

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

History

Working as an historian

Using evidence

Change and continuity

Politics, conflict and society

Developing sense of national, European and wider identities

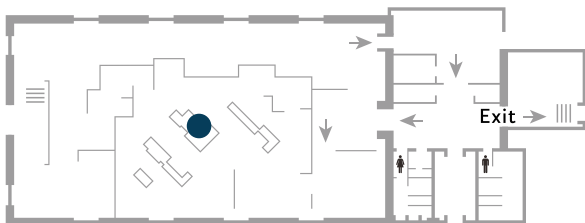
Visual Arts

Looking and responding, line and colour, designs

Social, personal and health education

Myself and the wider world

Awareness of own and wider cultural heritage and traditions



YOU CAN VIEW THIS OBJECT IN THE PROCLAIMING A REPUBLIC EXHIBITION

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

THINGS TO THINK AND TALK ABOUT

OBJECT STUDY:

Students work in teams or individually.

Observation - applicable to the 'Irish Republic' Flag or any of the flags shown under 'related objects'

- What material is the flag made from?
- Do you think it was difficult to make?
- How many different colours were used?
- Do you think it would be easy to see from a distance what is on the flag?
- What condition is the flag in that you are looking at? Has it been damaged? If so, how? (Tears, fire, bullet holes, dirt, faded colour due to exposure to light?) Would you 'fix' the flag or try to change its condition before putting it on display in a Museum? (Why/ why not?).

Discussion

- Ask students to think of a national or regional flag they know. What elements are usually part of these flags? (Colours, symbols, images, letters, size, visibility) Students can make a drawing of a flag they know.
- Can students think of other groups and places where flags and symbols are used today? (Sport teams, school, cities, EU etc.).
- Who decides what flag is used in a country or school? Discuss the fact that the look and symbolism of a flag has usually developed over time and can change with new governments or a new direction a country or association takes.

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ACTIVITIES

IN THE MUSEUM

Discuss how the flags differ and what they symbolise.

- Ask students to find the following flags in the Proclaiming a Republic exhibition and match them to the location or garrison where they were displayed in 1916.
'Irish Republic' Flag - General Post Office, Dublin
Plough and Stars Flag - Imperial Hotel, Dublin
Green Flag (damaged) with Harp in centre - Limerick (Home of John Daly)
Green Flag with Harp on right - Marrowbone Lane Garrison, Dublin
Green Flag with Harp in centre - Four Courts, Dublin
Section of green flag with part of harp - Boland's Mill Garrison, Dublin
Irish Tricolour - Mendicity Institute, Dublin
Remains of Irish Tricolour - General Post Office, Dublin
Flag of the Red Cross (British Army) - Portobello Barracks, Dublin

IN THE CLASSROOM

- Students design a flag for a group they are a member of or a group/ country they know of or are interested in. What colours, images or lettering would they use and why? Where and when would they display the flag?

Materials: Felt pen or paint on paper and large straw or stick for flagstaff.

OR use a textile base: large piece of felt, nylon, dyed cotton or linen in base colour and smaller pieces of fabric for the symbol or images. These can be of any material, for example old clothes, household cloths, tablecloths etc. Symbols can be sewn onto the base textile or glued with fabric glue. Depending on its size, the textile version requires a stronger flagstaff, for example a tree branch or old broom pole.

AFTER SCHOOL/ MUSEUM VISIT ACTIVITY:

- On your way home, see whether you can spot an Irish or other flag anywhere. What does it look like, what does it symbolise? Where did you see it? Who do you think displayed it?

RESOURCES

Information about the history and symbolism of the Irish Tricolour:

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

Information about the Star and Plough Flag in the 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/>