

GAELIC LEAGUE POSTER

Related Object:
British Army Recruitment Poster



CURRICULUM LINKS

Working as an historian

Using evidence (bias)
Change and continuity
Synthesis and communication

Politics, conflict and society

1916 and the foundation of the state
National, European and wider identities

Life, society, work and culture in the past

Language and culture in late 19th and early 20th century Ireland

Visual Arts

Print

Looking and responding
How prints are made
An awareness of line and colour

Social, personal and health education Myself and the wider world

Developing Citizenship, awareness or cultural heritage and traditions

THINGS TO THINK AND TALK ABOUT

ART AND SYMBOLS

Learning from looking and describing the image

- What words would you use in describing the figure on the left (tall, proud, strong, confident...) and on the right (cowered, poor, begging...)?
- How does the clothing of the woman on the left symbolise Irish culture and identities?
- What is the landmass depicted by the map? [Éire is written above it]
- What is this poster saying about Ireland's relationship with Britain?
- Compare the colours and letters used on the left and right-hand side of the poster. Do they differ; if so, why?
- Can you think of designs or symbols that people use today to express that they belong to Ireland?

**THIS OBJECT IS CURRENTLY
LOCATED IN THE COLLECTION
STORES**

GAELIC LEAGUE POSTER

Related Object:
British Army Recruitment Poster



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Gaelic League was part of the “Gaelic revival” movement. It was set up in 1893 to revive the Irish language, which was in severe decline at this time. Patrick Pearse succeeded Douglas Hyde as president of the Gaelic League in 1915. At the same time, he joined the military committee of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, which was the leading force in planning the Easter Rising. This is just one example of a person being a member of two different Irish organisations (cultural and political, military) at the same time. Objectives and activities of those organisations and their members often overlapped.

MIND-SET OF FORMER GENERATIONS

- Why did the Gaelic League want to revive the Irish language?
- What other aspects of the Irish tradition did the Gaelic League encourage? (music, dance, mythologies, training teachers in Irish)

Why join?

- There were many cultural, political and military organisations in Ireland in 1915, promoting different goals. Why might you have joined
 - » The Gaelic League
 - » The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
 - » The Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB)
 - » The British Army to fight in World War One?

ACTIVITY IN THE MUSEUM

- Use the touchscreen with The Politics Quiz in the Proclaiming a Republic exhibition to discover with which group or political cause you may have identified with in 1916.
 - » The touchscreen is to your left upon entering the exhibition.

RESOURCES

The original art work was made in crayons on brown paper and copies were then printed from this, including a similar poster kept at the National Library:

<http://www.nli.ie>

First World War Recruitment posters and suggested activities can be found on the website of the Imperial War Museum (UK):
<http://www.iwm.org.uk/learning/resources/first-world-war-recruitment-posters>