



COMMITTEE FOR COMMEMORATION OF THE IRISH FAMINE VICTIMS

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The Lumper Schools Project
An idea for your school, commemorating the Great Irish Famine
in a hands-on, simple way

Each year, as Spring arrives and the days begin to lengthen, we think of life and new opportunities in the year ahead. For many, including those still in school, Spring is a time of hope and expectation and, in practical terms, a time to think of planting and sowing.

The Committee for the Commemoration of Irish Famine Victims (CCIFV) is an organisation dedicated to commemorating and remembering over a million people who died in Ireland during the Great Famine of the 19th Century, and the even greater numbers who were compelled to emigrate or starve. Out of a population of over eight million people in the early 1840s, in the years following the Famine emigration continued unabated until the island's population was roughly half of what it had been in the pre-Famine period.

In remembering the victims of *An Gorta Mór*, whether those who died or became emigrants, we must also not forget those today in hunger, poverty, conflict and displacement from their homes and homeland. The CCIFV has received letters of encouragement from the education ministries in both Northern Ireland and the Republic for this project.

One of the iconic symbols of the Great Famine in Ireland is the Lumper potato, the very variety upon which so many Irish people depended. Its destruction by blight from 1845 onwards led directly to the outbreak of the Famine.

In recent years, potato grower Michael McKillop of Glens of Antrim Potatoes has resurrected the Lumper potato through seven years of research, hard work and perseverance. The Lumper is a living teaching tool that can bring children back 170 years, to experience what the majority of people were living on back then.

With Michael and the Glens of Antrim Potatoes' support, the CCIFV is offering a free pack of seed Lumper potatoes to any school that has a garden or small space to grow these in and wishes to take part in the Lumper Schools Project (LSP). They require very little care, and we feel that the process of planting, tending and hopefully eating the crop eventually will be an interesting way to help our younger generations to commemorate and remember the victims of *An Gorta Mór*, and those who suffer in famine and hunger today.

The CCIFV would like to thank Glens of Antrim Potatoes for their kind sponsorship of the Lumper Schools Project on behalf of the schools of Ireland.

For your school to receive a **free** pack of seed Lumper potatoes, it is best if the principal teacher or a nominee would send an email to lumpersp@gmail.com, with your own contact phone number and an email address that you can readily be contacted at.

Ideal planting time is March–April, and we will endeavour to have your free pack delivered or picked up at a point near your school in good time. If you go to the facebook page *CCIFV An Gorta Mor* you will see copies of the letters from the education ministries, as well as school endorsements and a simple guide to planting and caring for your Lumpers.



GLENS of
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Over a million died and two million fled from the four provinces. The Famine knew no borders or boundaries, Catholics and Protestants are buried in mass graves side by side all over the country

The coming of the blight destroyed the potato, the main staple food of the majority of the people at that time, there was no antidote for blight in those years, unlike today.

The Famine ran for many years, the aid and policies implemented were not adequate enough, workhouses were full to capacity, conditions were appalling in them and they were breeding grounds for disease. Soup kitchens and work schemes were only feeding so many while many more died or left their homes and country for a better life overseas.

Ireland experienced an exodus of people, emigrants/refugees throughout the years of *An Gorta Mór* and for decades after, on a scale never seen before or since, as a result of evictions and land clearance.

On planting and harvesting the Lumper potato, we remember the victims of *An Gorta Mór* and the people in hunger and poverty and countries in famine still with us today in a World of plenty.



**GLENS of
ANTRIM
POTATOES**