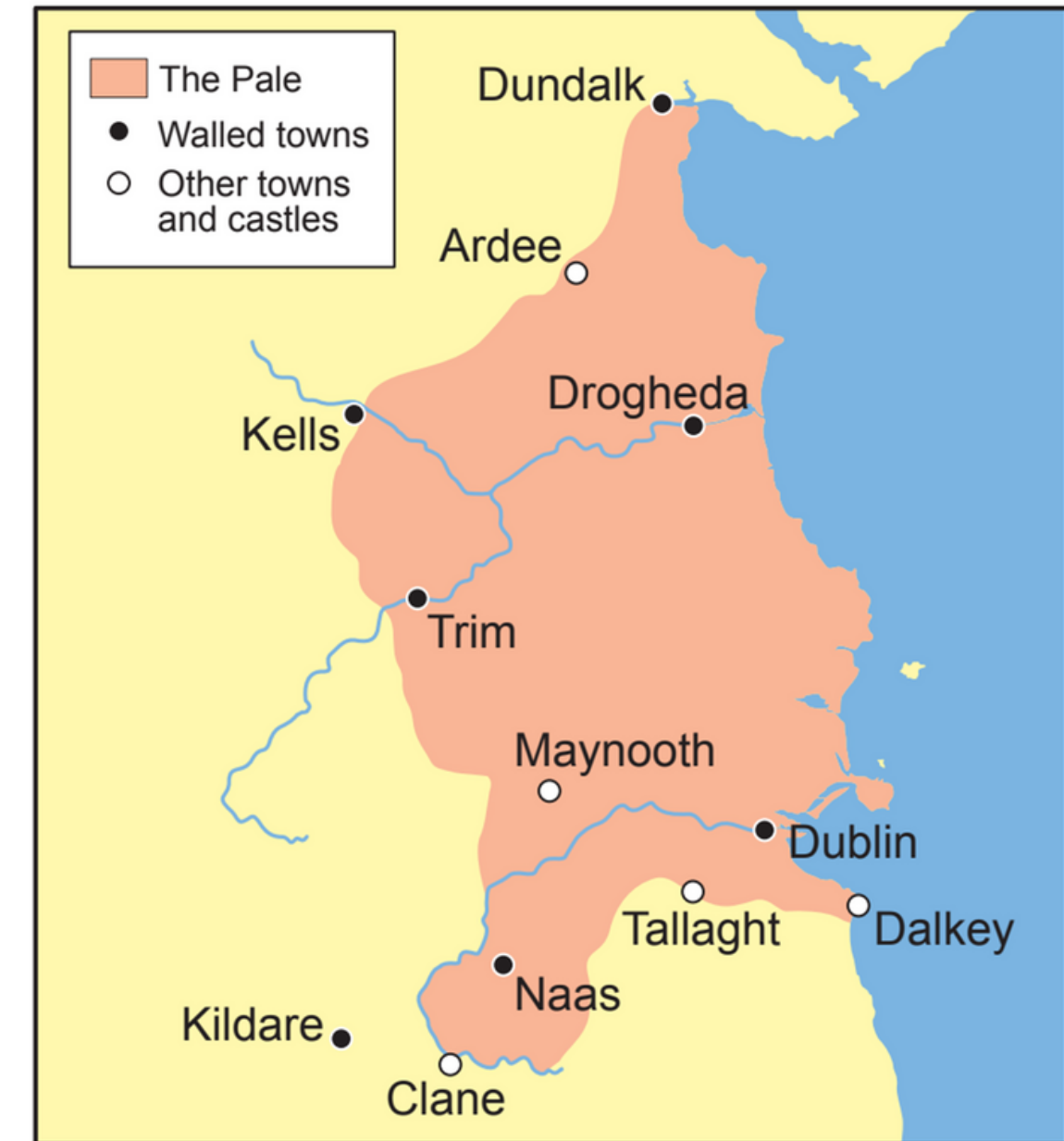
# 11.1: Ireland in the 1500s

In the 1500s, Ireland was home to three major groups of people: The Old English, the Anglo-Irish and the Gaelic Irish. In theory, the English Crown ruled Ireland – but in reality, power in Ireland rested with these groups.

# The Old English

In medieval times Dublin and its surrounding areas (known as **the Pale**) became the base of English power in Ireland. In the Pale, the English language, customs, dress, farming methods (mainly crop farming) and laws were practised.

- By the early 1500s, the people who lived in the Pale were mainly English merchants. They were known as the **Old English** (people living in the Pale who were loyal to the king).
- The Reformation in England had a big impact on Ireland from the 1550s onwards. It led to an increase in tension between the Gaelic Irish and the Old English who lived in the Pale.



# The Anglo-Irish

The **Anglo-Irish** were descendants of the Anglo-Normans who had invaded Ireland in the twelfth century.

- They were also known as the **Gaelicised Anglo-Normans** because they followed a combination of English and Irish laws and traditions.
- By the 1500s, they had become independent of the English Crown. Examples of powerful Anglo-Irish families were: **Fitzgeralds of Kildare** (*Maynooth*); **Butlers of Ormond** (*Kilkenny*); **Fitzgeralds of Munster** (*Listowel*)
- From 1468 onwards, the **Lord Deputy** (King's representative in Ireland) was from an Anglo-Irish family.



# The Gaelic Irish

The **Gaelic Irish** were the Gaelic chieftains who followed Irish law (Brehon law).

- The **Brehon laws** were Gaelic Irish laws dating from the Iron Age. The laws were a civil rather than a criminal code. They dealt with fines for harm caused and rules about property, leadership, marriage and other contracts.
- The Gaelic Irish did not recognise the English king as ruler of Ireland.
- They feared that the Crown would try to expand its control over Ireland – they disliked and attacked English settlers for this.
- Examples of powerful Gaelic Irish families (clans) included the **O'Neills of Tyrone**, the **O'Donnells of Donegal** and the **O'Connors of Offaly**.





# Differences in Law

Brehon Law (Gaelic Irish)	English Common Law (the Pale)
Courts held on hillsides	Courts held in courthouses
No jails or executions. Fines used as punishments	Harsh jail sentences and death by hanging given as punishments
Wealth measured by number of cattle owned	Wealth measured in monetary terms
Divorce allowed	Divorce forbidden
A wife kept her own name, wealth and property	A wife took her husband's name, and her property and wealth became his
Children born outside marriage were entitled to a share of their father's wealth or property	Children born outside marriage could not inherit any of their father's wealth or property



# Checkpoint pg. 29 (Artefact, 2nd Edition)

1. Explain the terms: the Pale, Old English, Anglo-Irish and Gaelic Irish.
2. Name two powerful Anglo-Irish families and two powerful Gaelic Irish families.
3. What was Brehon law?
4. Why do you think the Gaelic Irish resisted English law?
5. Why do you think the tensions between the Gaelic Irish and the English in the Pale increased?



# 11.2: *the* TUDORS *and* IRELAND

# Henry VIII and the Tudors

Henry VII came to power in England in 1485, beginning the **Tudor Era**. His son, **Henry VIII**, became king after his father's death and ruled between 1509 and 1547. Henry VIII and his three heirs – Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I – gradually conquered Ireland through policies such as '**surrender and regrant**' and **plantation**. After the death of his older brother in 1502, Henry married his brother's widow, Catherine of Aragon, with special permission from the Pope. They would have a daughter, **Mary I**, but Henry still needed a male heir and his wife was now in her forties. He wanted Pope Clement VII to **annul** (cancel) his marriage however, this would be a problem as the Church would have had to admit that it was wrong to ever give permission as well as angering Catherine's nephew, the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V which could risk another war.

Henry VIII wanted to marry his mistress, **Anne Boleyn** (Catherine's former lady's maid), who was pregnant (their child later becoming **Queen Elizabeth I**). In 1533, with the Reformation gaining momentum in Europe, Henry VIII broke with the Church and married Anne Boleyn. He was excommunicated as a result. This would mark the beginning of the English Reformation and resulted in England becoming a Protestant monarchy. Henry VIII declared himself the **Head of the Church** (Act of Supremacy 1534), **closed down monasteries** and **confiscated the Catholic Church's lands** (Act of Dissolution 1536).

Henry went on to have six wives in total and three children: Catherine of Aragon (mother of Mary I) - divorced, Anne Boleyn (mother of Elizabeth I) - divorced and beheaded, Jane Seymour (mother of Edward VI) - died after childbirth, Anne of Cleves - divorced, Catherine Howard - beheaded, Catherine Parr - survived.



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# The Tudors and Ireland

The Tudors had many reasons for wanting to fully conquer Ireland:

- To **expand their territory**. The Crown only had full control over the Pale.
- To **spread English customs, culture, laws** and so forth. These were seen as superior to those of the Gaelic Irish, who were portrayed as being barbaric and unable to look after themselves.
- To **spread their new religion**. They believed that they could enforce Protestantism in Ireland.
- To **prevent the Catholic Irish forming an alliance with other Catholic countries**. These other countries included Spain and France who would use Ireland as a base to attack England.
- To **prevent further rebellions**. The Fitzgerald rebellion of 1534 was begun by the Lord Deputy's own son 'Silken' Thomas Fitzgerald.
- Hearing the rumour that his father had been beheaded in London by Henry VIII, Silken Thomas attempted to rally the lords of the Pale and even attacked Dublin Castle.
- To **save money**. Planting soldiers in Ireland would be cheaper in the long term rather than paying soldiers to protect the English already in Ireland.



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# Surrender and Regrant

Henry VIII initially attempted to control Ireland by peaceful means, through a policy called **surrender and regrant**. This meant that Anglo-Irish and Gaelic Irish rulers surrendered themselves and their lands to Henry VIII and, in return, he would grant their land back to them along with an English title.

- Titles such as earl, lord and baron were given.
- Local rulers acknowledged and accepted that Henry VIII as King of Ireland, had a legal right to their land and was owed their loyalty and allegiance.
- Henry VIII could confiscate the lords' land if their behaviour angered him.
- Land was now passed directly from father to son through the English system of **succession**.
- Increased wealth and power for certain families.







# The policy of plantation

When Irish land was confiscated by the King, it could be sold or rented to loyal English settlers (plantation).

- The new settlers on the land were known as **planters**.
- The planters would spread English customs and laws.
- They would defend the land from the Gaelic Irish.
- They would also spread the religion of the English Crown.



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# Checkpoint pg. 118 (Artefact, 2nd Edition)

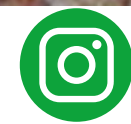
1. Why did Henry VIII break with the Church in Rome?
2. What were the Act of Supremacy and the Act of Dissolution?
3. Name Henry VIII's three heirs.
4. List three reasons why the Tudors wanted to conquer Ireland.
5. Explain the terms surrender and regrant, and plantation.



# 11.33 : THE EARLY PLANTATIONS

Henry VIII's son, **Edward VI**, became king in 1547. However, Edward was only nine then and his health was never strong.

Edward died in 1553 of tuberculosis and was succeeded by his oldest half-sister, Mary. **Queen Mary I** had remained **Catholic** like her mother, **Catherine of Aragon**.



# The Laois-Offaly Plantations

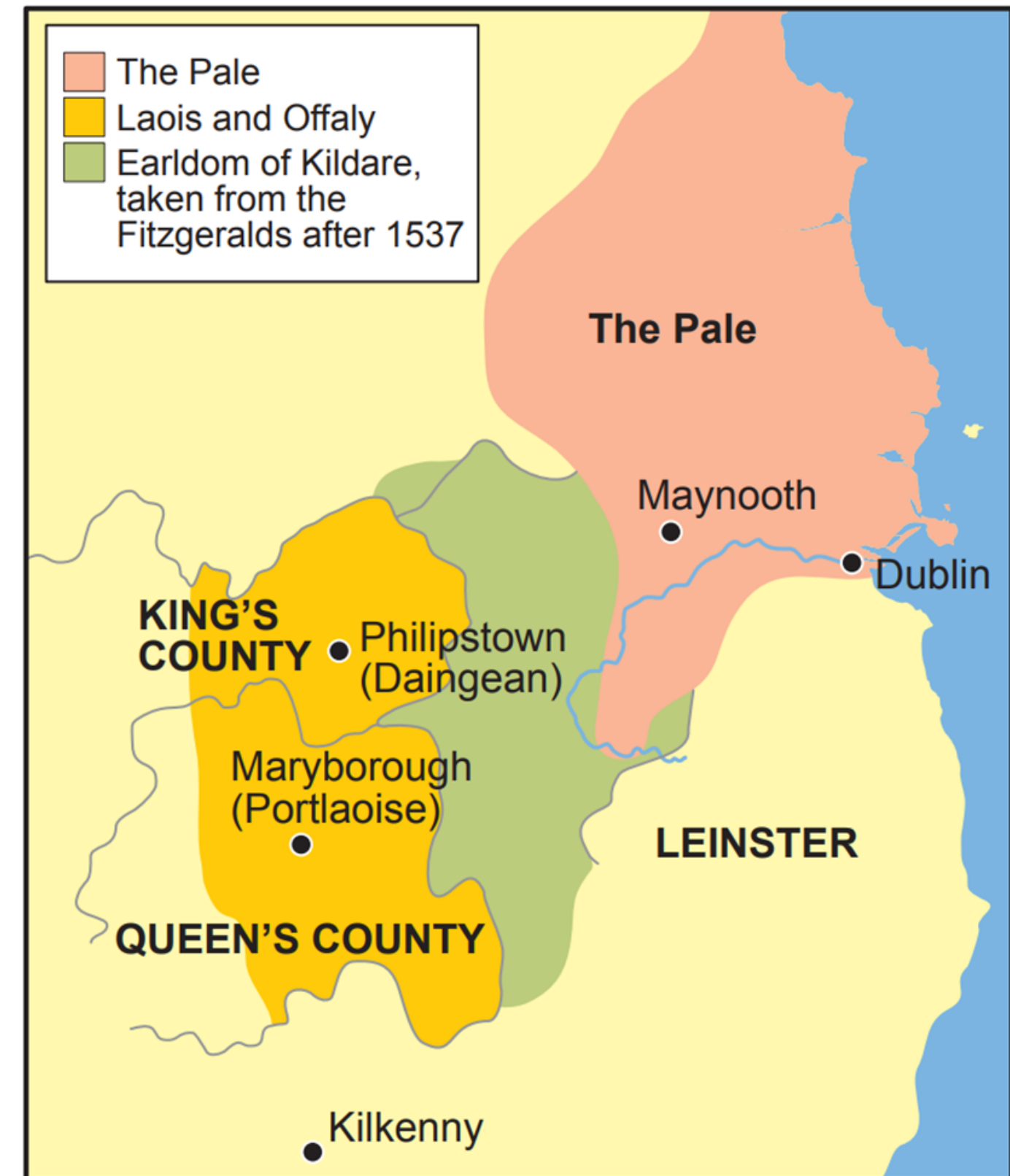
The **O'Moores** and the **O'Connors** were the Gaelic Irish **lords of Laois and Offaly** in the sixteenth century. They **raided** the Pale frequently, mainly for cattle. Queen Mary I sent her Lord Deputy to confiscate the O'Moore and O'Connor lands as punishment. A **plantation** of the O'Moore and O'Connor lands was then organised.

- Laois and Offaly were renamed **Queen's County** and **King's County**.
- Each county was assigned a **sheriff** to enforce English laws and customs.
- The towns of **Portlaoise** and **Daingean** were renamed **Maryborough** and **Philipstown**, after Mary and her husband, Phillip II of Spain.
- The confiscated land was **divided into estates** (large farms) of between 350 and 1,000 acres.
- **Land was given to Englishmen** born in England or Ireland.
- **English-style houses** had to be built.



# The Results of the Laois-Offaly Plantations

- It was a failure.
- It did not attract enough planters from England.
- Gaelic planters had to be given land.
- English customs and laws did not flourish.
- The confiscated lands were still attacked.
- It led to better planning in future plantations.



# The Munster Plantation

Queen Mary I died in 1558, without any heirs. Her younger half-sister **Elizabeth I** then became Queen of England and ruled for forty-four years. Famously, Elizabeth never married and also died without heirs, making her the last Tudor.

Much of sixteenth-century Munster was ruled by the Fitzgerald's of Desmond, a Catholic Anglo-Irish family. **Queen Elizabeth I** was *Protestant* like her mother, Anne Boleyn.

Elizabeth encouraged Englishmen known as '**adventurers**' to claim land in Munster (men who claimed to be descendants of the early Normans who had been granted land in Munster by Henry II). Elizabeth also appointed **presidents**, men who imposed English law, the English language and the Protestant religion – she wanted to make Ireland as Protestant as England.



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# The Two Desmond Rebellions

The Irish lords were angered by Elizabeth's actions that resulted in what are known as the two **Desmond Rebellions**.

- The first was led by **James Fitzmaurice Fitzgerald**, a cousin of the Earl of Desmond, in 1569. It was put down easily and Fitzgerald fled to Europe.
- The second, in 1579, began when Fitzgerald returned to Ireland with soldiers sent by **Pope Gregory XIII**. He was soon killed but his cousin took over. The Earl and his forces were finally defeated in 1583 and his head was sent to Queen Elizabeth with the rest of his body displayed in Cork as an example.



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# Consequences of the Desmond Rebellions

The Desmond lands were given to **undertakers**, men who undertook (agreed) to do as they were told with the land given to them. The agreements included to:

- Split the land into **enormous estates** of 4,000 – 12,000 acres.
- Only **hire English** farmers, labourers and craftsman.
- Bring **their own tenants, servants, sheep, cattle and horses** from England.
- **Pay rent** to the Crown.
- **Spread Protestantism and English laws and customs.**
- **Be prepared** for Catholic attacks, including a possible Spanish invasion, by constructing defences.
- Completely **remove the Gaelic Irish** from the land.





Diagram taken from Artefact, 2nd Edition by [Eimear Jenkinson](#) and [Gregg O'Neill](#) ([educate.ie](#))

# Queen Elizabeth I, 1533-1603



Queen Elizabeth was Queen of England and Ireland from 1558 until her death in 1603. She strengthened the Church of England, which remains to this day. Elizabeth's reign became known as the Elizabethan Era. She defeated the Spanish Armada in 1588 and also survived several attempts to overthrow her reign as women were seen as being inferior to men, especially in relation to intelligence and strength. Elizabeth was the last of the five Tudor Monarchs when she died in 1603 without any heirs, marking the end of the Tudor dynasty that had existed for 118 years. The son of her former rival and cousin, Mary Queen of Scots, succeeded her on the throne as James I, marking the beginning of the Stuart dynasty. Elizabeth I is described by historians as one of England's greatest monarchs.

# The Results of the Munster Plantation

- The Crown had hoped for 20,000 settlers but only one-fifth of that number went.
- They still had to rent to the Gaelic Irish.
- The Gaelic Irish continued to attack the plantations.
- New towns were set up (e.g. Killarney, Lismore, Youghal, Mallow and Bandon).
- New farming methods were brought to Ireland; tillage (crop farming) grew in popularity.
- New trades came to Ireland such as coopering (making timber barrels)
- Lessons were learned for future plantations.





Diagram taken from *Artefact*, 2nd Edition by [Eimear Jenkinson](#) and [Gregg O'Neill](#) ([educate.ie](#))

# Checkpoint pg. 118 (Artefact, 2nd Edition)

1. In what century did the Laois-Offaly Plantation and the Munster Plantation take place?
2. Explain the terms: adventurer, president and undertaker.
3. Which Queens were responsible for each plantation?
4. List two results of each of the plantations.
5. Why do you think the early plantations failed? Give three reasons in each case.



# 11.44 : THE ULSTER PLANTATION

# Background to the Ulster Plantation

Ulster was dominated by Gaelic Irish clans, especially the powerful **O'Neills of Tyrone** and the **O'Donnells of Donegal**. Queen Elizabeth had hoped to control Ulster in two ways;

- By **kidnapping Red Hugh O'Donnell** and blackmailing his family to accept English rule.
- By **giving Hugh O'Neill** the title of '**Earl of Tyrone**' and he had been loyal to her.

However, Elizabeth's policy of planting adventurers and sheriffs in Ulster to enforce Protestantism and English customs angered Hugh O'Neill. They turned to the **Catholic King Phillip II of Spain** (who had been Queen Mary I's husband) for help to defend Ulster from Protestantism; Phillip sent no troops but Ulster chiefs rebelled in 1594 regardless.





# The Nine Years War (1594-1603)

The Gaelic clans in Ulster fought for *nine years* against the spread of English control. Hugh O'Neill gathered 10,000 soldiers of Ireland and Scotland (**gall óglaogh** or **gallowglasses** = foreign soldiers). Hugh O'Neill won several battles, including the **Battle of the Yellow Ford in Armagh**, which inspired other Irish clans to rebel as well (2,000 English losses versus 200 Irish). **King Phillip II of Spain** changed his mind and sent **4,000** troops to **Kinsale, Co. Cork** but were captured by the English. O'Neill and O'Donnell tried to help but were defeated at the **Battle of Kinsale** by the the 20,000 British troops led by Lord Mountjoy.



# The Treaty of Mellifont (1603)

To end the war, the Ulster Gaelic clans and the English Crown signed the **Treaty of Mellifont**. This did not stop the English trying to gain control of Ulster as the terms dictated:

- Accept English rule on their land
- Accept English sheriffs and judges in Ulster
- Abandon Irish language and traditions
- No more rebellion



# The Flight of the Earls

The Irish Lords were shunned by their people for selling out and for the suffering and starvation during the 9 years war. With no support at home, O'Neill and almost 100 Ulster Irish chiefs fled the country in an event known as **the Flight of Earls**. They went to Spain and Italy. They had hoped to return with troops but without them, there was no organised resistance to English rule in Ulster. Hugh O'Neill lived out his life as a guest of the Pope.

James I was responsible for the organisation of the Ulster Plantation, having already – and successfully – planted Scotland in a similar manner.

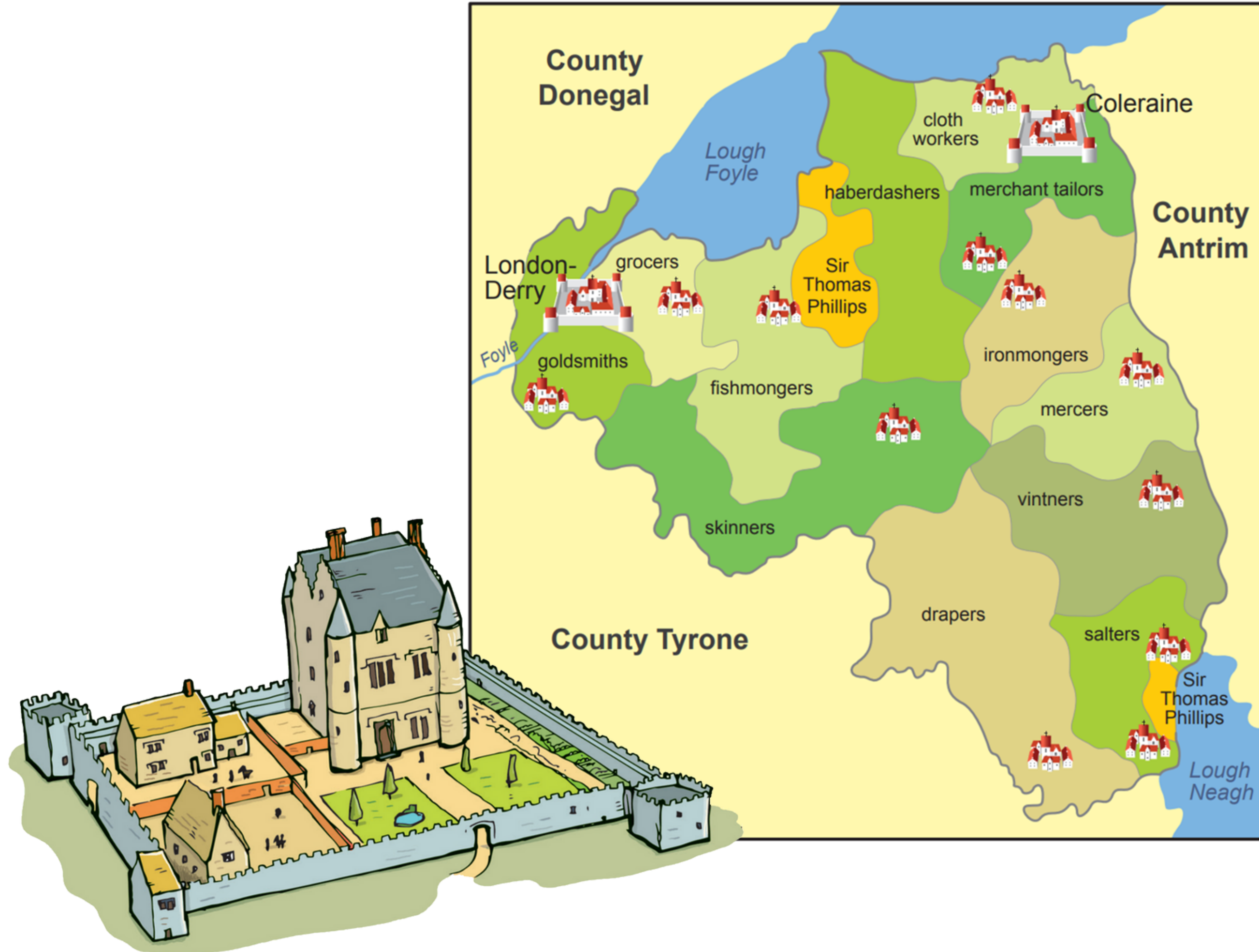


# The Ulster Plantation

- The Ulster Plantation began in 1609.
  - Its area covered six counties; **Donegal, Derry, Tyrone, Armagh, Fermanagh** and **Cavan**.
  - The land was divided into smaller estates than in Munster; none were bigger than 2,000 acres.
  - The rules for the planters were more strict than on any of the other plantations.
  - Estates were given to three different types of planters: **undertakers, servitors**, and **loyal Irish**.

King James reserved the entire county of Derry for London craft guilds, renaming it **Londonderry** and each section was given a **guild**. They build two very large towns, *Derry* and *Coleraine*. The Gaelic Irish had to live outside Derry's town walls in a boggy area known to this day as the **Bogside** (very important when we study *the Troubles*).





# Types of Planters

Types of planter	Overall % of land	Acres received	Paid King James	Terms and Conditions
<b>Undertakers</b> (English or Scottish men who agreed to do as they were told with the land given to them)	73%	2,000 acres	<b>£5 per 1,000 acres every year</b>	They built castles or stone houses with a bawn (courtyard) around them. They could only have English or Scottish tenants.
<b>Servitors</b> (English or Scottish soldiers who had fought for the Crown).	13%	1,000-1,500 acres	<b>£8 per 1,000 every year</b>	They also built castles or stone houses. They could have Irish tenants but they had to have strict control over them.
<b>Loyal Irish</b> (native Irish who had stayed loyal to the English during the Nine Years War)	14%	1,000 acres	<b>£10 per 1,000 every year</b>	They could rent land to Irish tenants. Servitors kept an eye on them for the Crown.



# The results of the Ulster Plantation

The Ulster Plantation was more successful than both the Laois-Offaly and Munster Plantations.

- A **large number of planters** arrived in a short space of time; 40,000 of Ulster's one million population were Scots.
- Due to the high number of settlers, Ulster became the plantation most **loyal to the Crown**.
- The Protestant religion increased – **new religious division within Ulster's population** followed the very same lines as the division between coloniser and colonised that we learned in the Age of Exploration and Conquest.
- The Gaelic Irish were driven off the land they had always held. Tensions between the Catholic natives and the Protestant settlers deepened into hatred and violence from 1609 to the present day.
- Over 20 new towns were founded during the Ulster Plantation and were well planned out.
- Markets were also organised to sell produce.
- English-style houses and stone castles were built on the estates.
- New farming methods were introduced. Crops were favoured over cattle farming.
- While results were mixed, it is clear that the Ulster Plantation was very effective.



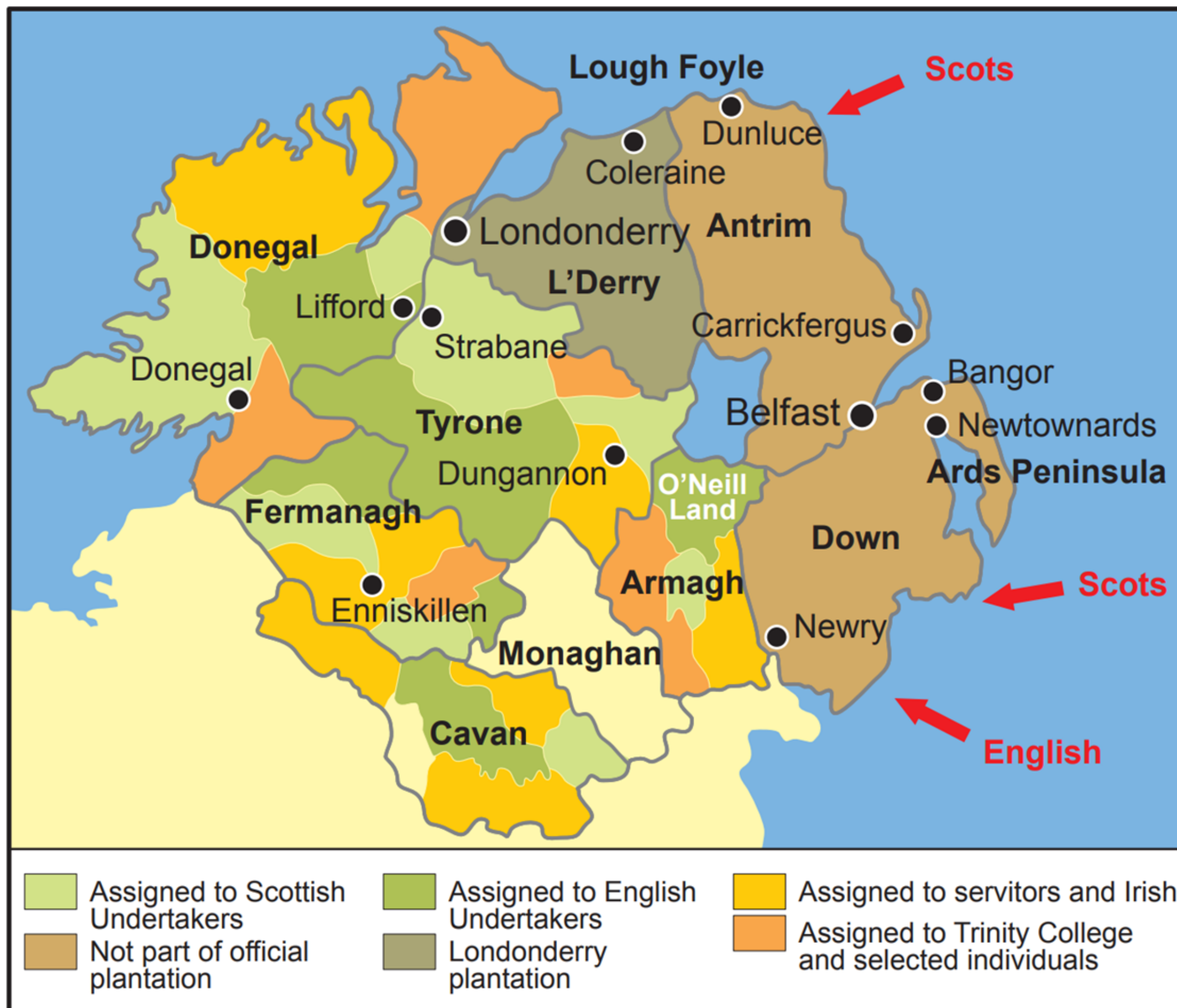


Diagram taken from Artefact, 2nd Edition by [Eimear Jenkinson](#) and [Gregg O'Neill](#) ([educate.ie](#))



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# Checkpoint pg. 125 (Artefact, 2nd Edition)

1. What was the Nine Years War?
2. Which monarch organised the Ulster Plantation? Why?
3. How was Co. Derry's plantation organised?
4. Explain the terms: servitor, Loyal Irish, and the Flight of the Earls.
5. Why do you think the Loyal Irish had to pay so much more rent than the undertakers and servitors?
6. How did the Ulster Plantation affect (a) population; (b) religion; (c) land ownership?
7. After the plantation, what fraction of the population of Ulster were Scottish?
8. Name three advances that came to Ulster with the planters.



# Checkpoint pg. 125 (Artefact, 2nd Edition)

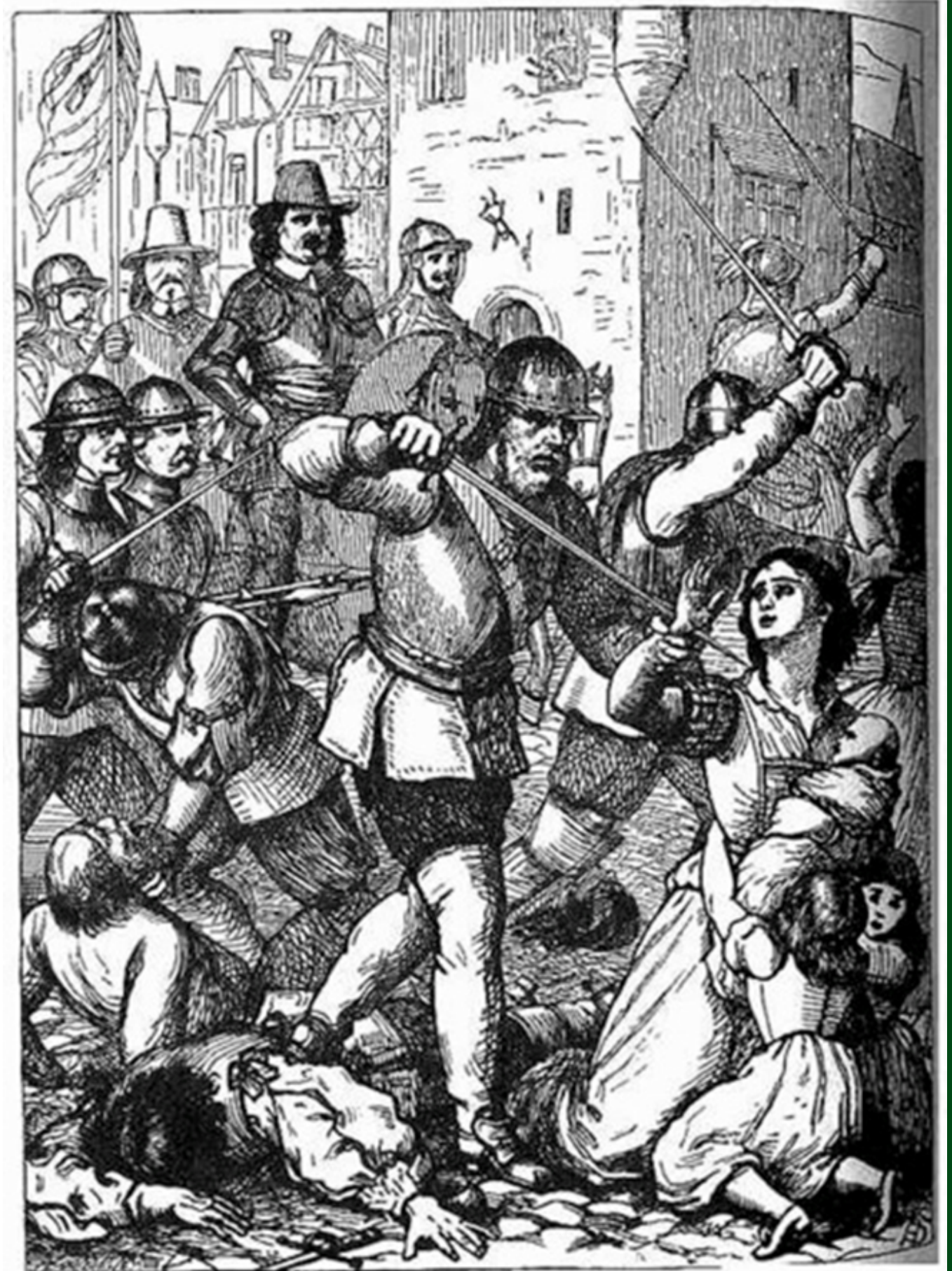
1. The Nine Years War was a war that took place between 1594–1603 when the Gaelic clans in Ulster fought against the spread of English control.
2. King James I organised the Ulster Plantation to gain control of Ulster and spread Protestantism.
3. Servitor: an English or Scottish soldier who had fought for the Crown; Loyal Irish: native Irish who had stayed loyal to the Crown during the Nine Years War.
4. To discourage them from renting land and prevent them becoming economically secure.
5. Undertakers. They received at least 500 acres more than the servitors, and at least 1,000 acres more than the loyal Irish.
6. (a) Large numbers of English and Scottish settled in Ulster. Of a total Ulster population of 200,000, roughly 40,000 were Scots; (b) The Protestant population increased; (c) The Gaelic Irish were driven off the land they had always held. It was given to loyal planters.
7. After plantation, one-quarter of the population of Ulster was Scottish.
8. Any three of: new towns were founded and were well planned; English-style houses and stone castles were built; crop farming began to take over from cattle farming; markets were set up in plantation towns.



# 11.55 : *L*A*T*E*R* *P*L*A*N*T*A*T*I*O*N

# Cromwell's Plantation

•After King James came King Charles I, a Catholic monarch. He was overthrown by his own people and the English Puritan general Oliver Cromwell took over. In 1641, Ulster Protestants were massacred during a rebellion. Cromwell was ruthless; he arrived in Ireland with his troops to avenge the massacre and end the rebellion. Cromwell reconquered Ireland, executed rebel leaders, confiscated Catholic-owned land across the island to give to Protestant planters and driving the now dispossessed Catholics west.



# Cromwell's Plantations

Cromwell's actions resulted in the deaths of thousands of native Catholic Irish. His troops were called Roundheads because of their helmets.

Those who survived were deported or sent to the worst land, Connaught. (*"To hell or to Connaught"*)

By 1652, this Plantation had finished what the others had started: very little Irish land remained in Catholic hands.



11.6 : *the impact of the plantations on irish identity* **THE IMPACT OF THE PLANTATIONS ON IRISH IDENTITY**

# Religious Identity

Prior to the Plantations, Ireland's ruling social classes, with their various loyalties and customs, were Catholic – the arrival of Protestant English and Scottish planters changed this. Most Catholic Irish owned lands were now controlled by **Protestant settlers**. In Ireland, the division between coloniser and colonised matched the **new religious division**. This affected Irish identity very strongly. These effects were felt across Ireland but were most evident in Ulster, where plantation had been most successful.

The majority of Ireland's population remained Catholic but by **1700, Protestants owned 85% of the land**. This wealthy landlord class became the **Protestant Ascendancy**. Anger and mistrust grew between the communities with tensions erupting into terrible violence on both sides. This long history of conflict would eventually develop into the Troubles during the late twentieth century – and still has smaller outbursts to the present day.



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# Political Conflict

The power difference between Catholics and Protestants in Ireland led to continued conflict, especially within Politics. Protestants ensured that they held onto their control, wealth and land by introducing the **Penal Laws** (laws which suppressed the status of Catholics in Ireland) that made it very difficult to escape poverty or achieve security. The first Penal Laws were put in place after the Nine Year War in 1603. These laws greatly affected Irish identity and would go on to shape people's political beliefs and influence which parties they would support for centuries to come.

Under the Penal Laws, Catholics were forbidden to...	
Buy or inherit land	Marry a Protestant
Keep weapons	Work in the government
Own a horse of good quality	Vote
Run schools or teach	Attend Catholic Mass
Attend the only university (Trinity College)	Miss attending Protestant services
Travel five miles from their home	Employ a Catholic schoolmaster for their Children



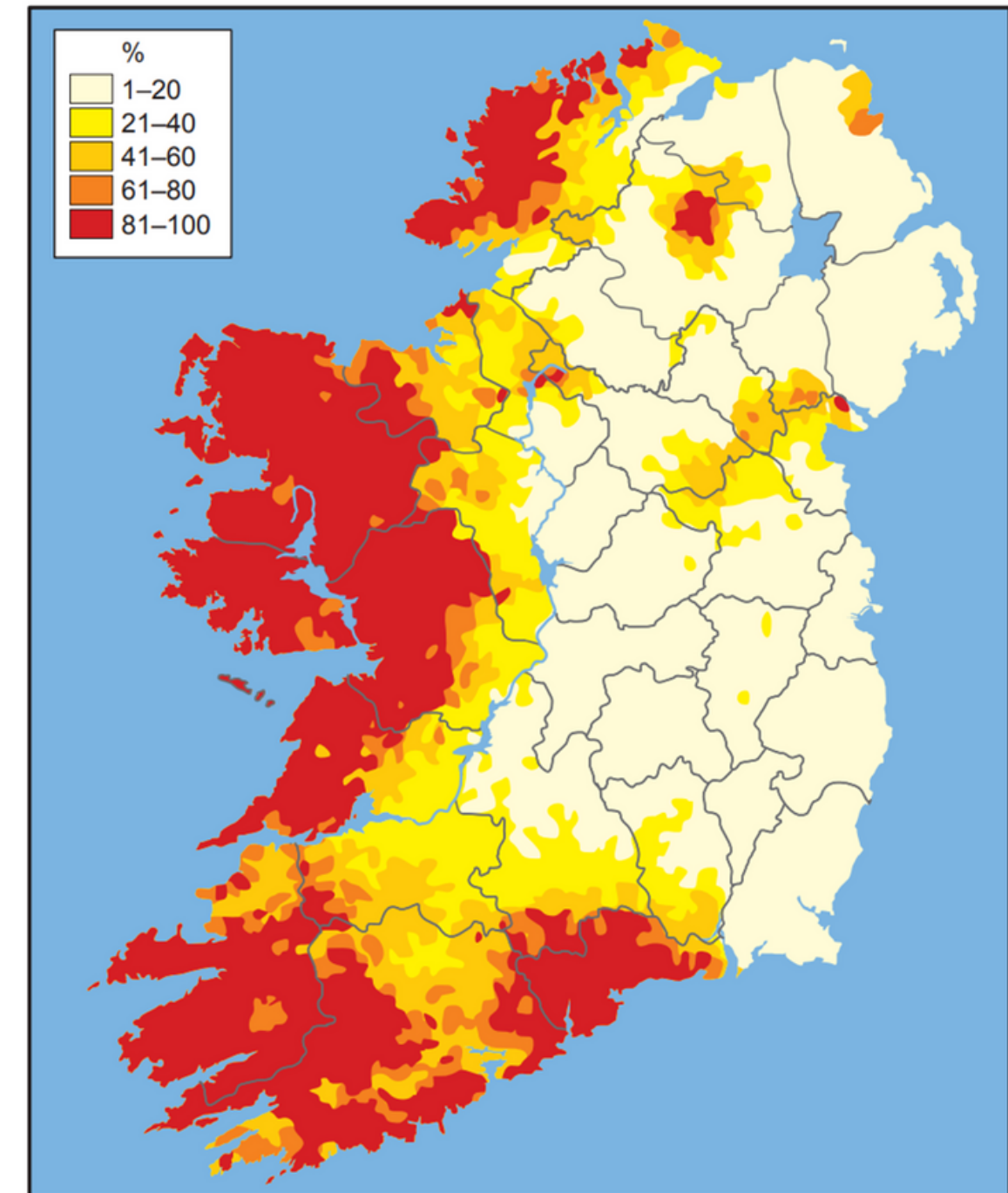
# Catholic 'Secret' Actions

Due to the ban on Catholic Mass and the endangerment of Catholic priests, many Catholic parishes had a secret 'mass rock' somewhere far from unfriendly eyes. E.g. on a mountain, deep in the woods or tucked into a glen. The people would make their way to this place wherever a priest could appear to say Mass for them, using the rock as his altar. To educate Catholic children, 'hedge schools' were set up. Here, they would learn the reading, writing and grammar of the Irish and English languages, along with maths. Oral story telling, history and home economics were also taught in some schools



# Cultural Change

As the Gaelic chieftains lost power, **the culture and language of the Gaelic Irish declined**. By 1700, English was already the main language of power and trade. The Gaelic Brehon laws were replaced by English laws. Tillage farming and English methods replaced cattle farming and Gaelic methods. Forests were cleared and land was divided into fields by hedges, ditches or walls. More towns were built, creating a more urban society.



# Checkpoint pg. 127 (Artefact, 2nd Edition)

1. Explain the term Penal Laws.
2. How did the Penal Laws affect the education that Catholics could receive?
3. Give an example of how Irish identity was affected by the Plantations in terms of (a) religion; (b) politics and (c) culture.
4. The map above shows where Irish was spoken daily around 1700. Explain why you think it looks like this.



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# Checkpoint pg. 127 (Artefact, 2nd Edition)

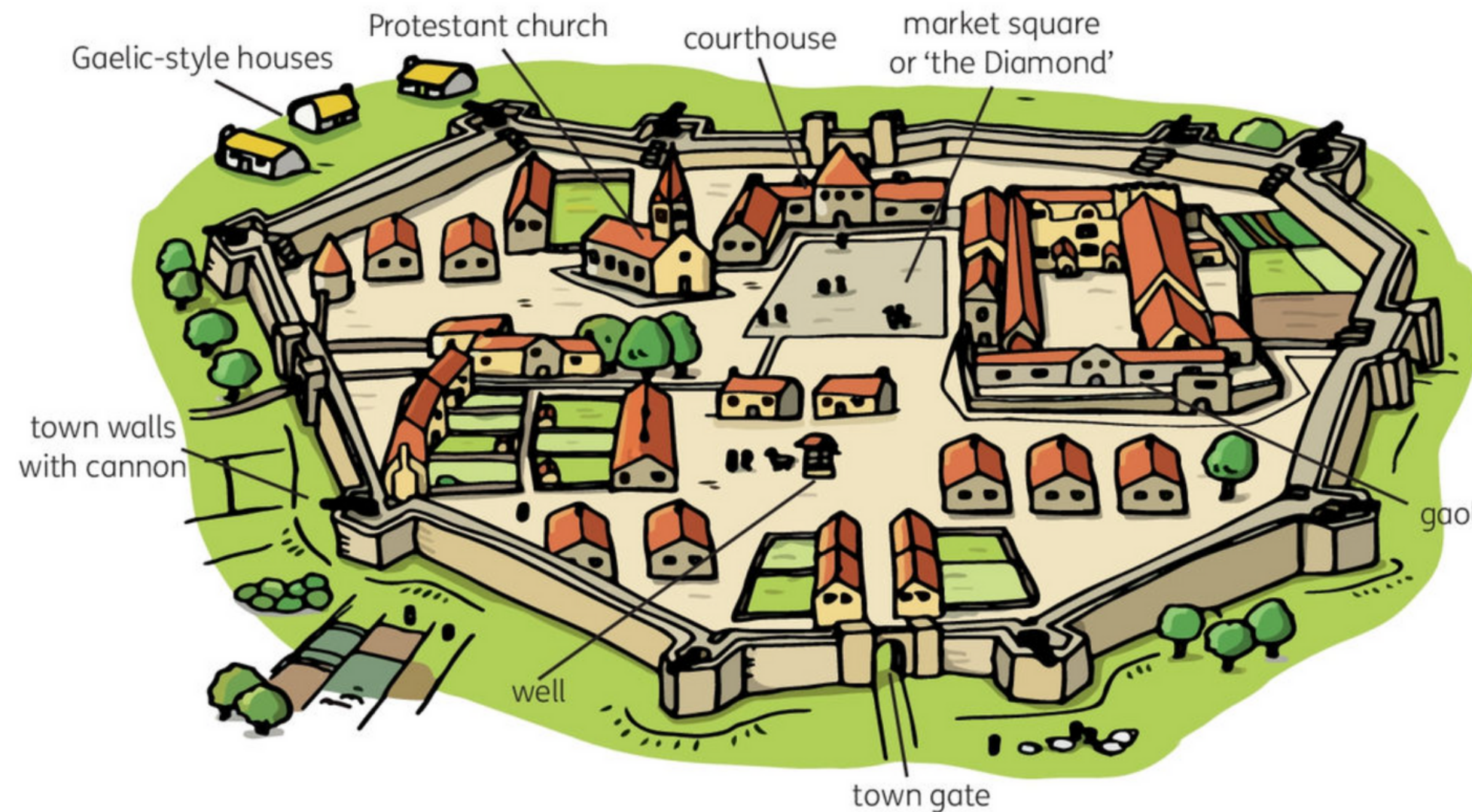
1. Penal Laws: laws that suppressed the status of Catholics in Ireland.
2. Catholics were forbidden to run schools; forbidden to teach; forbidden to employ a Catholic schoolmaster for their children; forbidden to attend the only university (Trinity College).
3. (a) The majority of Ireland's population remained Catholic, but by 1700 Protestants owned 85% of the land. Anger and mistrust grew between the communities and tensions occasionally erupted into terrible violence on both sides; (b) Protestants ensured that they held on to their control, wealth and land ownership by introducing the Penal Laws. The Protestant/Catholic political divide continued to influence; (c) The English language became the dominant language in most parts of the country; English laws replaced Brehon law; English farming methods replaced the Gaelic ways; forests were cleared and land divided up; Ireland became more urban.
4. Areas where the numbers of Irish speakers are the highest are the areas where the Plantations were least successful. Areas with the lowest figures are areas that were successful during the Plantations, along with the Pale, which had originally been loyal to the king.



# 11.7: *The* GROWTH *of* TOWNS

# The growth of towns during the Plantations

Many new towns were planned and built during the Plantations, such as Killarney, Portlaoise and Derry. They had a very different layout to medieval towns. Plantation towns were walled and had wide, straight streets, usually laid out around a square where weekly markets were held. In Ulster, this square was usually called 'the Diamond'. Plantation towns had a courthouse, a gaol and a Protestant church. Gaelic-style houses lay outside the town walls.



# The Plantation town of Derry

St Colmcille (Columba) founded a monastic settlement in the sixth century where the town of Derry now stands. In the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, Derry grew rapidly. During the Nine Years War, the English placed a garrison there and Derry was given the status of a city. King James I needed to fund the Ulster Plantation in 1609. He therefore asked the London guilds for finance in return for the county of Derry. The guilds were powerful organisation of tradesmen. Each section of land was given to a guild, for example, tailors, fishmongers or goldsmiths. The London guilds renamed it 'Londonderry' when it was granted a royal charter by King James I in 1613. From 1610 to 1618, the guilds built a fortified city. It was planned in a grid pattern, which remains today, and is best seen from the air. High walls were built around the city to protect it from the Gaelic Irish. A town hall and a courthouse were built. At the centre was a diamond-shaped area, which was easy to defend. Derry is the only remaining intact walled city in Ireland.



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# Plantation as a Contentious Issue

The Irish Plantations are an example of a **contentious issue**, an issue that people are likely to argue about, 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**.

# Post-Plantation Growth of Towns

Since the 1700s, Ireland's urban growth has seen two major aspects. Firstly, in rural areas, landowners established towns close to their estates to act as a focal point for markets (where farmers could sell their produce and buy goods they needed). These market towns expanded throughout the 1800s, as first canals and then railways better connected the country. These transport links needed hubs or points of connection, for example Mullingar and Longford. Towns on the coast or a major river were also attractive. Ballina in Co. Mayo was founded in 1729, and its quay for landing ships and the River Moy had a major bearing on its rapid growth and wealth.

Secondly, Ireland's large urban areas and cities expanded. Belfast became the island's industrial heartland from the 1750s on, while Dublin was the seat of government for the Irish parliament (until 1801) and then for the British government in Ireland. This expansion caused huge issues, such as overcrowding in poor housing and mass concentrated poverty.



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# Checkpoint pg. 130 (Artefact, 2nd Edition)

1. Name two plantation towns in Ireland.
2. Describe the layout of a plantation town.
3. How was Co. Derry's plantation organised?
4. Why is the Plantation of Ireland a contentious issue?
5. How did towns develop in Ireland after the 1700s?



# Checkpoint pg. 130 (Artefact, 2nd Edition)

1. Any two of: Killarney, Portlaoise, Derry.
2. Plantation towns were walled and had wide, straight streets, usually laid out around a square where weekly markets were held.
3. King James I asked the London guilds for finance in return for the county of Derry; each section of land was given to a guild, for example tailors, fishmongers or goldsmiths; the London guilds renamed it 'Londonderry' when it was granted a royal charter by King James I in 1613; from 1610 to 1618, the guilds built a fortified city; it was planned in a grid pattern, which remains today; high walls were built around the city; the centre was a diamond-shaped area.
4. Differences between Catholics and Protestants arising from the period of the Plantations continue to lead to tensions, discrimination, conflict and violence, especially in Ulster.
5. In rural areas, landowners established towns close to their estates to act as a focal point for markets; these market towns expanded due to canals and railways in the 1800s; Ireland's larger urban areas and cities expanded; Belfast became the island's industrial heartland from the 1750s on, while Dublin was the seat of government for the Irish parliament (until 1801) and then for the British government in Ireland.



# 11.8: SUMMARY

# In this chapter, we learned that...

- Dublin and its surrounding areas (the Pale) were the base of English power in Ireland.
- The Anglo-Irish and Gaelic Irish owned most of the land.
- The Tudors wanted to expand their kingdom; to make Ireland Protestant; to stop Ireland forming alliances with Catholic monarchs; to impose English customs, culture, laws and so forth on the Gaelic Irish.
- Under 'Surrender and Regrant', local rulers surrendered themselves and their lands to Henry VIII, and he granted their land back to them along with an English title.
- Confiscated Irish land was sold or rented to loyal English settlers. This was known as plantation.
- The first plantation was the Laois-Offaly Plantation, organised by Queen Mary I. The second plantation was the Munster Plantation, organised by Queen Elizabeth I.
- The Ulster Plantation, organised by King James I, was successful. Many English and Scottish planters moved to Ulster and it became loyal to the Crown. The Protestant population grew and prospered, while the Gaelic Irish lost their land. Tensions continue to this day.
- The last plantation was the Cromwell Plantation, organised by Oliver Cromwell.
- Many Irish towns which had been founded as Viking settlements or under the Norman Invasion, continued to develop as a result of the Plantations.



# Reflecting on... Early Christian Ireland

The Plantations influenced identity on the island of Ireland in various ways. Ireland was changed religiously, politically and culturally. The Ulster Plantation, led by James I, was to have the longest lasting effect on the island of Ireland.



# SEC Examination Questions

# Project

## Guidelines:

1. **Length:** The depth of your project should reflect about 2-3 weeks of work.
2. **Sources:** Use at least three different sources for your research. These can be books, scholarly articles, or reputable online resources.
3. **Citations:** All information and images that are not your own should be properly cited.
4. **Mediums:** You may choose to present your project in one of the following ways:
  - **Poster:** Your poster should be informative and visually engaging.
  - **Minecraft or Lego Model:** If choosing this option, please also include a brief report explaining your model.
  - **Painting/Drawing:** Your artwork should be accompanied by a description.
  - **Recycled Materials:** Create your model using recycled materials and provide an explanation of your creative process.

## Assessment:

Your projects will be assessed based on:

1. Research and Content
2. Creativity and Presentation
3. Understanding of Context
4. Adherence to Guidelines



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# Project

## *Historical Sites*

The Walls of Derry, Northern Ireland  
Portadown Fort, Northern Ireland  
Donegal Castle, Republic of Ireland  
Elizabeth Fort, Cork, Republic of Ireland  
Fort Protector, Portlaoise, Republic of Ireland

## *Historical Figures*

Queen Mary I  
Hugh O'Neill  
Randal McDonnell  
Charles Mountjoy  
William Petty  
Queen Elizabeth I  
Hugh O'Donnell  
Hugh Montgomery  
Cahir O'Doherty  
King James I  
Arthur Chichester  
James Hamilton  
Viscount de Vesci

