



1914—1918

EXPLORING THE
IRISH EXPERIENCE



NLI WWI LEARNING RESOURCES

Leaving Certificate Students worksheet

A series of Learning Objectives has been developed for all visitors to the exhibition. These include specific objectives designed to link to the Leaving Cert History Syllabus:

EXHIBITION OBJECTIVE

Understand that there were a wide variety of motivations and messages influencing the responses of individual Irish people to this conflict

Realise that the war had a profound impact on the lives of women, in an equal variety of ways to that which it had on men

Empathise with the experience of Irish people at home during WWI – get an insight into the impact

Be moved by the artistic responses of Irish people to the war (incl. art, poetry and literature of front line and other experiences)

See that other events in Ireland and in Irish/British politics made for a complex legacy for those returning home

CURRICULUM LINKS INCLUDE

Topic 3: *Politics and Administration* – The impact of World War I
Prep for life and citizenship – controversial issues from more than one point of view

Topic 2: *Society and Economy* – Case Studies – Women in the workforce during WWI

Topic 2: *Key Concepts* – world war, war of attrition

Topic 2: *Culture, Religion and Science* – Expression of national identity... literature of WWI

Topic 3: *Politics and Administration* – The Home Rule Bill, The impact of World War I
Key Concepts – Sovereignty and Partition

Throughout the exhibition you and your students will find sources, text, images, objects and interactive elements which have selected to help achieve the objectives.

These Learning Resources support the exhibition, and are intended to help you cover aspects of the syllabus under Europe and the Wider World Topics 2 & 3 (and Ireland Topics 2 & 3) as well as 'Skills of history' and 'Preparation for life and citizenship'.

Included are worksheet elements that you can use before, during and after your visit. Each of these elements is standalone – the 'Before you visit the National Library' and 'After your visit' sheets assume that you are covering the WWI related topics in class. If this is not the case you may wish to use the 'When you visit the National Library' sheet on its own as it is a more general resource which supports Skills of History and Preparation for Life and Citizenship.



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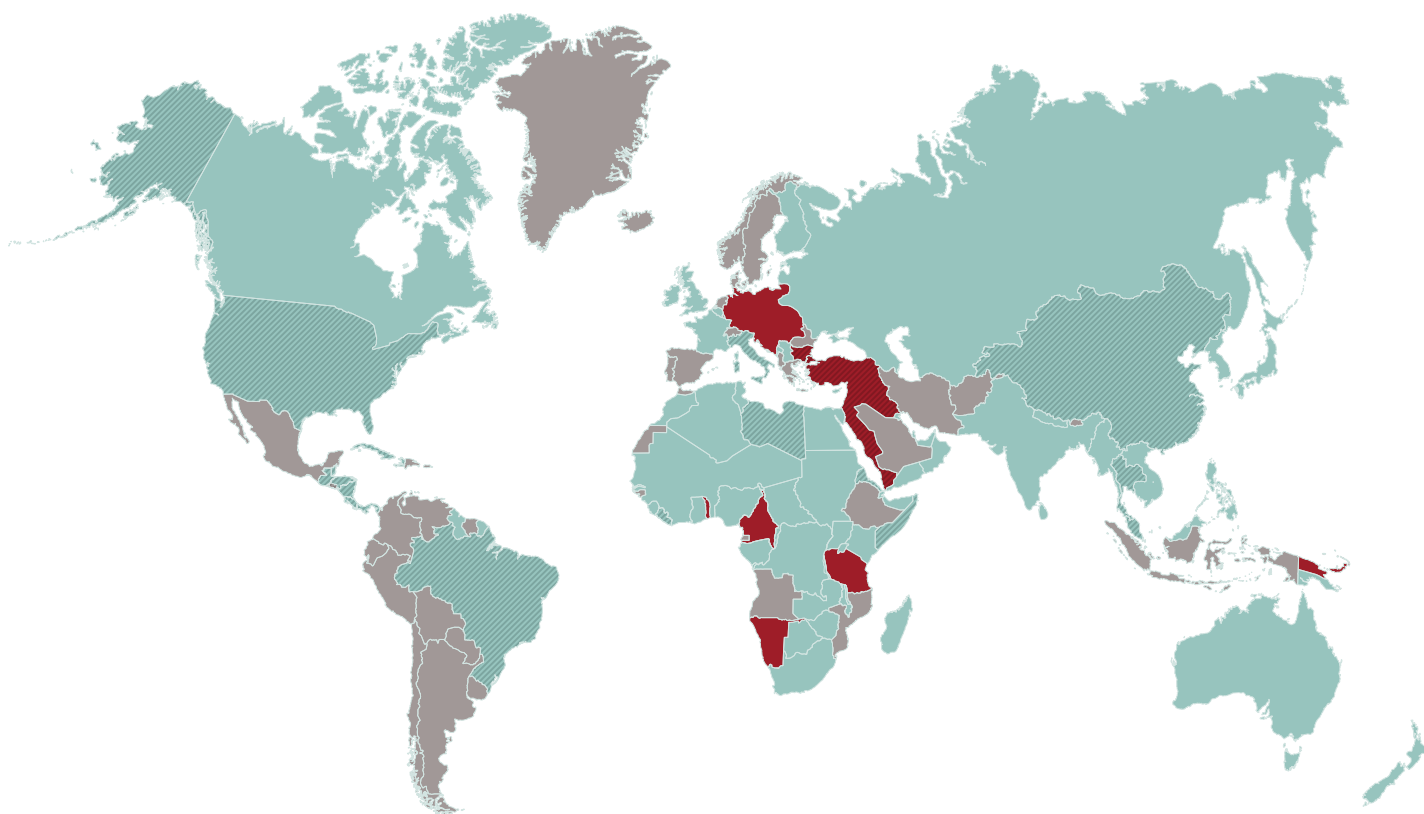
Leaving Certificate Students worksheet

NAME:

SCHOOL:

BEFORE YOU VISIT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

This map shows the world on the eve of World War I.
The different colours indicate countries that would
become involved in the conflict.



1 Name the two alliances involved
in the outbreak of war:

2 Based on what you have covered in class and on your own research, list the main tensions which developed between these two groups of countries. Write a few sentences to explain each of these tensions and how they came about.

TENSION

EXPLANATION

TENSION

EXPLANATION

TENSION

EXPLANATION

TENSION

EXPLANATION

WHAT ABOUT IRELAND?

In 1914, Ireland was still part of the United Kingdom and governed from London. In the run up to World War I, two armed groups faced each other.



3 Name the two leaders and the armed groups shown in these pictures.

GROUP 1: _____

GROUP 2: _____

LEADER: _____

LEADER: _____

When and why were each of these two groups formed?

WORLD WAR I WOULD BE DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS CONFLICTS INVOLVING IRISH PEOPLE.

When you visit the National Library you will find out about the lives of 4 people in particular:



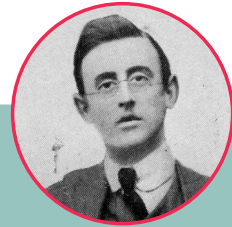
**MICHAEL
O'LEARY**



NORMAN LESLIE



**MARY
MARTIN**



**JOSEPH
PLUNKETT**

4 Can you guess some of the ways the war would impact on Irish people?

[illegible]

When you visit the library, you'll get to examine primary sources about what happened to Irish people during the War. Keep your guesses in mind to see if the evidence supports them.



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WHEN YOU VISIT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

Welcome to World War: Ireland. In this exhibition you'll find out about how the War affected Ireland and what it was like for Irish people with different backgrounds and beliefs.

You can complete the questions in any order, so if it's a bit busy at one part of the exhibition, you might like to try a different question and come back when it's quieter.

A GLOBAL WAR

World War I was a new kind of conflict: a war of attrition, however in 1914 people in Ireland had little idea of what was in store. Instead they faced a variety of messages about the coming conflict.

1 Have a look at the items from the National Library collection which appear in 'Road to War' (the screen to the left of the world map). What kind of sources can you identify?

2 Do you think any of these sources are propaganda? If so, write the down why you think this is the case

CHALLENGING CHOICES

Irish people had conflicting choices about what to do in response to the outbreak of World War I. Their decisions were shaped by their own circumstances and by politics and society in Ireland at the time, which was divided over the issue of Home Rule.

- 3** Take a look at the exhibition. Pick out the different ways Irish people reacted to the war. Explain the reasons for their choices.

- 4** Choose one item from the display cases in front of 'Challenging Choices'. Does it support or oppose the war? What choice does it suggest other Irish people should make and why?



**'ACCOUNT YOURSELVES
AS MEN, NOT ONLY
FOR IRELAND ITSELF,
BUT WHEREVER THE
FIGHTING LINE EXTENDS,
IN DEFENCE OF RIGHT,
OF FREEDOM, AND
RELIGION IN THIS WAR.'**

John Redmond addressing Irish Volunteers,
Woodenbridge, Co. Wicklow, 10 September 1914.

[illegible][illegible]

[illegible][illegible]



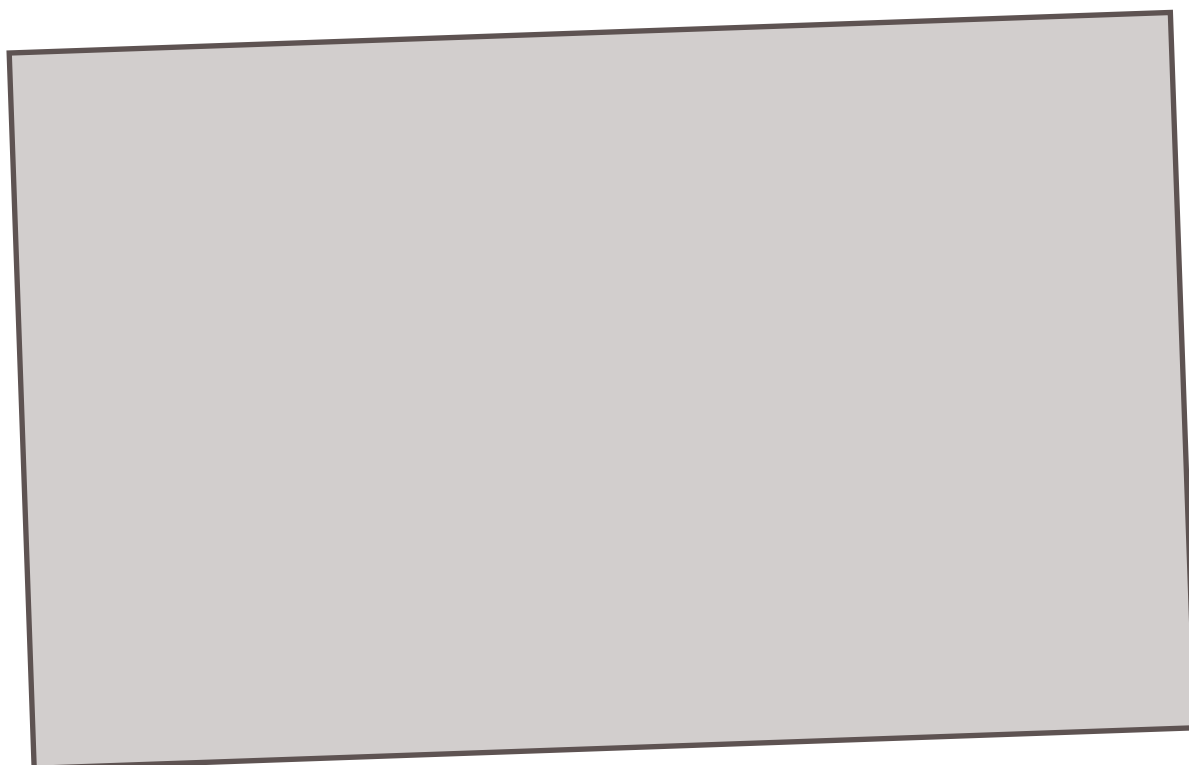
FRONT LINE LIVES

Many Irish soldiers were only a year or two older than you when they set off to fight in France, Belgium, Turkey and elsewhere. They were joined by thousands of people who served in medical and chaplaincy roles.

People at the front line kept in touch with friends and family back home using letters and postcards – over 12 million letters were delivered to soldiers by the British post office every week!

6 Read about the lives of Irish people at the front lines and examine the items in the display case (underneath 'Getting to the Front' and 'Armed Forces').

Imagine you are a soldier or non-combatant at the front line. Fill out this postcard with your thoughts about what the war is like.



POETRY/MUSIC SECTION

Irish writers and artists worked to respond to the dramatic and terrible events of the war – some even fought themselves.

8 Choose one of the poems or songs on the listening post. What feelings does it express about the war? Describe the words and imagery it uses to communicate its message.



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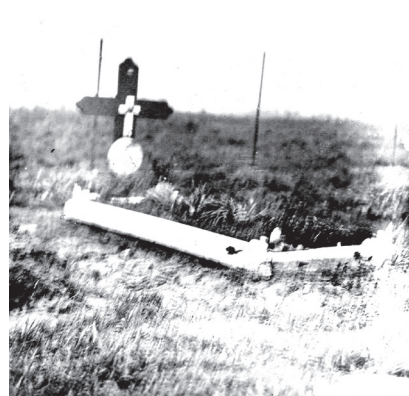
NAME:

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AFTER YOUR VISIT

1 Look back on the guesses you made about how the war might have impacted on people – did the evidence you found in the exhibition change your mind? List anything which surprised you here:

2 Choose one of the 4 exhibition characters. Write from their perspective about what they experienced during World War I and why they chose to respond in the way they did?





3 The ways in which people remember World War One have changed over the years – especially in Ireland. Based on what you saw in the exhibition, what you have covered in class and on your own research, write about how the war was remembered at 3 different points in time:

1919

1950s

TODAY

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

More stories from the exhibition - [\[NLI WWI microsite link\]](#)

Archive film with Irish memories of the war - www.rte.ie/worldwar1/

The complex way the war was commemorated - www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/britain_wwone/ireland_wwone_01.shtml

Just how many Irish people died? Historians debate the evidence: www.irishtimes.com/culture/heritage/irish-soldiers-in-the-first-world-war-who-where-and-how-many-1.1884022

The amazing story of how letters were delivered to the front www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zqgtmyrd