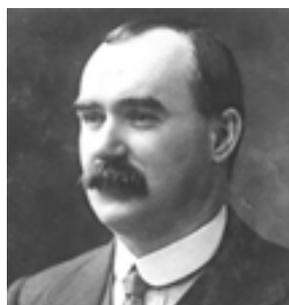


CENSUS IN SCHOOLS

7 Signatories Project



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Background to the 7 Signatories

On 24 April 1916, the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) co-ordinated by its Supreme Council took over the General Post Office (GPO) and began the 1916 Easter Rising. At the steps of the GPO, the Proclamation of Independence, created and signed by seven men, was read aloud to public bewilderment. It was from this document that the course of Irish history would be changed forever.

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- **Clarke, Thomas J.;** Thomas Clarke was the first signatory of the Proclamation by virtue of his seniority. He was a member of the Fenians since his teens and served 15 years in prison for his part in a Clan na nGael bombing campaign. He emigrated to America on release from prison in 1898 and returned in 1907. He was one of the first of the rebels to be executed in Kilmainham Jail on 3 May 1916.
 - **Mac Diarmada, Séan;** Although afflicted with polio in 1911 and needing a walking stick, together with Tom Clarke, Denis McCullough and Bulmer Hobson, Mac Diarmada is credited with revitalising the IRB and becoming a popular leader. A signatory of the Proclamation and a member of the Provisional Government, he spent the Rising in the GPO. He was executed by firing squad at Kilmainham on 12 May. Mac Diarmada was unmarried.
 - **MacDonagh, Thomas;** A published poet and founding member of the Association of Secondary Teachers of Ireland, Thomas MacDonagh taught in St Enda's in Ranelagh, the boy's school established by Pádraig Pearse. He would go on to take an active role in the 1916 rising and become one of the signatories of the proclamation. He was executed on 3 May 1916 in Kilmainham Jail.
 - **Pearse, P.H.;** Patrick Pearse was the man responsible for reading the proclamation outside the GPO. He was a barrister, Irish teacher, poet, writer, nationalist, signatory of the 1916 proclamation and one of the leaders of the Easter Rising. He was executed, along with his brother Willie and the other leaders of the 1916 Rising.
 - **Ceannt, Éamonn;** Éamonn Ceannt was born Edward Thomas Kent in 1881 in the police barracks at Ballymoe, Co. Galway, the son of James Kent, an officer in the Royal Irish Constabulary, and his wife, Joanne Galway. The family moved to Ardee, Co. Louth when James was transferred there, then to Drogheda before settling in Dublin when James retired. On Easter Monday 1916, Ceannt and 120 men of the 4th Battalion of the Irish Volunteers occupied the South Dublin Union, a workhouse/ hospital spread over fifty-two acres off James's Street and also some covering buildings. They held part of the complex until they were informed of the general surrender the following Sunday. Ceannt was tried by court-martial and executed by firing squad in Kilmainham Jail on 8 May.

- **Connolly, James;** James Connolly was a revolutionary socialist, a trade union leader and a political theorist. His execution by firing squad after the Easter Rising, supported by a chair because of his wounds, significantly contributed to the mood of bitterness in Ireland.
- **Plunkett, Joseph;** Joseph Mary Plunkett was born in 1887 to George Noble Plunkett, a papal count, and his wife Josephine Cranny. Despite being in very poor health and recovering from a major operation on glands in his neck, Plunkett joined other members of the Provisional Government in the GPO in Easter 1916. Following the surrender, he was tried by court-martial and sentenced to death by firing squad. He married his fiancée Grace Gifford, a sister-in-law of Thomas MacDonagh, in Kilmainham Jail on the night before his execution on 4 May.

POBLACHT NA hÉIREANN, THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God. Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government.

Thomas J. Clarke, Sean Mac Diarmada, Thomas MacDonagh, P. H. Pearse, Eamonn Ceannt, James Connolly, Joseph Plunkett

Rationale: By reading the proclamation the student can gain a sense of understanding as to what the signatories were fighting for. This document is perhaps the most famous in Irish history and the language and its idealism was incredibly modern for its time.

Task: Read the proclamation and answer the questions below

Follow Up Questions:

1. Who organised and trained her manhood according to the proclamation?
2. What Allies did the Proclamation mean?
3. Identify 3 rights of the Irish people proclaimed in this document
4. Who is the proclamation referring to in this line “long usurpation of that right by a foreign people”?
5. What does the Republic guarantee according to the document?

Debate Topic: From what we know about Irish society today, would you think the creators of this document would be happy with what it would see? Why/ why not?

Census Research

Rationale: As historians it is often useful to understand the circumstances at home which may later help to shape the views and actions of a leader. This task requires students to research the households of the 1916 signatories. The student should compare and contrast the households and identify the differences and similarities in their upbringings.

Task: There are 7 households to examine. Use the information guide below to locate each signatory's census return form. Use the questions below the guide to help you to make connections and highlight differences in the households.

1. Go to www.census.nationalarchives.ie.
2. Click on "Search the census records for Ireland 1901 and 1911".
3. Choose the census year (see details in box below)
4. Write in the name _____ on the surname line.
5. Write in _____ on the Forename line.
6. Click the name _____ in the drop-down list on the county line.
7. Write in the name _____ in the DED line.
8. Click search.
9. Click on the name _____

Surname	Forename	Census Year	County	DED
Ceannt	Eamonn	1911	Dublin	New Kilmainham
Clarke	Thomas J	1911	Dublin	Drumcondra
Connolly	James	1911	Dublin	Lotts Road
Mac Diarmada	Sean (Seaghán)	1911	Dublin	Russell Place
MacDonagh	Thomas	1911	Dublin	Haroldsgrange
Mac Piarais	Pádraic	1911	Dublin	Haroldsgrange
Plunkett	Joseph (use George Noble)	1911	Dublin	Fitzwilliam

Census Research Questions

1. Are the signatories found to be of common age?
2. What differences exist in their occupations? Are all signatories in similar work or are they different?
3. Has religion any part to play in why these men united together?
4. Would you describe these men as wealthy/middle class/poor? Explain why?
5. Do all signatories share a love of the Irish language?
6. Do you think these men had a lot to lose personally?

Who Said It?

Rationale: The leaders of the 1916 Rising remain as important in Irish history studies today as they did over 100 years ago. This task requires students to examine the mindsets of the signatories during the lead up to the 1916 Rising and their final moments before execution. Many quotes are attributed to the leaders and this exercise asks students to gather what they already may know about the signatories and attempt to make an informed guess to solve this 'who said what?' exercise.

Task: There are 7 quotes. Each quote was said by 1 signatory of the 1916 Proclamation. Match the correct signatory to the quote below. Complete the follow up questions once each signatory has been identified



**James
Connolly**



**Thomas
Clarke**



**Sean
MacDiarmada**



**Eamonn
Ceannt**



**Thomas
MacDonagh**



**Patrick
Pearse**



**Joseph
Plunkett**

"We bleed that the nation may live. I die that the nation may live. Damn your concessions England, we want our country."

"I leave for the guidance of other revolutionaries, who may tread the path which I have trod, this advice; never treat with the enemy, never to surrender to his mercy, but to fight to a finish."

"My comrades and I believe we have struck the first successful blow for freedom, and so sure as we are going out this morning so sure will freedom come as a direct result of our action...In this belief, we die happy."

"The fierce pulsation of resurgent pride that disclaims servitude may one day cease to throb in the heart of Ireland - but the heart of Ireland will that day be dead. While Ireland lives, the brain and the brawn of her manhood will strive to destroy the last vestige of British rule in her territory"

"If you remove the English Army tomorrow and hoist the green flag over Dublin Castle., unless you set about the organization of the Socialist Republic your efforts will be in vain. England will still rule you. She would rule you through her capitalists, through her landlords, through her financiers, through the whole array of commercial and individualist institutions she has planted in this country and watered with the tears of our mothers and the blood of our martyrs"

"Ireland Unfree Shall Never be at Peace"

"I am very happy. I am dying for the glory of God and the honor of Ireland"

Task: Complete the follow up questions below

1. Would you say that the signatories were happy/sad to die for their country? What evidence from the quotes proves this point?
2. What does Connolly see is the real problem of English rule in Ireland? What must be done in his view to overcome this problem?
3. In your opinion, which quote best highlights that these men were willing martyrs for the cause of Irish Freedom?
4. What does the signatory mean when he said “we have struck the first successful blow for freedom...” What do you think he was envisioning to happen after his death?
5. From reading Pearse’s quote, what sense of a person do we get from him and the other signatories?

Who Said It?

(Teacher Answers)

Thomas Clarke	“My comrades and I believe we have struck the first successful blow for freedom, and so sure as we are going out this morning so sure will freedom come as a direct result of our action... In this belief, we die happy.”
James Connolly	If you remove the English Army tomorrow and hoist the green flag over Dublin Castle., unless you set about the organization of the Socialist Republic your efforts will be in vain. England will still rule you. She would rule you through her capitalists, through her landlords, through her financiers, through the whole array of commercial and individualist institutions she has planted in this country and watered with the tears of our mothers and the blood of our martyrs
Eamonn Ceannt	“I leave for the guidance of other revolutionaries, who may tread the path which I have trod, this advice; never treat with the enemy, never to surrender to his mercy, but to fight to a finish.”
Thomas MacDonagh	The fierce pulsation of resurgent pride that disclaims servitude may one day cease to throb in the heart of Ireland - but the heart of Ireland will that day be dead. While Ireland lives, the brain and the brawn of her manhood will strive to destroy the last vestige of British rule in her territory
Seán Mac Diarmada	“We bleed that the nation may live. I die that the nation may live. Damn your concessions England, we want our country.”
Joseph Plunkett	I am very happy. I am dying for the glory of God and the honor of Ireland
Patrick Pearse	Ireland Unfree Shall Never be at Peace
