

Murals:

'superficial images'

or

'a significant part of the political process'?

'Reading Images'

with supporting

'Collective Memory'

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About this unit

Reading images

The basic but powerful technique of reading images involves providing pupils with a photograph or other visual image as a source of information and requiring them to look harder, find patterns, or make inferences and connections to what they already know.

As with other thinking strategies, it is important for pupils to justify their thinking.

The ability to read images is crucial in a study of history as historical sources of evidence commonly appear in a visual form. Pupils are required to demonstrate competencies in areas such as comparing and contrasting, drawing inferences, assessing usefulness and recognising interpretation.

Graphic organiser

In this case pupils will use murals from Northern Ireland along with a graphic organiser of concentric circles to focus their study of attitudes and behaviours.

This diagram can be used for different purposes, but in this case pupils are guided

to annotate what they can see in the *inner circle*;
what they infer or interpret as meaning in the *middle circle*;
evaluate in the outer circle in terms of audience, purpose, usefulness, point of view etc; while they can draw their own conclusions and observations outside *the circles*.

This methodology relates to the levels of response with which teachers are familiar from GCSE mark schemes. It is recommended that the A4 diagram provided is enlarged to A3 for pupil use. In practice it has been found that having each mural in A4 enables pupils to work collaboratively. Laminated sets are shared around the class and passed around.

Collective memory exercise

In order to prepare pupils for this exercise, a collective memory activity has been included to set the context. This strategy has been used in a previous unit of work about Oliver Cromwell.

In 'Collective memory' pupils work in small groups to recreate an image, map, poem, or other item that has an obvious physical structure.

They take turns to look at and memorise a central image for a limited length of time before returning to the group.

After each turn, groups reflect and plan the next visit. After a few visits each, pupils are asked to compare their versions with the original. As before, it is recommended that the A4 diagram provided is enlarged to A3 for pupil use.

Chronology

Also included in the package is a chronological overview of events in twentieth-century Ireland, which progressively develops a greater emphasis on Northern Ireland. This is intended to be used to provide, and support, pupils' knowledge and enable them to draw conclusions about the murals as historical evidence.

About murals

What are murals?

'Painting large murals on the ends of the terraces of houses has become a way by which both sides in the conflict can have a say about what is happening. They are also a form of urban art and a means of propaganda. These paintings are very large, sometimes beautiful, and take a great deal of time and effort to complete.' Thus one school textbook dealing with the conflict in Northern Ireland introduces a selection of murals.

What functions do mural perform?

There is a good deal of discussion about why murals are painted and the functions they perform in Northern Ireland. The big question is are murals simply good to look at or do they have something significant to say about and contribute to the political process in Northern Ireland?

The answer is not straightforward.

In the first place, they can be simply good to look at and used to *illustrate a point*.

Secondly, they can be used as probes to explore what people think or believe. The *symbolic content* is important.

Thirdly, murals can be *objects or symbols in their own right*, making their own individual statements and contributions to the political process.

The murals exemplified here are suggestions. A wide range of murals, both loyalist and republican are available from existing IiS resources for teachers to consider for preference or suitability.

Gables end Murals to be replaced

Owen Bowcott
Ireland correspondent

The Guardian, Wednesday, 12 July 2006

Photograph: Paul McErlane/Reuters

Paramilitary murals, such as the one on the right glorifying the Ulster Freedom Fighters in west Belfast, will be replaced under a government-funded scheme to redecorate Northern Ireland's gable ends and public spaces with more welcoming images.

The £3.3m project, unveiled yesterday, is to be administered by the Arts Council as a means of helping communities present themselves in a more positive light and develop a 'shared future'.

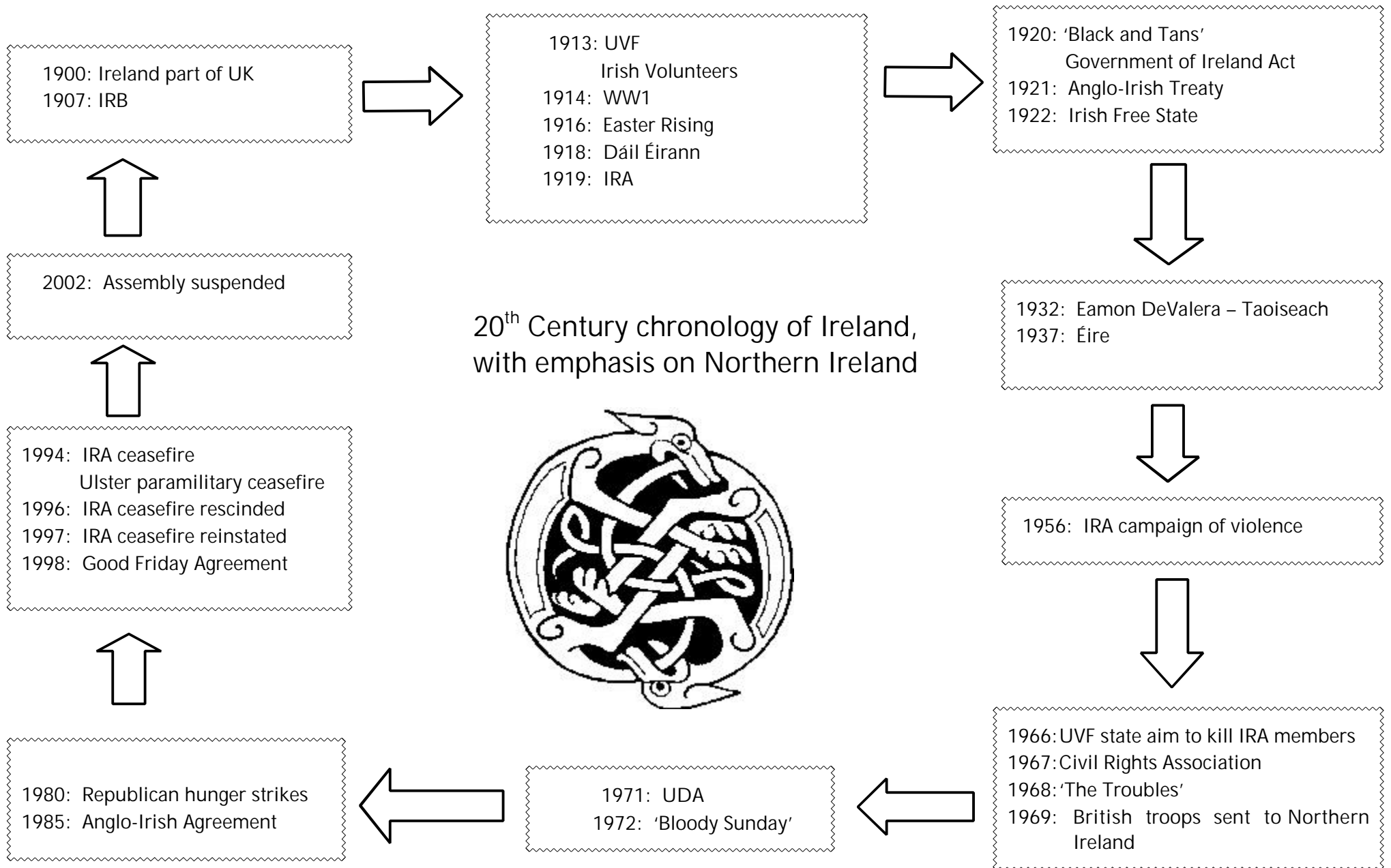
But the proposals were criticised by some tour guides. 'Tourists can see a lot of contemporary history in the Bog-side,' William Kelly, a tour guide, in Derry, told BBC Radio Ulster. 'It's a picture book that shows the last 35 years of conflict.'

Roisin McDonagh, head of the Arts Council in Northern Ireland, said: 'This project is not just about replacing Murals but also about getting people to think more broadly about how art and artists can improve their quality of life in local neighbourhoods.'

Some paramilitary murals should be in museums, she said. 'They are about our troubled past. We are a society moving forwards.'

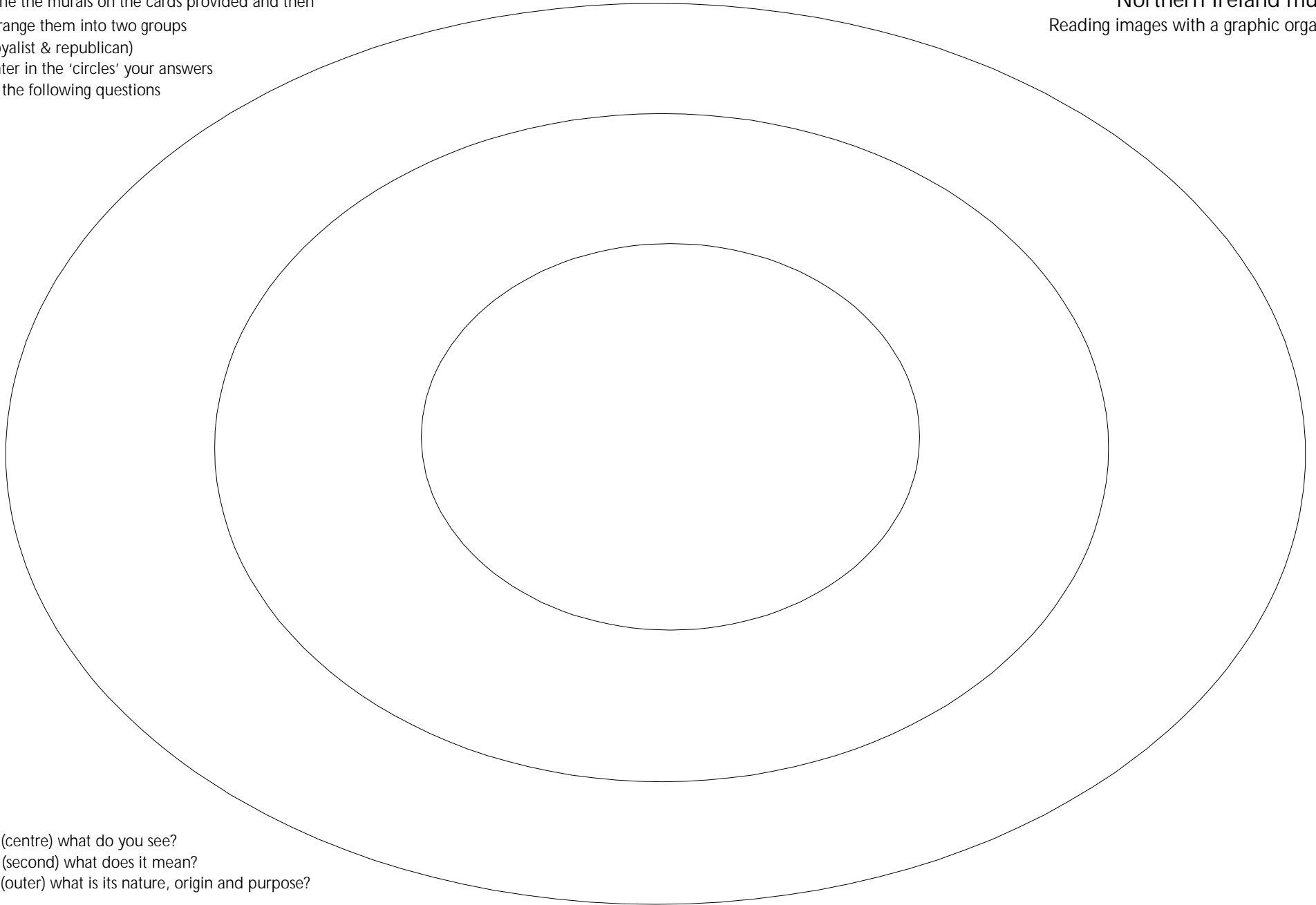
Endorsing the scheme, the Northern Ireland Office minister David Hanson said it would be up to local communities to decide what they wanted. 'In Tullycarnet in east Belfast they have put a local Victoria Cross winner up on a mural; that is very positive.'





Examine the murals on the cards provided and then

- i. arrange them into two groups
(loyalist & republican)
- ii. enter in the 'circles' your answers
to the following questions



- a. (centre) what do you see?
- b. (second) what does it mean?
- c. (outer) what is its nature, origin and purpose?

Loyalist murals



1



2



3



4



5



6

Republican murals



7



8



9



10



11



12

Key to murals

1. Craven St Belfast, 1986 (*Loyalist*)

Ulster Division at the Battle of the Somme, 1916 (left) and contemporary Ulster Volunteer Force prisoner at Long Kesh (right).

2. Tulleevin Drive, Newtonabbey, 1988 (*Loyalist*)

Red Hand of Ulster, with feet, dances on the Irish tricolour in protest at the Anglo-Irish Agreement, with Union Jack, Ulster flag and 'No Surrender'.

3. Bonds St, Derry, 1997 (*Loyalist*)

Based upon an Iron Maiden album cover. An avenging figure moves among the bodies of dead nationalists with a view of the war-ravaged republican Bogside area of Belfast.

The slogan above the mural reads:

There must be no/ retirement. With our/ backs to the wall and/ believing in the justice/ of our cause, each one/ of us must fight to the/ end.

We determine the guilty/ we decide the punishment.

4. Ohio St Belfast, 1985 (*Loyalist*)

Armed loyalists of 1st Battalion B Company, with flags and emblems of Ulster Volunteer Force and Young Citizen Volunteers, and statement of intent:

'The UVF reserve the right to strike at republican targets where and when the opportunity arises.'

5. Ballymena, 1991 (*Loyalist*)

Bart Simpson as loyalist, standing on neck of Gerry Adams, portrayed as a rat. 'Garryduff Road loyalists'.

6. Mount Vernon Rd, Belfast, 1995 (*Loyalist*)

Armed loyalist of 3rd Battalion, North Belfast, of Ulster Volunteer Force, with emblems of Ulster Volunteer Force, Protestant Action Force and Young Citizen Volunteers. 'Prepared for peace, ready for war.'

7. Rossville St, Derry, 1994 (*Republican*)

Boy with gas mask and petrol bomb during Battle of Bogside, 1969.

8. Rockmount St, Belfast, 1981 (*Republican*)

'Blessed are those who hunger for justice'; dying hunger striker with rosary beads, H of H Block and Blessed Virgin Mary.

9. Falls Rd, Belfast, 1995 (*Republican*)

Mural commemorating 150th anniversary of the An Gorta Mór, the Great Hunger, the Great Famine.

10. Falls Rd, Belfast, 1988 (*Republican*)

Mural to celebrate birthday of Nelson Mandela, 'father of freedom'.

11. Whiterock Rd, Belfast, 1991 (*Republican*)

'Éirí amach na casca 1916-1991' (Easter Rising); 75th anniversary of Easter Rising, with portraits of signatories of Proclamation of Independence, phoenix rising from the flames and sunburst.

12. Fahan St, Derry, 1992 (*Republican*)

Portrait of 14 victims of British Army paratroop regiment, Bloody Sunday, 1972.

What & how have we learned?

Working in pairs, consider the following types of thinking:

- Information processing skills
- Reasoning skills
- Enquiry skills
- Creative thinking skills
- Evaluation skills

Suggest what you think each of these types of thinking require you to do.

Which of these types of thinking do you think you have most used in this task?
Explain why you have decided this.

In which other subjects have you used this type of thinking?
Explain what, when and how you have used it.

Which life skills could this type of thinking prepare you for?

20th century chronology of Ireland

with emphasis on Northern Ireland

- 1900: The island of Ireland had been part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland since 1801 when it had lost its own parliament.
- 1907-10:
- Irish Republican Brotherhood, IRB, a group of **nationalists** in existence from 19th Century, began to change in nature and organisation, and by 1913 became armed and trained in military drill to fight for Irish home rule.
- 1913:
- The Ulster Volunteer Force, UVF, formed by Edward Carson, as a militant group of **unionists** to oppose Irish home rule.
 - The Irish Volunteers formed to “safeguard the rights of the Irish people” and so fight for Irish home rule.
- 1914:
- First World War began
 - The Irish Volunteers split into 2 groups: the National Volunteers (about 160,000) supported the British war effort; and the ‘Irish Volunteers’ (about 2-3,000) who refused to join the British Army, but defend Ireland with its own military organisation.
 - The Irish Citizen Army emerged as a small but disciplined army to fight for Irish home rule, workers’ rights, and resist splitting the country. Its HQ banner read “We serve neither King nor Kaiser but Ireland”.
- 1916:
- The Easter Rising - an anti-British rebellion in Dublin led by a small group of Irish Volunteers, ICA and the Military Council of the IRB. The National Volunteers took no part. The rebellion was put down by the British Army, but set off a chain of events which changed the course of Irish history.
- 1918:
- UK general election – Sinn Fein won 73 seats – refused to attend British Parliament – formed their own Parliament, called **Dáil Éireann**.
- 1919:
- Dáil Éireann declared Ireland an Independent Republic – the British government refused to accept it.
 - The Irish Republican Army, IRA, was formed from militant members of Irish Volunteers. It stayed independent of Dáil Éireann. Michael Collins led them in attacks on the police.
 - Start of the War of Independence – until 1921.
- 1920:
- Group of British ex-soldiers formed ‘Black and Tans’ to help police fight Republicans, soon joined by ‘Auxiliaries’ – burned down centre of Cork in revenge for IRA killings.
 - Government of Ireland Act – split, or partitioned Ireland into two parts:
 - Northern Ireland (6 counties: Antrim; Armagh; Down; Fermanagh; Londonderry; Tyrone; as well as the boroughs of Belfast and Londonderry). Some 66 per cent Protestant. All agreed to accept home rule within the UK.
 - Southern Ireland (the remaining counties and boroughs). Some 90 per cent Catholic. They refused to accept anything short of independence.
- 1921:
- The Anglo-Irish Treaty ended the War of Independence but began a period of civil war.
 - Northern Ireland to be governed by the Ulster Unionist Party government, based at Stormont in East Belfast.
- 1922:
- Southern Ireland became the Irish Free State, and remained part of the British Commonwealth.
 - IRA began a militant campaign against government of Irish Free State for agreeing to partition. The civil war ended in 1923.
 - Michael Collins murdered.
- 1932:
- Eamon DeValera, leader of Fianna Fáil party, previously leader of Sinn Féin, became Prime Minister, or Taoiseach, of Irish Free State.
- 1937:
- Irish Free State renamed Éire in a new constitution.
- 1939:
- Éire declared ‘neutrality’ in Second World War.
- 1949:
- Éire became a republic.
 - Britain stated that Northern Ireland was to remain with the UK for as long as its people wished to do so.

- 1956:
- IRA revived the demand for 're-unification', and began a campaign of violence in Northern Ireland. Ended in 1962.
 - The Ulster Volunteer Force re-formed, dating back originally to 1912, and stated its aim to kill IRA members.
- 1967:
- With Catholics in Northern Ireland complaining of injustices, inequality in the voting process, and unfairness in allocation of jobs and houses, the Civil Rights Association was formed to campaign for "one man, one vote".
- 1968:
- A civil rights march in Derry ended in violence and was filmed by live TV cameras.
 - This point is seen as being the start of 'The Troubles'.
- 1969:
- Severe rioting took place between Catholics and Protestants in Ulster.
 - British troops were sent in to keep the peace.
 - IRA split into two: 'Official IRA' – moved away from violent methods; and 'Provisional IRA' – aimed to force the British out of Ulster by armed struggle. This organisation was seen as illegal in both the UK and Republic of Ireland.
- 1970:
- Alliance Party formed with members from both sides.
 - Social Democratic & Labour Party formed – mainly Catholic, committed to a united Ireland by peaceful means, and fiercely opposed to IRA violence.
 - Ulster Defence Regiment set up to support RUC and British Army but not allowed to work in trouble spots unless commanded by army officers.
- 1971:
- Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) formed and led by Ian Paisley.
 - The Ulster Defence Association (UDA) formed as an umbrella organisation for loyalist groups, including the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF), and eventually became illegal as a terrorist group.
- 1972:
- 'Bloody Sunday' – 14 unarmed men and boys shot dead and 13 wounded by British paratroopers at a Civil Rights Association march.
 - Northern Ireland was taken under 'direct rule' by the British Government, with a Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in the Cabinet.
- 1973:
- By the end of the year, nearly 700 civilians and 200 British soldiers had been killed in Ulster.
 - Sunningdale Agreement. Power sharing Assembly established.
- 1974:
- Ulster Workers' Strike brings down Faulkner and Assembly. Direct rule re-imposed.
- 1980:
- Republican Hunger Strikes in Long Kesh Prison. Ten hunger strikers die by 1981.
- 1985:
- Anglo-Irish Agreement signed.
- 1994:
- Peace Declaration.
 - IRA ceasefire August 31.
 - Ulster paramilitaries declare ceasefire October.
- 1996:
- IRA ceasefire rescinded.
- 1997:
- IRA declares ceasefire on July 21.
- 1998:
- Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement signed on April 10.
 - Amendments to Articles 2, 3 and 29 of the Irish Constitution passed by Referendum.
- 1999/2000:
- Legislative Assembly and Power-sharing Executive formed at Stormont to govern Northern Ireland with all-party support.
- 2002:
- Assembly suspended.

Northern Ireland - conflict through wall paintings (murals)

Examine the murals on the cards and then

- arrange them into two groups (loyalist and republican) and
- complete the following table of the main features of the murals.

	Use of				
	Colour	Images/symbols	Historical references	Personalities	Language
Loyalist murals					
Republican murals					