

IRISH REPUBLIC FLAG

Related Objects:

Plough and Stars Flag, Green Flag with Harp, Flag of B Company, Na Fianna Éireann, Flag of the Red Cross, Ensign of Helga



CURRICULUM LINKS

Junior Cycle

Political developments in Ireland in the late 19th century and the 20th century

Leaving Certificate

The pursuit of sovereignty and the impact of partition 1912-1949:

Perspectives: politics and administration, society and economy, culture and religion (identity)

Key concepts: sovereignty, republic

Movements for political and social reform, 1870-1914

Key concepts: democracy, political agitation

Art

THINGS TO THINK AND TALK ABOUT

HAVE A CONVERSATION:

Why do people use flags?

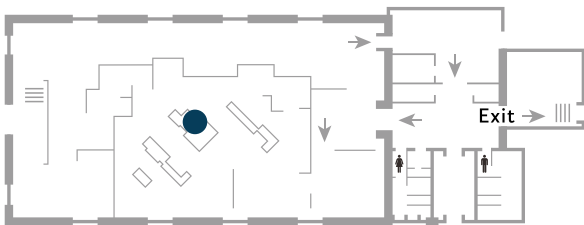
(Representation, differentiation, visibility, recognition, cohesion within a group, tradition and sense of continuity, e.g. that group has existed for some time...)

FLAGS AND INTERNATIONAL SIMILARITIES

- Compare the Irish Tricolour to other national flags across the world today and the flag of the *Helga* (see 'related objects') to other flags within the British Empire in the early 20th century – what are similarities in design?

IRISH FLAGS AND CHANGEABILITY OF REPRESENTATION

- Research different historic and contemporary versions of the Irish flag, for example the Tricolour and the green flag with a harp or sunburst. What do the colours and images of these flags symbolise?
- What individual or groups first designed and used the respective flags?
- What did "Ireland" comprise when these flags were first introduced? (A sovereign political state, a group of people with the aim to achieve political independence, a group of people inhabiting a certain place, republican, nationalist or unionist Ireland?...)



YOU CAN VIEW THIS OBJECT IN THE PROCLAIMING A REPUBLIC EXHIBITION

**COLLINS BARRACKS,
BENBURB ST, DUBLIN 7**

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- The same flag or symbol can be used by states and different groups: The Irish Tricolour is the flag of the Republic of Ireland but it is also used by nationalists in Northern Ireland.
- Official state symbols in modern democracies are usually meant to represent everyone belonging to the state. Do you feel represented in the Irish state symbols such as the Tricolour, the harp, the national anthem, coins or banknotes? Do you feel their designs are relevant (why or why not)?

ART & DESIGN

ACTIVITY:

- Design a symbol for an Irish Republic flag today. In your opinion, what aspect(s) of Irish society or history would it need to represent?
- Develop a design for a flag of a group that you are member of or for a flag that you would fly to demonstrate a cause. Focus on the symbolic meaning of images and colour you may use.

RESOURCES

Information about the history and symbolic meaning of the Irish flag:

<https://www.scoilnet.ie/irishflag/>

Information about the Irish Citizens Army's Star & Plough flag, including Junior Cycle Lesson Plan, on the RTE Centenary Website:

<http://www.rte.ie/centuryireland/index.php/articles/plough-and-the-stars-flag-object-national-museum-of-ireland>

Article by Rachel Phelan, The Citizen Army's 'Starry Plough' Flag, History Ireland, Issue 6, Vol. 22, November/December 2014:

<http://www.historyireland.com/volume-22/citizen-armys-starry-plough-flag/>

Bureau of Military History, witness statement by Diarmuid Lynch (IRB) on the flags flown in 1916 by the rebels, pp.2-6:

<http://www.bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie/reels/bmh/BMH.WS0120.pdf#page=1>

READING

Morris, Ewan, Our Own Devices. National Symbols and Political Conflict in Twentieth-Century Ireland, Irish Academic Press: Dublin, Portland 2005. pp. 26-28.