

BICYCLE

Related Object:
Irish Volunteer Uniform



CURRICULUM LINKS

History

Junior Cycle

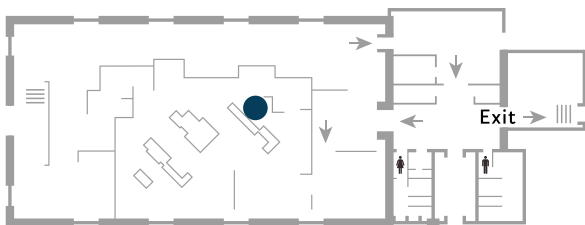
Social change in the 20th century:

Changing life-styles in Ireland from
c.1900

Leaving Certificate

**Movements for political and social
reform, 1870-1914**

Perspectives: Politics and
administration (Irish Volunteers)



YOU CAN VIEW THIS OBJECT IN THE PROCLAIMING A REPUBLIC EXHIBITION

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

THINGS TO THINK AND TALK ABOUT

TRANSPORT

- What modes of transport did people use in Ireland in 1916 and what were their advantages or disadvantages? Electrified trams, bicycles and horse and cart were the main kinds of transport. The ownership of private motorcars was also on the rise in Ireland. The car was widely used in preparation of the Rising, for example to transport arms, ammunition and to deliver messages. Michael Joseph O'Rahilly ('The O'Rahilly'), one of the founding members of the Irish Volunteers, owned a motorcar. It was used to fetch supplies and as part of a barricade during Easter Week.
- How did the rebels move across the city during the Rising?
- Using a historic map of Dublin or your local area, identify major transport links. Why did the rebels try to occupy and block railway lines in 1916?

Research Activity

"You will provide yourself with a bicycle and a street map of Dublin City..."

Joseph Plunkett, mobilisation order,
22nd April 1916

- Find other documents, newspaper articles and witness statements that describe or mention modes of transport used by the rebels, British Army and civilians in 1916. Does your primary source mention who used the bicycle or vehicle and where they were going? Did the person have to travel far?

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IRISH VOLUNTEERS

The majority of the insurgents were also members of the Irish Volunteers. Members of the Irish Volunteers were expected to buy their own uniforms. The style of the uniforms was similar to that worn by the British Army. Not every Volunteer could afford a full uniform. Many rebels therefore fought in civilian clothes wearing just a bandolier or part of a full uniform.

IN THE MUSEUM

- Visit the *Proclaiming a Republic: The 1916 Rising* exhibition at the National Museum and find three additional objects that were used by Irish Volunteers. Describe what these objects look like, who used them and what they were used for.
Tip: Start your search in the large middle section of the exhibition, which looks at the different garrisons during the Rising.

DRAWING AND DISCUSSION

- Find a full uniform of an Irish Volunteer in the Museum or an image online and make a drawing of its details. Discuss why the different parts were needed, what materials were used and why the colour green was used.
Tip: In the National Museum, you can find Irish Volunteer uniforms in the *Proclaiming a Republic: The 1916 Rising*, *Asgard* and *Soldiers & Chiefs* exhibitions.

RESOURCES

Bureau of Military History:

<http://www.bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie/>

You can do a key word search to find relevant witness statements from 1916, including modes of transport.

RTE Centenary Website:

<http://www.rte.ie/centuryireland/index.php/articles/the-role-of-the-motorcar-during-the-1916-rising>

VISIT:

Cycling the Country – Exhibition at the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life, Co. Mayo:

<http://www.museum.ie/Country-Life/Exhibitions/Current-Exhibitions/Cycling-the-Country>

GPO Witness History

<http://www.gpowitnesshistory.ie/visit/>