

## **The Story of the Tricolour**

**Subject:** History

**Strand:** Historical Skills

**Strand Unit:** Looking at evidence

**Class Level:** Middle/Senior Primary

### **Objectives:**

- that the children will identify and develop respect for the tricolour as the National Flag of Ireland
- that the children will draw a diagram of the flag to scale
- that the children will generate and discuss historical enquiry questions based on the flag

**Integration:** Maths - scale, lines and angles, ordering; Oral Language Development;

### **Activity - The Flag**

Introduce the flag to the children. Ask them to describe the flag - colours, order, scale.

Locate and read Article 7 of the Constitution (online) - "The National Flag is the Tricolour of Green, White and Orange."

Draw the flag to scale and colour.

IN groups ask children to brainstorm questions that they have about the Irish Flag? Provide them with the questions prompt chart or remind them of:

Who? What? When? Where? Why?

You could also suggest questions beginning with

Can...?..Should...? Could...?

Each questions can be written on a post-it and placed on a chart. Once the brainstorm is complete each group can arrange their questions according to their own criteria:

Questions we know the answer to/ Questions we can't answer

On a scale from the most important to the least important

Big Questions/ little questions

Each group can then present their work. Discussion points the teacher can address are:

Why did you group the questions in that way?

What question do you think is the most interesting?

How might we find the answer to that question?

Do you think that question can be answered easily?

Is there more than one way of answering that question?

The teacher can facilitate the subsequent whole class discussion to identify the most important (key)questions which the class can pursue in subsequent lessons. These can be highlighted in a prominent place.

Who designed the flag?

When was the flag created?

What do the colours on the flag mean?

Why was this flag chosen to be the country's flag?

Why do Ireland and other countries have three colours on their flag?

Where was the flag first flown?

Who can fly the flag?

Should the flag be changed?

Why do Irish national sports teams wear green more often than white or orange?

**Assessment:** Teacher Observation

**Differentiation:** Extra support, resource (flag drawn to scale) depending on ability

Questions Chart - Who, What, When, Where, Why, How