Author: Anne-Marie Ryan

Curriculum links: The Irish diaspora, 1840-1966 - The main trends in Irish emigration by origin, destination and type of emigrant; their occupations and where they settled in the country of immigration, 1920-1966

RTÉ Archives: Irish men build nuclear power plant, 1965

Access the video clip here.

An extract from a 'Radharc' film reporting on the many Irish men working on the construction of a nuclear power plant at Oldbury, Bristol in England.



Activity 1

As you watch the video clip, make notes on the following aspects of conditions for men at the Oldbury nuclear plant. You should refer to both the visual content and the commentary of the reporter.

Wo	rking conditions	Living conditions

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Activity 2

Consider the following discussion questions as a think-pair-share exercise or in small groups. Use the box below to write notes based on your discussions.

Why is work on the construction of the nuclear power station particularly tough?

Based on the interviews in this clip, what do we learn about the type of Irish emigrant living in England in the 1960s?

Identify the main challenges faced by the Irish emigrants based on the evidence in this clip. In your view, what was the greatest challenge that they faced?

Activity 3

Use the information in this video clip to write the following essay:

Using the Oldbury nuclear power plant as a case study, describe the experience of Irish emigrants in Britain in the 1960s. In your answer you should refer to the origins of these emigrants, their destination in Britain, the social, economic and religious background of these emigrants, their occupation and living conditions.