

I think your longer list with more detailed descriptions that takes events up to 1922 should be used as a resource guide for teachers rather than as a lesson.  
- Alan

TITLE: A Chronology of Irish History through 1846 (Social Studies, Grade 9)

NEW YORK STATE SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS:

World History: Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of major ideas, eras, themes, developments and turning points in world history and examine the broad sweep of history from a variety of perspectives.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of cause and effect in history and the ability to support conclusions based on an evaluation of evidence through individual and group writing assignments and during group and class discussions.
- Students will demonstrate the importance of examining and respecting multiple perspectives on explaining historical events.
- Students will research a major event in the early history of Ireland and present their research orally and in writing.

TEACHER BACKGROUND: See unit background, Ireland and England from the War of the Roses (1485) to the Act of Union (1800)

SUPPLIES: Activity Sheet A: Chronology of Early Irish History or Activity Sheet B: Chronology of Early Irish History

DESCRIPTION OF LESSON: This lesson is designed to introduce students to the broad sweep of Irish history from pre-history to the nineteenth century. It allows students to examine historical events in one country during a span of approximately two thousand years and provides an historical context for understanding Ireland during the Great Irish Famine. The lesson includes both individual and team activities. Teachers can use either Activity Sheet A or B based on their assessment of the interest and skills of their students

AIM: What were the key events in the early history of Ireland?

DO NOW ACTIVITY: Examine Activity Sheet: Chronology of Early Irish History. Select one date or time period from Irish history and describe an event taking place in another part of the world at this time.

**MOTIVATIONAL ACTIVITY:** In the history of a country, certain dates and events have special significance. What dates and events are considered of special importance in the history of the United States? Why?

**TRANSITIONAL ACTIVITY:** Often events taking place in one country are related to events taking place in another country or region of the world. Can you give an example from United States history?

**ACTIVITY:** List dates or periods when events in Ireland were paralleled by events in other countries or other part of the world. In your opinion, are any of these events connected? Explain.

**ACTIVITY:** Working in groups, examine the Activity Sheet: Chronology of the Early Irish History. Each group should select 3 to 5 dates and events that they believe were most important in the early history of Ireland. Write an explanation on the reasons your group selected these dates and events. In addition, explain whether you believe these events in Ireland were related to events in other countries or parts of the world.

**ACTIVITY:** Reports by student teams to the full class.

**SUMMARY QUESTION:** In your opinion, what were the key events in the early history of Ireland? Why were these key events?

**ADDITIONAL CLASS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- If you had to select the most important event in the history of the United States, which event would you select? Why? In your opinion, is a person's choice influenced by who they are, for example, membership in a particular ethnic, religious or racial group? Why?

- In your opinion, would members of different ethnic or national groups mentioned in the Activity Sheet: Chronology of Early Irish History view the history of Ireland differently? Why?

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT:** "Current Events from the Past." Select one event in the early history of Ireland. Using secondary source material in the school or public library or on the world wide web, write a 250 to 500 newspaper article that describes the event and its importance in the early history of Ireland.

**FOLLOW-UP PROJECT:** Students present "Current Events from the Past" articles in class and prepare a class textbook on the Early History of Ireland.

ASSESSMENT: Student learning will be assessed based on the quality of their performance in groups, their participation in full class activities, their written homework assignment and class presentations.

REFLECTION: Similar lessons can focus on the history of another country or region over a long period of time helping students understand both historical continuity and global interactions. Teachers can decide to extend the lesson to additional days allowing more extensive group presentations and time for student reports to class on their “Current Events from the Past” projects. The chronology is extensive. Teachers who field tested the lesson recommend limiting the list to between 5 and 10 events that will be the focus of discussion. Activity Sheet B offers a much more limited list. Students can revisit their selections at a later point in the semester and evaluate whether they agree with their initial choices.

SUPPLEMENTARY READING:

Karl S. Bothgeimer, *Ireland and the Irish, A Short History*, New York: Columbia University, 1982.

John O’Beirne Ranelagh, *A Short History of Ireland*, New York, Cambridge University, 1994.

## **Chronology of Early Irish History - Teacher Background**

- c. 7000 BC. First human settlement in Ireland.
- c. 3500 BC. Spread of agriculture and husbandry in Ireland.
- c. 2500 BC. Early funeral sites.
- c. 1200 BC. Oldest bronze tools.
- c. 700 BC. Celts migrate to Ireland. Introduce iron tools and Celtic language.
- 432 AD. According to legend, St. Patrick introduces Christianity into Ireland.
- 795. Earliest Norse (Viking) raids.
- 841. First Norse encampments.
- 1155. Pope Adrian IV grants King Henry II of England authority over Ireland.
- 1169. Normans from England invade and conquer Ireland. Introduce English common law. Invaders adopt Irish language and customs.
- 1366. Under the Statutes of Kilkenny, the English crown outlaws marriage and cultural exchange between Irish and Anglo-Normans.
- 1494. Start of mercantilist laws. Irish can only export industrial products through English ports.
- 1534. Henry VIII breaks with the Roman Catholic Church and founds the Church of England. Ireland remains Catholic.
- 1541. Henry VIII declared king of both England and Ireland.
- 1550-1557. Irish resist English imposition of "plantation system."
- 1574. Earl of Essex leads an English colonial expedition to suppress rebel in Ireland.
- 1584. England seizes lands of Irish nobility who challenge crown's authority.
- c. 1588. Potato cultivation introduced into Ireland.
- 1601. At the Battle of Kinsale, England defeats Irish forces. Establishes a strong central government based in Dublin. Introduces colonization of Ulster by Scottish Presbyterian settlers.
- 1603. Hugh O'Neill, head of the leading Ulster family, surrenders to the English
- 1607. Irish nobility leading resistance against English rule flee Ireland. Known as the "Flight of the Earls."
- 1641. Irish rebel against English rule and landlords.
- 1649. Oliver Cromwell conquers Ireland and massacres Catholics. Irish owned lands are confiscated and given to Protestant colonists.
- 1660s. Irish accuse the British Governor of Galway of kidnapping people and selling them as indentured servants in the West Indies.
- 1663. Ireland can only ship goods on British-made and manned ships.

1690. Irish Catholics support James II over William III as King of England. James' followers are defeated at the Battle of the Boyne. Many are exiled. Many Irish Catholics lose their land.
1695. Penal Laws bar Catholics from owning guns, pistols or swords. Catholics are forbidden to receive an education, enter a profession, practice their religion, hold public office, purchase or lease land, or vote.
- 1720s. Grain crop failures increase Irish dependence on potatoes.
- 1739-1741. Failure of the potato crop. An estimated 10 percent of the population of Ireland dies. 1741 is known as *Bliadhain an áir* (the Tear of the Slaughter).
- 1750-1815. A long period of agricultural and population growth stimulated by trade with British colonies in North America and the Napoleonic Wars.
- 1794-1798. United Irishman ally with revolutionary France to challenge British rule in Ireland. Radical leaders are executed or exiled.
1801. Act of Union abolishes independent Irish (Protestant) Parliament. The administration of Ireland comes under the authority of the British Parliament.
- 1800-1845. The population of Ireland increases from approximately five million in 1800 to seven million in 1821 to eight and a half million in 1845.
1815. Corn Laws place heavy taxes on grain imported into Great Britain. Irish grain could be sent to England without paying the tax. Foreign grain imported to Ireland was taxed.
- 1823-1847. Daniel O'Connell, leader of the Catholic Association, leads mass protests demanding the emancipation of Ireland. O'Connell dies in 1847.
1836. A royal commission reports that there are 2.4 million Irish living in poverty.
1838. The Poor Law divides Ireland into 130 districts with work houses designed for 100,000 destitute people. The act discourages "pauperism" by enforcing a harsh regime of work, diet, and segregation by age and sex. The work houses are hated by the Irish and are rarely half full.
1845. Potato Blight destroys Irish potato crop four times in the next five years leading to mass hunger, starvation, evictions, and emigration. By 1851, the population has declined by nearly 20%. The period is known in Ireland as the Great Hunger.

### **ACTIVITY SHEET A: Chronology of Early Irish History**

**DO NOW ACTIVITY:** Select one date or time period from Irish history and describe an event taking place in another part of the world at this time.

**GROUP ACTIVITY:** Each group should select 3 to 5 dates and events that they believe were most important in the early history of Ireland. Possible criteria include the impact of the event on the future of Ireland and the world.

- Write an explanation on the reasons your group selected these dates and events.
- Explain whether you believe these events in Ireland were related to events in other countries or parts of the world.
- Be prepared to report to the full class on your team decisions.

**HOMEWORK:** "Current Events from the Past." Select one event in the early history of Ireland. Using secondary source material in the school or public library or on the world wide web, write a 250 to 500 newspaper article that describes the event and its importance in the early history of Ireland.

- 700 BC (circa). Celts migrate to Ireland bringing iron tools and Celtic language.
- 432 AD. According to legend, St. Patrick brings Christianity to Ireland.
- 795. Earliest Norse (Viking) raids in Ireland. Settlement starts in 841.
- 1155. Pope Adrian IV grants King Henry II of England authority over Ireland.
- 1169. Anglo-Normans from England invade Ireland. Introduce English common law.
- 1366. Under the Statutes of Kilkenny, the English crown outlaws marriage and cultural exchange between the Irish and Anglo-Normans.
- 1534. Henry VIII breaks with the Roman Catholic Church and founds the Church of England. Ireland remains Catholic.
- 1541. Henry VIII declared king of both England and Ireland.
- 1588 (circa). Potato cultivation introduced into Ireland.
- 1641-1649. Irish rebel against English rule and landlords but are defeated by Oliver Cromwell. Irish owned lands are confiscated and given to Protestant colonists.
- 1690. Irish Catholics support James II over William III as King of England. James' followers are defeated at the Battle of the Boyne. Many are exiled. Many Irish Catholics lose their land.

- 1695. Penal Laws bar Catholics from owning guns, pistols or swords. Catholics are forbidden to receive an education, enter a profession, practice their religion, hold public office, purchase or lease land, or vote.
- 1750-1815. A long period of agricultural and population growth stimulated by trade with British colonies in North America and the Napoleonic Wars.
- 1794-1798. United Irishman ally with France to challenge British rule in Ireland. Radical leaders are executed or exiled.
- 1801. Act of Union abolishes independent Irish Parliament. Control of Ireland comes under the authority of the British Parliament.
- 1800-1845. The population of Ireland increases from approximately five million in 1800 to seven million in 1821 to eight and a half million in 1845.
- 1823-1847. Daniel O'Connell, leader of the Catholic Association, leads mass protests demanding the emancipation of Ireland.
- 1836. A royal commission reports that there are 2.4 million Irish living in poverty.
- 1846. Potato Blight destroys Irish potato crop leading to mass hunger, starvation, evictions, and emigration.

**ACTIVITY SHEET B: Chronology of Early Irish History**

DO NOW ACTIVITY: Select one date or time period from Irish history and describe an event taking place in another part of the world at this time.

GROUP ACTIVITY: Each group should select 3 dates and events that they believe were most important in the early history of Ireland. Possible criteria include the impact of the event on the future of Ireland and the world.

- Write an explanation on the reasons your group selected these dates and events.
- Explain whether you believe these events in Ireland were related to events in other countries or parts of the world.
- Be prepared to report to the full class on your team decisions.

HOMEWORK: "Current Events from the Past." Select one event in the early history of Ireland. Using secondary source material in the school or public library or on the world wide web, write a 250 to 500 newspaper article that describes the event and its importance in the history of Ireland.

432 A.D.	According to legend, St. Patrick brings Christianity to Ireland.
1155	Pope Adrian IV grants King Henry II of England authority over Ireland.
1366	England outlaws marriage and cultural exchange between the Irish and Anglo-Normans.
1534	Henry VIII breaks with the Roman Catholic Church and founds the Church of England. Ireland remains Catholic.
1588	Probable date for introduction of potato cultivation to Ireland.
1641-49	Irish rebel against English rule and landlords but are defeated by Oliver Cromwell. Irish owned lands are confiscated and given to Protestant colonists.
1690	Irish Catholics support James II over William III as King of England. James' followers are defeated at the Battle of the Boyne. Many are exiled. Many Irish Catholics lose their land.
1801	Act of Union abolishes independent Irish Parliament. Control of Ireland comes under the authority of the British Parliament.
1823-47	Daniel O'Connell, leader of the Catholic Association, leads mass protests demanding the emancipation of Ireland.
1845	Potato Blight destroys Irish potato crop leading to mass hunger, starvation, evictions, and emigration.