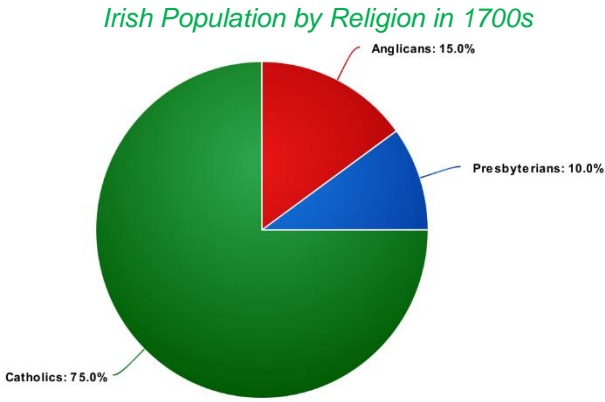


The 1798 United Irishmen Rebellion

Headings	Notes								
<p>THE CAUSES OF THE 1798 REBELLION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Protestant Ascendancy – following the Irish Plantations, Ireland had come under the complete control of the British Crown. The parliament in Dublin dealt with domestic issues but was controlled by the Protestant Ascendancy, the wealthy land-owning minority. Only those who were part of the Church of Ireland (Anglicans) could vote or become members of parliament (MPs) meaning that the majority of Irish people had no say or power in Irish affairs. • Irish Catholics – Catholics made up 75% of the population but only owned 15% of the land. The Penal Laws restricted the freedoms of Catholics, preventing them from voting or sitting in Parliament nor were they allowed to open or attend school. This meant that most Catholics had no say in how the country was run so, by the late 1790s, most Catholics were poor, under-educated tenant farmers who paid high rents and tithes. • Irish Presbyterians – Presbyterians ('dissenters') were also unable to vote or sit in parliament. They made up 10% of the population but were mainly based in the north-east of the island. • The influence of the American and French Revolutions – news of the events in France and America were reported in Irish newspapers and by returning troops from the Irish regiments in the British Army. This attracted many Catholics and Presbyterians to the ideas of liberty and equality. 								
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Irish Population by Religion in 1700s</i></p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Irish Population by Religion in 1700s</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Religion</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Catholics</td> <td>75.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anglicans</td> <td>15.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Presbyterians</td> <td>10.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Religion	Percentage	Catholics	75.0%	Anglicans	15.0%	Presbyterians	10.0%
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Catholics	75.0%								
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<p>THE UNITED IRISHMEN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United Irishmen – the Society of United Irishmen was founded in Belfast in October 1791. It initially aimed to have religious equality and the removal of Britain's influence over Ireland through peaceful means. • Theobald Wolfe Tone (1763-1798) was a young Protestant barrister and a founding member of the United Irishmen. In 1789, he travelled to Paris where he witnessed the initial events of the French Revolution and became inspired by the belief of 'liberty, equality, fraternity'. 								
<p>Keywords</p> <p>Protestant Ascendancy</p> <p>Anglican</p> <p>Catholics</p> <p>Presbyterian</p> <p>Penal Laws</p> <p>American and French Revolutions</p> <p>The United Irishmen</p> <p>Theobald Wolfe Tone</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>The 1798 Rebellion had various reasons which centred around religious differences. Ireland was controlled by the Protestant Ascendancy in the 1700s who owned most of the land. Anglicans were the only ones allowed to vote or be MPs in the Dublin parliament as Catholics and Presbyterians were not allowed sit in Parliament or vote, with the Penal Laws restricting the freedoms of Catholics. News of the events of the American and French Revolutions spread to Ireland, attracting many to the ideas of liberty and equality. This would lead to the foundation of the Society of the United Irishmen in October 1791 who wished for religious equality and liberty from British control. One founding member was Theobald Wolfe Tone.</p>								

The 1798 United Irishmen Rebellion

Headings	Notes
THE UNITED IRISHMEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wolfe Tone wrote a pamphlet in 1791, <i>An Argument on Behalf of the Catholics of Ireland</i> in which he argued that Catholics should have the same rights as Protestants. • A year later, the United Irishmen began to publish their own newspaper, <i>The Northern Star</i>. • Britain fear revolution in Ireland as support for the United Irishmen began to rise. In order to appease growing tensions, the British government <i>abolished most of the remaining Penal Laws</i> and gave Catholics the <i>right to vote</i>. Believing this would be enough, the banned the United Irishmen which led to Wolfe Tone fleeing to the US. • The United Irishmen became a secret society, turning from peaceful intentions and committing themselves to revolution. • In 1796, Wolf Tone would travel to France, seeking military support for an Irish rebellion. The French sent 43 ships but only 14 made it to Bantry Bay, Co. Cork where rough storms made it impossible to land.
RESPONSE TO THE UNITED IRISHMEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The governments in Dublin and Westminster took various steps to prevent any Irish rebellion. • British forces would torture people throughout Ulster and Leinster to find out information about suspected rebels and the location of weapons. Torture techniques included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half-hangings – people hung until half-dead to extract information. • Pitch-capping – pouring hot tar on a person's head and ripped off once cooled. • Part-time armies were set up; the militia (loyal Catholics) and the yeomanry (loyal Protestants) • The Orange Order was founded to encourage unity between Anglicans and the Presbyterians who had been showing sympathy towards the struggles of the Catholics. • Spies gained information which led to the capture of several United Irishmen leaders. This included the capture and execution of Lord Edward Fitzgerald in May 1798; he was the main planner of the Dublin rebellion.
ROAD TO REBELLION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1798 saw the first emergence of physical force nationalism on the island of Ireland. Irish nationalists were willing to use violence to fight for Irish independence from the British Empire.

Keywords	Summary
The Northern Star	<p>The United Irishmen initially planned to use peaceful means to seek out their aims, using their newspaper, <i>The Northern Star</i>. Britain feared a revolution in Ireland as support for the United Irishmen began to rise. British forces would torture people throughout Leinster and Ulster using half-hangings and pitch-cappings to gather information. Militias (loyal Catholics) and yeomanry (loyal Protestants) were set up to aid the full-time British Army. The Orange Order was founded to encourage unity between the two factions of Protestantism on the island as Presbyterians began to show sympathy towards the Catholics. Information gathered by spies led to the arrest and capture of several rebel leaders including the capture and execution of Lord Edward Fitzgerald. 1798 saw the first emergence of physical force nationalism in Ireland.</p>
Torture	
Half-hangings	
Pitch-capping	
Militia	
Yeomanry	
The Orange Order	
Lord Edward Fitzgerald	
Physical Force Nationalism	

The 1798 United Irishmen Rebellion

Headings	Notes
THE 1798 REBELLION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite the loss of several key leaders, the United Irishmen went ahead with the Rebellion. Dublin (and surrounding counties) – Spies and their information helped in the arrest of Dublin rebels as they arrived at their assembly points. Rebel attacks were uncoordinated in Kildare, Meath, Carlow and Wicklow. The British won battles in Carlow Town and at the Hill of Tara. Ulster – The rebels were defeated at Antrim Town. In Co. Down, 7,000 rebels had initiated success at Saintfield but were eventually defeated after two days of fighting. Wexford – Wexford County saw the most intensive and more successful action of the rebellion. The rebel forces were led by Catholic priest, Fr John Murphy of Boolavogue. Early successes included Oulart Hill, Enniscorthy and Wexford Town. The rebels were eventually surrounded and defeated at Vinegar Hill by General Lake on the 21st June. The leaders were hanged while harsh reprisals were carried out against areas where rebels had been supported. The only atrocities committed by rebels in the Rebellion were also found in Wexford. about 200 Protestants (Anglican and Presbyterians) were burned alive in a barn at Scullabogue while another 100 were massacred in Wexford Town in response to the British reprisals. Connacht – two months after the rebellion was crushed, 1,000 French soldiers landed at Killala, Co. Mayo. They won in Castlebar but were eventually defeated at Ballinamuck, Co. Longford in September. The Death of Wolfe Tone and the end of the Rebellion – a final attempt to land more French troops was made in October 1798. 3,000 soldiers, including Wolfe Tone, sailed for Donegal but were captured by the British navy at Lough Swilly. Wolfe Tone would attempt to commit suicide after he was denied “a soldier’s death” (firing squad) but he would die five days after the attempt.



Keywords	Summary
Dublin	<p>The 1798 Rebellion went ahead despite the capture and execution of several rebel leaders. Dublin and surrounding counties saw the initial stages fail in capturing mail coaches that helped British successes in Kildare, Meath, Carlow and Wicklow. Ulster saw similar defeats at Antrim Town and Saintfield. Wexford saw the most success of the Rebellion, led by Fr John Murphy, before the rebels were eventually defeated at Vinegar Hill. The rebel leaders were hung and harsh reprisals followed. The only atrocities committed by rebels were carried out at Scullabogue and Wexford Town. Connacht saw action two months after the failure at Wexford. Wolfe Tone tried to land at Lough Swilly with French troops but was captured and later died in November.</p>
Ulster	
Wexford	
Fr John Murphy	
Vinegar Hill	
Scullabogue	
Connacht	
Lough Swilly	

The 1798 United Irishmen Rebellion

Headings	Notes
CONSEQUENCES OF THE 1798 REBELLION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The United Irishmen had fought for an independent Irish republic where Catholics and Protestants could live together in peace. Their defeat would have a profound impact on the island of Ireland for almost 200 years in which violence would become a common occurrence. Growth of sectarianism – Conflict and hatred based on the religious divide between the Irish Protestants (Anglicans and Presbyterians) and Irish Catholics became widespread after the rebellion, particularly after the atrocities against the Protestants in Wexford were made known. The Orange Order would go on to claim that the Rebellion had been a Catholic plot to take over Ireland in order to oppress Protestants despite many of the Rebellion leaders being Protestant. The Act of Union (1801) – The Dublin Parliament, after bribery and threats, passed the Act of Union in August 1800 which abolished the parliament in Dublin and founded the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Irish MPs would have to travel to London to sit in the combined parliament at Westminster. For the next 120 years, Ireland would be governed from Westminster while Dublin would sharply decline in prosperity and importance. Legacy of Wolfe Tone and the rise of Physical Force Irish Nationalism – Wolfe Tone became known as the ‘Father of Irish Republicanism’. This ideas and rationale would inspire several more rebellions over the next century: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robert Emmet (1803) in Dublin. The Young Irelanders Rebellion (1848) took place during the Great Famine and the Revolutions of 1848. The Fenians (1867) in Cork. The 1916 Easter Rising.
Keywords	Summary
Sectarianism	The 1798 Rebellion resulted in the growth of an often violent religious divide, sectarianism .
Act of Union (1801)	Protestants, particularly the Orange Order , looked to the events at Scullabogue and Wexford
The United Kingdom	Town as a sign that Catholics had planned to use the rebellion to take over Ireland and punish
Physical Force Nationalism	Protestants. This divide would last for over 200 years. The Act of Union (1801) abolished the
Father of Irish Republicanism	parliament in Dublin and founded the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland . Ireland
Robert Emmet	would be governed by Westminster for the next 120 years. The legacy of Wolfe Tone (‘Father of
The Young Irelanders	Irish Republicanism’) and the use of physical force nationalism in Ireland would inspire several
Fenians	more rebellions on the island of Ireland: Robert Emmet (1803) , the Young Irelanders (1848) , the
1916 Easter Rising	Fenians (1867) and the 1916 Easter Rising .

The 1798 Irish Rebellion

Keywords	Definitions
Act of Union (1801)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A law that abolished the Irish parliament in Dublin. It came into effect on 1st January 1801, forcing Irish MPs to travel to the Westminster Parliament in London.
Constitutional Nationalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Ireland, achieving a republic through parliamentary means.
Dissenters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another name for Presbyterians, Protestants who disagreed with the official Church of Ireland.
Loyalist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A person who is loyal to the British government. Most Protestants were loyal in the 1700s as were many Catholics.
Parliamentary Tradition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belief in use of peaceful means to achieve political change, and to achieve Irish independence; opposed to physical force tradition.
Penal Laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of laws that discriminated against Catholics.
Physical force tradition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belief in use of revolution, armed uprisings to achieve Irish independence; opposed to parliamentary tradition.
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.
Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A country where the people elect their leaders in free and fair elections. The head of state is an elected president rather than a king or queen.
Republicanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political belief in Ireland that wanted complete independence from Britain and to establish a republic by physical force.
Sectarian violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Ireland, Catholics and Protestants using physical force to attack each other.
Unionism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political belief in Ireland that wanted to maintain the union with Britain, that parliament in Westminster would continue to make laws for Ireland.
Unionist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A person (usually a Protestant) who identifies as British and believes in a union between Ireland and Britain.
United Irishmen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A republican society with Protestant and Catholic members. It supported Catholic emancipation and parliamentary reform. It organised the 1798 Rebellion.
Yeomanry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part-time soldiers loyal to the British government. They policed their local areas and provided support to regular soldiers.