

# CENSUS IN SCHOOLS

7 Signatories Projects  
**(LC History)**

**Group:**

5th/6th Year History Students

**Topic:**

Ireland Topic 3: The Pursuit of Sovereignty  
and the Impact of partition 1912–1949

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## Rationale:

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The idea behind this project is to introduce Leaving Cert History students to an important area within Topic 3. The seven signatories of the Irish Proclamation play a significant role in this topic as the 1916 Rising and its impact on Irish society is studied by many Leaving Cert students. The Anglo-Irish Treaty Negotiations 1921 is a case study and the effects of these men's actions are seen throughout this period. The aim of this project is to introduce the student to the men behind the Rising by examining what their upbringing was like which led them to create the proclamation and rebel against the British authorities in Ireland. Through the use of the census records the student will be able to examine if there are any differences or commonalities found between the leaders and ask if their upbringing was cause for these men to work together for the cause of freedom. The project will also examine the proclamation itself and will challenge students to identify if this document is as relevant in Ireland today as it was in 1916. This part of the project will have a student read, decipher and debate the values and problems with this document in an era of war and challenge the student to understand what Ireland was like at home in 1916 under British rule and during the time of WWI. The project will then ask students to explore the mindsets of the 7 signatories through their own words in their final days. By examining some famous quotes by the leaders, the student will attempt to gain understanding of why such men would give their lives for Irish freedom.

## Activity in Practice

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**Step 1:** The teacher introduces students to the 7 signatories of the 1916 Proclamation. There is a brief outline of each leader given in the handout which accompanies this resource. The teacher may use additional material online or from other sources as they see fit. The emphasis of this part of the lesson is to develop an awareness of who these men were.

**Step 2:** The teacher then instructs students to examine the 1916 proclamation. A handout of the proclamation is included also in the lesson pack. The students will read the proclamation and answer the follow up questions. The aim of this section is to comprehend what the document actually proclaimed, and gain a deeper awareness of what these men were asking for. This section will also allow students to debate if these demands have been met by Irish governments as late as the current government. It is a good opportunity to explore the changing nature of Ireland and how it has come to reflect or reject the ideals of 1916.

**Step 3:** The student will then examine the 1911 census which contains information on the 7 signatories. The 1911 census can be located at <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/search/> The aim of this section of the lesson is to allow students to utilise the vast amounts of information available through the census website about the signatories. The students will then record the findings needed to answer the questions which are located in this teaching pack. Students will form opinions and examine if there is any evidence which may suggest why these men would join forces and start a rebellion.

**Step 4:** Once students have completed this exercise, they will finally learn more about the signatories cause for freedom through the examination of quotes. The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate how these men felt in their final moments. It will allow students to have an open discussion about the mindset of these men and it will encourage debate as to whether these men were right to wage a war against the British in 1916. The questions which accompany this part of the lesson will encourage such debate.

**Materials needed:** The 7 Signatories Project Booklet, online access to 1911 census. YouTube

# Lesson Plan

**Class:** 5/6th Year

**Topic:** Ireland Topic 3: *The Pursuit of Sovereignty and the Impact of partition 1912-1949*

Periods: two/three 40-minute periods. The students may get through the material in two periods, but they may need extra time to work through the booklet and ask relevant questions. It is advised to split the class into three task sections: 1. Background to 7 Signatories including the Proclamation, 2. Census Work, 3. “Who Said it?” exercise

Time	Instruction	Teacher	Student	Materials Required
<b>5 Mins</b>	The class will begin with a discussion on the importance of 1916 and its impact on Ireland at this time. This can be a general discussion on what the students knows, and may include key dates, figures and areas of particular interest. The aim here is to just get students thinking about this period and allowing them to express their own knowledge of the topic	The teacher may open the class with an image of the 7 signatories. This can be used as a jumping off point to allow students to state their knowledge on these men and 1916 in general	The student will converse with classmates and the teacher in order to identify what they already know and what they are going to learn	LC History textbook of teacher's choosing with a focus on 1916  A picture of the leaders of 1916 – to display in the background, or a suitable picture of the teachers choosing
<b>5 Mins</b>	Students will be given a chance to view a short video clip that outlines the event of 1916 but also highlights some of the reasons as to why this event took place.	Share the link below with the students and instruct them to watch the clip  Instruct the student to take note of anything in particular they would like to ask from watching the clip  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CN2dimzxzp8&amp;t=91s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CN2dimzxzp8&amp;t=91s</a>  While the clip is playing, the teacher may hand out the '7 Signatories Project Booklet'	Students will examine the clip playing on the board and record any questions they want to ask after the clip is finished	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CN2dimzxzp8&amp;t=91s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CN2dimzxzp8&amp;t=91s</a>

## History Lesson Plans 3.1 – Examining the changing Role of women in Ireland

<b>10 Mins</b>	<p>Before the students begin the booklet, the teacher may want to ask if students have any questions/opinions of the video clip. When this is checked, the teacher will now have given out the booklets to all students. At this point, the class will first examine who each of the 7 men were. There is a brief outline of who these men were and their role in the 1916 Rising. This part of the lesson is only to build context and give the student a brief insight into the role these men played</p>	<p>Teacher will instruct students to read each signatory choosing a student to read each mini-biography.</p>	<p>The student will read out the mini-biographies and can ask any questions they may have at this point</p>	<p>7 Signatories Project Booklet</p>
<b>5 Mins</b>	<p>The next step of this project is to examine what these men actually wrote. By examining the Proclamation, we can gain an understanding of the signatories wants for Ireland in 1916. This important document will also allow students to engage with the actual work of an historian; studying and analysing the language used and its purpose. This is an excellent approach to any document a student will need to study in LC History</p>	<p>The teacher can ask student(s) to read the proclamation aloud in class or the teacher may read it themselves. Alternatively, play this video on YouTube and students can immerse themselves in 1916 <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOelQgxvJug">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOelQgxvJug</a></p>	<p>The students will read/ listen or watch the proclamation</p>	<p>7 Signatories Project Booklet – Proclamation</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOelQgxvJug">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOelQgxvJug</a></p> <p>Pens &amp; Paper</p>
<b>10 Mins</b>	<p>The student will now actively engage with the document. By answering the questions included in the Proclamation section of the booklet, students will examine carefully the language used in the proclamation and gain a deeper understanding of what the 7 signatories believed in 1916.</p>	<p>The teacher will allow student this time to re-read and answer the questions</p> <p>The teacher should monitor their progress at this time and clarify any questions the student may have</p>	<p>Students can discuss in pairs or work on their own to complete this task</p>	<p>7 Signatories Project Booklet – Proclamation</p> <p>Pens &amp; Paper</p>
<b>5 Mins</b>	<p>The teacher will hear the answers from the students and clarify any misunderstanding or questions they may have</p>	<p>The teacher will allow students to discuss their findings from the document</p>	<p>Students will communicate their findings to the teacher and classmates</p>	

## History Lesson Plans 3.1 – Examining the changing Role of women in Ireland

Time	Instruction	Teacher	Student	Materials Required
<b>10 Mins</b>	The beginning of this lesson can start with the debate on the proclamation page. The aim of this is to get students thinking about Ireland today and whether or not if the Ireland the 7 signatories died for came to fruition. This is a positive way to engage with history and highlight its relevance for students today living in Ireland	The teacher can open the lesson with the debate Q found at the bottom of the Proclamation section	The student will converse with classmates and the teacher in order to answer the debate Q	7 Signatories Project Booklet – Proclamation  Pens & Paper
<b>15 Mins</b>	Students will be given a chance to view the census records for all 7 signatories. The purpose here is to examine their backgrounds and to find any relevant information which could give us reasons for why these men fought and died in 1916.  This section will also allow a student to actively conduct research which is a great life skill and RSR project skill.	The teacher will share the census website with the student: <a href="http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie">www.census.nationalarchives.ie</a> .  The teacher will instruct the student on how to find the signatories by showing them the grid on the booklet	The student will use the internet to access the census website. The student will locate these men and use this time to answer the questions in this section of the booklet.	7 Signatories Project Booklet – Census  Pens & Paper
<b>10 Mins</b>	Once the information is found and discussed, the student will move to the final phase of the booklet – “Who Said It?”  The aim of this section is to examine some of the most famous quotes attributed to these men at the time of their impending sacrifice. The hope is that 1) students will have learned and understood enough the backgrounds of these men to try and make an educational guess as to who said the quote and 2) creates a little classroom competition to see who can get the most quotes right	The teacher will now present 7 quotes on the board and in the booklet.  The teacher will tell the student that there is 1 quote per signatory – the student must take what they already know and learned about the signatories and attempt to choose the correct signatory to the quote.  The teacher may also highlight the importance at this time of using quotes in essays – ask the student to try and memorise some quotes for the future  The teacher will reveal the answers at the end of this part – answer page is included at the end of the booklet	Students will take part in the quote exercise in a friendly competition	7 Signatories Project Booklet – “Who Said It?”  Pens & Paper

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<b>5 Mins</b>	Recap – The last few minutes are given to recap all the material that has been covered over the 2-3 classes.  It should allow students to ask any remaining questions and reflect over what has been said/covered in the class	The teacher will encourage students to ask questions at this point and use this time to clarify any last pieces of information	The student can use this time to ask/clarify anything they are unsure of
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