



Name(s): _____

Date: _____

The Great Irish Famine Online

The Great Famine was one of the most tragic events in Irish history. The deaths of over 1 million people and the emigration of a further million had a deep and devastating effect on Irish society.

The mapping of the famine at parish level provides us with new ways of seeing the Famine, by revealing the complex local and regional dimensions. This allows us to ask questions about the social conditions which were most common in different areas and the differing responses in terms of relief. Behind the maps are the stories of individuals and communities and how they managed during this traumatic time.

Scoilnet has created this resource to make the Great Irish Famine Online accessible to 5th and 6th class pupils. Click on this [link](#) to explore the Great Irish Famine Online and answer the questions below on literacy, population, housing and occupations. Don't forget to click "Save As" to save your answers.

1. How did the Famine affect literacy levels in Ireland? Did literacy levels increase or decrease after the Famine?

2. Were literacy levels across the country affected equally? Give two examples in your answer.



3. Why do you think literacy levels increased in some areas of the country and decreased in others?

4. What affect did the Famine have on the population of Ireland? Use evidence from the map to support you answer.

5. From the Families and Housing tab on the map, we can see that 4th Class homes decreased between 1841 and 1851. What do you think are the reasons behind this decrease?

6. The number of 1st and 2nd class homes increased during this time. What do you think are the reasons behind this increase?

7. What does the increase of 1st and 2nd class homes and the decrease of 4th class homes tell you about who was affected most by the Famine?

8. On the map, zoom in to your own local area. What details does the map give you about how your area was affected by the Famine?
