

Have you seen this haunting statue next to the River Liffey in Dublin? It's part of the Irish Famine memorial created by artist Rowan Gillespie. The thin, starving people are dressed in rags. One person holds a small child and a dog trails behind as they tiredly walk in search of food.

Just imagine. How terrible it was for poor, rural families during Ireland's potato famine.

There's an excellent resource for 5th and 6th class, courtesy of Jack Stacey on the Teachnet website. It focusses on family life, telling the story of Bridget and Patrick who live in the Collatin estate, Co

Wicklow. This resource packed with links to related information. How did families cook potatoes 170 years ago? What did their houses look like? Where did they sleep?

http://resources.teachnet.ie/jstacey/2004/

Children of the Famine

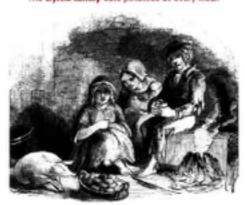
Description Pupils Teachers Links Home

The potato is a great source of food.

It has all sorts of valuable **vitamins**, grows easily, even in poor soil and in most kinds of climate.

Large amounts can be grown on a small piece of ground.

The Byrne family eats potatoes at every meal.



Bridget washes the spuds and Mam boils them in the big round pot.



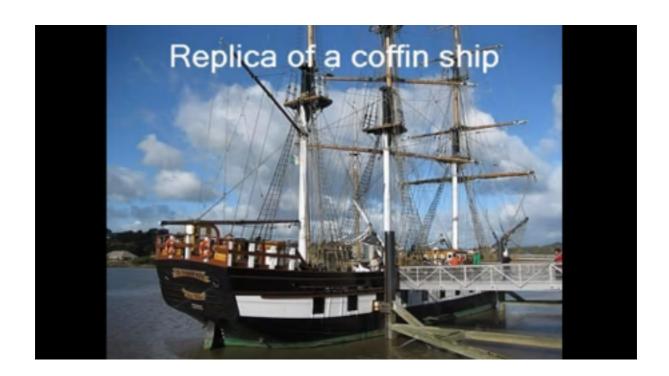
Here's a short video summary on the Famine from the Scoil Net website. Do you want to find out more about the causes of famine, or read about Sir Robert Peel? The second link brings you to one-page text with embedded links.

Kids Britannica summary video

http://kids.britannica.com/comptons/article-9603737/Irish-Potato-Famine#cite



For a short introduction to emigration for 5th and 6th classes, here's a very helpful summary. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Inyjgmsz20



Over 20 years ago, President Mary Robinson visited Grosse Isle in Canada, the site of the largest Irish Famine graveyard in the world. Here's how RTE news covered her visit.

http://www.rte.ie/archives/2014/0822/638674-mary-robinson-visits-grosse-ile-famine-site/

She had visited Somalia two years earlier, in 1992. While shocked at the suffering she saw, President Robinson also saw the work being done by Irish aid agencies. Video courtesy of Garas.

Link to visit to Somalia



Here are the first two pages of the Pixie Books activity sheets on the Irish Famine.

You can get a full set of 9 activity sheets if you purchase at least eight copies of 'The Irish Famine'

at our special discounted price. Your class will be able to work with primary source materials and boost their research skills!

We will send a tweet alert when we post new classroom materials on the website during the school year.