

Subject : Junior Cycle History
Teacher : Niall Lenehan

LESSON 9
The Ulster Plantation

Learning intentions

- The history of important settlement in Ireland
- How Ireland's history and cultural identity has been shaped by a variety of factors, and how those factors are evident in the modern world
- The causes, course and consequences of the Ulster Plantation, seeking to explain the background to the partition of Ireland and the presence of a large unionist/Protestant population in Ulster

2.1 recognize how a pattern of settlement and plantation influenced identity on the island of Ireland, referring to one example of a pattern of settlement, such as the growth of towns, and one plantation.

Key words - define these

Plantation

Confiscation

The Pale

Brehon Law

Unionist

Bawn

Culture

What is a plantation?

- Sending people from one country to take land in another country and live and work there.
- The idea came from the Spanish who sent people to live in South America. The English hoped to do the same in Ireland.

Ireland in the early 1500's - Who lived in Ireland at the time?

- Anglo Irish lords: descendants of English Protestants.
- Native Irish.
- English parliament.

The Brehon laws

- Irish people followed the Brehon laws. This was the old legal system in Ireland.
- Under Brehon laws, there was no jail. Punishments came in the form of fines.

Previous attempts at Plantation

- **1556: Queen Mary I** tried a limited plantation in **Laois/Offaly**:
- **It ended in failure.**
- **1586: Queen Elizabeth I** tried a more extensive plantation in **Munster**:
- **Few planters settled so it ended in failure.**

Why did the Ulster Plantation happen?

1. In the 16-century **the English were seeking to extend their control over Ireland**. One of the ways they tried to do this was to drive the Irish landowners off their land and replace them with English or Scottish settlers.
2. The English feared that Catholic nations such as Spain and France may use Ireland as a launch pad to invade England from.
3. Wanted to introduce the Protestant religion to Ireland.
4. Thought English culture was superior to Gaelic culture.
5. The Tudors had tried to conquer Ireland through a military invasion. This policy had failed so they needed a new policy. This would be **plantation**.

Build up to the Plantation of Ulster

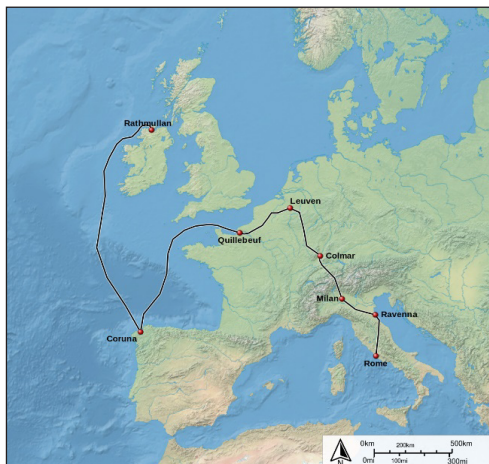
- **The Nine Years War (1594)** – The local Gaelic Irish rebelled against spreading English attempts at taking power and establishing the Protestant religion.
- Gaelic Irish led by **Hugh O'Neill** and **Hugh O'Donnell**.



- Turning point – English victory at the **Battle of Kinsale (1601)** – The Spanish sent an army to help Irish. Both Spanish and Irish armies defeated in Kinsale.
- The Irish were defeated and signed the **Treaty of Mellifont (1603)** – This peace treaty ended the 9-year war.



- The **Flight of the Earls (1607)** left Gaelic Ireland without leadership. Hugh O'Neill and Rory O'Donnell left Ireland to seek help from other Catholic nations.
- This gave the British an opportunity to finally pacify (make peaceful) Ireland.



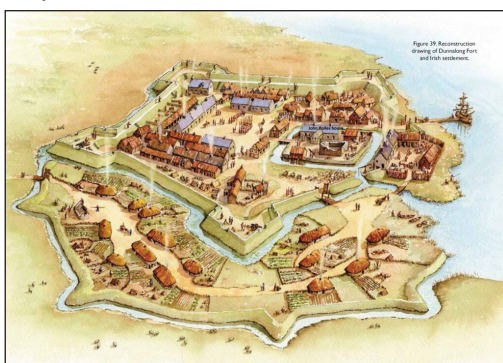
The journey of the Earls

Recap

- Q1. What was a plantation?
- Q2. What were the Brehon laws?
- Q3. What were the previous attempts at plantation and why did they fail?
- Q4. Explain three reasons why the Ulster Plantation happened?
- Q5. What was the 'flight of the Earls' and what was the result of this?

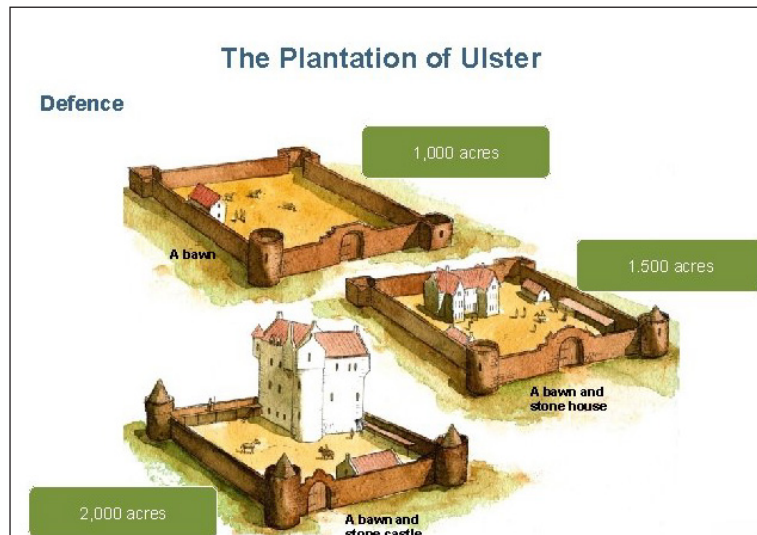
The Plantation in action

- The British confiscated land in six counties – **Derry, Donegal, Cavan, Tyrone, Fermanagh and Armagh.**
- This land was divided up into estates of 1000, 1500 and 2,000 acres.
- Settlers from England and Scotland were given this land. They brought the **Protestant and Presbyterian** religion with them. These settlers consisted of:
 1. **Undertakers** (English and Scottish planters)
 2. **Servitors** (English soldiers and officials)
 3. **Loyal Irish** (Irish of 'good merit')



A plantation town

- In 1610, King James I order's the Ulster Plantation.
- Settlers built stone houses and surrounded them with a bawn, or defensive wall.
- Gaelic Irish dispossessed (tories) – forced to scavenge for food or attack the settlers.



Defensive bawns and stone castles

Londonderry

- The city of **Derry** was granted to the **London trade guild** and was renamed **Londonderry**.
- This has remained a symbol of the division in Ulster after the plantation up to the present day.

Plantation town features

Features:

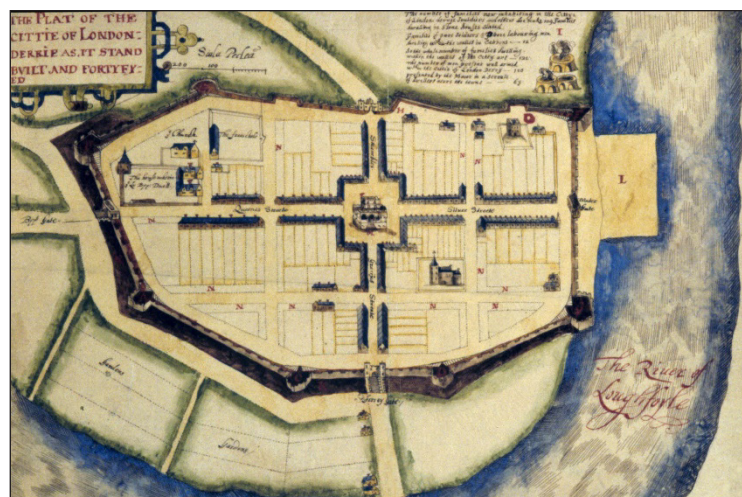
Straight, wide streets.

Central town square.

Defensive wall (Bawn)

Gridiron street pattern

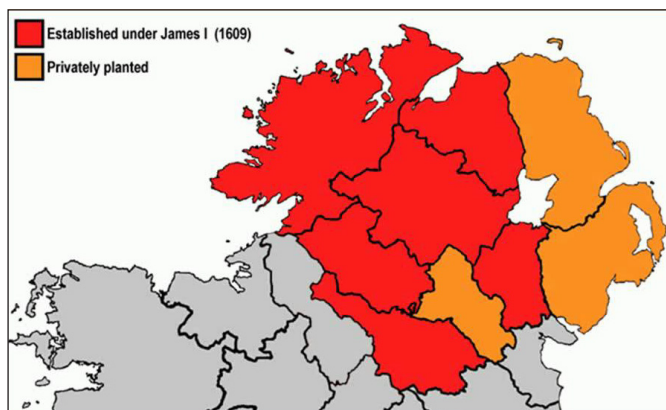
Londonderry, Colrairie, Dungannon



A plantation town

Ulster Plantation: Results

1. **New people and religion:** 40,000 English and Scottish settlers who were **Protestant** and **Presbyterian**.



A plantation town

2. **New towns:** 20 new towns set up e.g. Coleraine.
3. **New houses:** better built.
4. **New farming** methods – Crop farming replaced the old Irish livestock farming.
5. Many Irish were **forced off their land**, often moving to mountains and wooded areas. They often attacked the planters who had settled on their land.
6. The **culture and language** of the Gaelic Irish declined as a result.
7. The Brehon law was replaced by English law.
8. The English language gradually replaced Irish.

The Cromwellian Plantation

- In 1641 England was involved in a Civil War between **King Charles I** and his Parliament, led by **Sir Oliver Cromwell**.
- This encouraged the native Irish to rebel against the Planters and recover their lost lands. About **4,000 Protestants were massacred during the violence**.

This created a desire to avenge the deaths as soon as the civil war was over.



- On 15 August 1649 Cromwell's' New Model Army landed in Ringsend and marched to **Drogheda** where the town refused to surrender.
- Cromwell massacred the whole town.

- He and his army travelled throughout Ireland and massacred many Irish Catholics until the Irish finally stopped rebelling in 1650.
- It is believed Cromwell killed 200,000 Irish.



Oliver Cromwell mural in a Protestant area of Belfast

9.2 Exam Focus - Try this for Homework

Q1. Name a plantation you studied as part of your junior cycle history course

Q2. Who ordered this plantation to take place?

Q3. What changes occurred in Ireland as a result of the plantation which you studied?

9.3 Homework correction

Read some of the extracts from Martin Luther's 95 Theses and answer the questions below.

Thesis # 86

Why does not the Pope, whose wealth is greater today than the wealth of the richest Crassus, build this one basilica of St. Peter with his own money rather than with the money of poor believers?

Thesis # 62

The true treasure of the church is the most holy Gospel of the glory and grace of God.

Thesis # 37

Any true Christian, whether living or dead, participates in all the blessings of Christ and the church and this is granted him by God, even without indulgence letters.

Thesis # 27

They preach only human doctrines who say that as soon as the money clinks into the money chest, the soul flies out of purgatory.

Q1. What do you think is the meaning of Thesis 86?

I think that Luther is questioning why the Pope doesn't use his own wealth to the dome in St Peter's Basilica as opposed to taking the money of believers.

Q2. What do you think thesis 27 is referring to?

I think thesis 27 is referring to the selling of indulgences.

Q3. What do you think is the meaning of thesis 37?

I think that thesis 37 is saying that any Christian who is participating in the worship of God and has good faith in God does not need to buy indulgences.

Q4. Explain two ways in which the Catholic church tried to stop the spread of the Protestant Religion.

One way was through The Inquisition. They were the main body responsible for the persecution of opponents of the Catholic religion. A person with a different view to church teaching was called a 'heretic'. Heretics would be tortured until they recanted their beliefs. The Spanish Inquisition was the most brutal of inquisitions.

Another way was through the Council of Trent who were responsible for improving the Catholic Church. The Council of Trent met three times between 1545 and 1563. It was their job to deal with the weaknesses and get rid of some of the abuses in the Catholic church. For example, they banned the selling of indulgences.