

PROCLAMATION OF IRISH INDEPENDENCE

Related Objects:

Half Proclamation, Type, Brass "Shooter",
Photograph of Printers

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

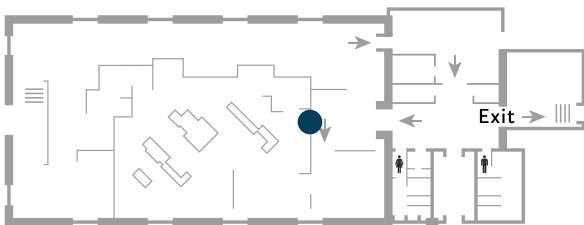
Key personalities: Patrick Pearse

Key concepts: sovereignty, republic

Movements for political and social
reform, 1870-1914

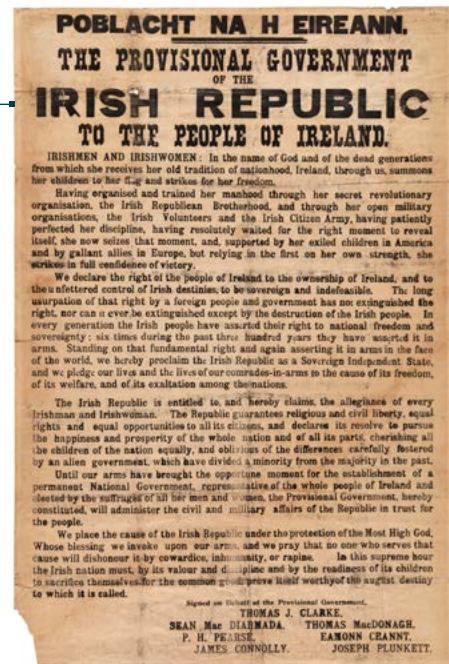
Key concepts: Democracy, political
agitation

Art: Print and Design



YOU CAN VIEW THIS OBJECT IN THE PROCLAIMING A REPUBLIC EXHIBITION

COLLINS BARRACKS,
BENBURB ST, DUBLIN 7



THINGS TO THINK AND TALK ABOUT

- Reflect on the ephemerality of posters like the Proclamation – it was printed to be read in April 1916 and the paper was not very durable. Can you think of posters that have a short life span and are displayed in public spaces today with the intention of transporting a message?

OBJECT STUDY

Examining the Proclamation

There are several ways in which an authentic Proclamation can be differentiated from a reproduction. One would measure the total length and the total width of the paper and the total width of line. The type, of which you see some original pieces on display in the Museum, can also be used to assure that it is an original Proclamation. There are little flaws in the font. For example, the "C" in the heading "Irish Republic" has been produced from the letter "O". In the first line of the last paragraph it reads

"We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the [inverted "e"] protection of the Most High God..."

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DEBATING KEY TERMS AND GOALS OUTLINED IN THE PROCLAMATION

FREEDOM

REPUBLIC

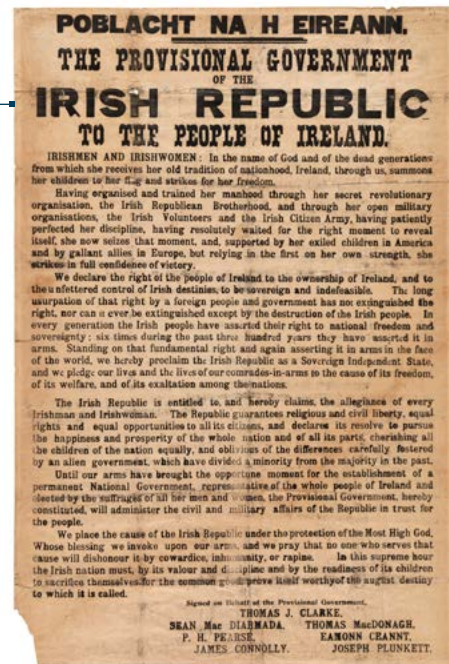
OWNERSHIP OF IRELAND

RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL LIBERTY

EQUAL RIGHTS AND EQUAL

OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL ITS CITIZEN

- Organise a debate where students take sides, discussing whether the above aims have been achieved (or not).
- The leaders of the Rising did not have the support of the majority of the public when it started on Easter Monday 1916. Why do you think this was? What would people have thought of these relatively unknown men, seeking to be the Government running Ireland? Debate whether the leaders should have secured a public mandate or not.
- Women did not have the vote for British Parliament in 1916. Can you find the part of the Proclamation which promises votes for women? ["elected by the suffrages of all her men and women", second last paragraph].



CROSS-CURRICULAR ART AND/OR TRANSITION YEAR PROJECT

- Discuss ways in which posters combine text and visual image and how the text of the Proclamation became an easily recognisable visual image in itself in Irish society.
- Design, print and display a vision for your school.

RESOURCES

- Visit the National Print Museum where you find a Wharfedale Stop Cylinder Press, the machine similar to that the Proclamation was printed on.
<http://www.nationalprintmuseum.ie/>
- A Junior-cycle lesson plan on the half-copy of the 1916 Proclamation can be found on RTE's Century Ireland website:
<http://www.rte.ie/centuryireland/index.php/articles/object-half-copy-of-the-1916-proclamation>