

TEACHER'S NOTES**SECTARIANISM****NEWSSTAND****ATTACKS****INTRODUCTION:**

The central objective is to develop an understanding of how cultural identity is expressed in Northern Ireland where there are many common means of expressing it such as murals, flags, music and language. Our cultural identity can be immensely enriching, providing individuals with a sense of social solidarity. However, there can also be negative consequences and challenges to expressions of cultural identity.

KEY QUESTIONS:

- How do we express identity in Northern Ireland?
- How do conflicts of identity arise?

TIME: 2 hours (2 double periods)

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This lesson offers students opportunities to explore:

- The diversity of cultural identity in Northern Ireland
- The importance of cultural identity in Northern Ireland
- The challenges of cultural identity in Northern Ireland

Throughout the lesson students will have opportunities to:

- Understand that perception of cultural identity is not shared by different groups
- Develop an openness about accepting that there are a variety of groups in their community and that each has a range of rights and needs
- Improve their thinking skills and ability to manage information

RESOURCE: newspaper articles

Article A: "Fear still stalks streets of White City" Irish Times 23/08/04

How violence is still taking place despite the ceasefires and how Protestants feel about their identity and culture.

Article B: "A community poisoned by paramilitary intimidation" Sunday Tribune 21/03/04

How Catholics have been intimidated out of their homes in Ballysally, Coleraine, though some local Protestants deny there is a problem.

Article C: "Terror purge drives Catholics out of homes" Sunday Tribune 27/07/03

How Catholics have been intimidated out of an estate in Magherafelt, Co Londonderry.

Article D: "Unionist ethos is being eroded" Newsletter 13/08/04

How large numbers of Protestants have left the west bank of the River Foyle in Londonderry and those who remain living there feel unwanted and unsafe in the city

PREPARATION:

Teacher should recap with students what sectarianism is. Record on board definition decided from previous lesson.

Lesson progression

The two publicly recognised traditions in Northern Ireland are those of Catholic/ Nationalist and Protestant/Unionist. It would appear that each tradition has striven to establish itself as separate, different and in many ways superior. Many aspects of cultural identity such as language, murals, flags etc have been established to ensure the two traditions appear as mutually exclusive.

1. Article A suggests that Protestants in Northern Ireland don't view their cultural identity in the same way
 - a) Briefly describe the two main views on the importance of the Protestant cultural identity in Northern Ireland
 - b) Can you suggest reasons why there is this difference of views
2. Using Articles B, C and D
 - a) Identify and explain the main aspects of cultural identity that have been a source of conflict
 - b) Describe the conflict that has resulted
 - c) Are these actions sectarian? Give reasons for your answer
3. Using all 4 articles
 - a) Describe in your own words what you have learned about the term 'ethnic cleansing'
 - b) Describe how individuals, groups and organisations have attempted to deal with the conflict. For each one record what they have said or done to respond to sectarianism and how others have responded to this

Homework

Using the internet or local newspapers gather evidence of sectarian conflict in Northern Ireland during the past week and record all events.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY:

Conduct a Q&A session during which students should identify countries where sectarianism exists.

(Pupils could begin by taking a look at 'Case Study – India' in the Sectarianism section of this site. Also details of 7 religious conflicts are included in World Religions, in the Religion section of this site.)

- List countries on the whiteboard and ask students to carry out research into one of these countries. They should focus on:
 - a) the nature of sectarianism in that country
 - b) how individuals, society and the government deal with it
- Students should bring along the information they have gathered from their research the following week
- A further lesson could be used to compare Northern Ireland with other countries