The Plantations

Ireland c.1400 to c.1700
• What was the situation in Ireland around 1400?
• Who were the different groups of people living there?
• What was meant by 'plantation'?
• Why did the British organise 'plantations'?
• How many plantations were organised?
• Which English Kings/Queens or Ruler organised each one?
• What did the 'planters' have to do?
• What happened to the native Irish?
• How successful was each plantation?
• How was Ireland changed by the 'plantations'?
Changes in Ireland up to 1500s

- 7,000 BC Evidence of 1st people, (Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age)
- 4,000 BC 1st farmers (Neolithic)
- 2300 BC Bronze Age
- 500 BC Iron Age and arrival of the Celts who settle and intermarry
- 400-500 AD Christianity introduced and growth of monasteries
- 800 AD Vikings begin raids, later they settle and intermarry
• 1170 AD Normans arrive from England and intermarry
• Stone castles and feudal system introduced in some areas
• Middle Ages: growth of towns & cities
Henry VIII claimed to rule all of Ireland but really only had full control over the Pale (the area around Dublin)
3 Groups of people living in Ireland

- Gaelic Irish Tribes and Clans
- Anglo-Norman (Anglo-Irish) Tribes and Clans
- People living in 'the Pale'
Gaelic Lords and Clans

- Descended from Native Irish and Celts
- Spoke Irish
- Followed Brehon (Gaelic Law)
- Mostly Roman Catholic
- Celtic/Gaelic style clothes/fashion: heavy cloaks, long hair, moustaches, bare feet
- Land owned by tribe or clan
- Chief elected by the clan
- O'Neill's of Tyrone, McCarthy's of Cork
A Now when into their fenced holdes, the knaves are entered in,
To smite and knocke the carrell downe, the hangmen doe beginne.
One plucketh off the dress coat, which he even now did weare:
In the lacking pannes, to boyle the flesh, his hide prepare.

C These thieves attend upon the fire, for serving up the feast:
D Ind Pleat in a sleight sitting in, both peace amongst the best.

who playth in Romish toyes the Aspe, by counterfetting Paul:
For which they doe award him then, the highest room of all.
Who being set, because the chere, is deemed the least worth:
Except the same be intermit, and lack with their myth.
Both Bake and Harper, is prepared, which by their cunning art,
Doe strike and cheare by all the gales, with comfort at the harts.
• 1536 English King Henry VIII introduces Act of Supremacy establishing Anglican (Protestant) Church of Ireland
• Many native Irish Lords and Norman Lords refuse to convert
Anglo-Irish Lords and Clans

- Descended from Normans (English) + some from Celts/Native Irish
- Spoke mix of English and Irish
- Mostly followed English (Common) Law
- Clothes and fashion mix of Gaelic and English style
- Mostly Roman Catholic
- Lord owned land
- Lord's son inherited title and land
- Fitzgeralds of Kildare
- Butlers of Kilkenny
The People living in the Pale

- Mostly descended from Normans
- Spoke mostly English
- Followed English Common Law
- Had English style fashion and clothes, clean shaven
- Most joined the Anglican Church of England (Protestant)
King Henry VIII and the policy of Surrender and Regrant

- In 1500s only the Pale was really under English control
- Many other parts of Ireland were ruled by Gaelic or Anglo-Norman lords/chieftains
- In 1541 Henry VIII was pronounced King of Ireland and decided to use 'Surrender and Regrant' to get more control in Ireland
What was Surrender and Regrant?

- Gaelic and Anglo-Norman lords/chieftains gave (surrendered) their land to the King.
- The King promised to give back (regrant) the land and give the lords and English title (Earl) (so a chieftain might become Earl of Kildare or Earl of Cork etc...)
Advantage of Surrender and Regrant for Gaelic lords/chieftains

• Under the Gaelic system the clan owned the land and a new chieftain or lord was chosen by the clan (not necessarily the son of the last chieftain)

• Under English Law the Lord/Earl owned the land and one of his sons would inherit the title and the land

• So by accepting the English system chieftains could keep power/property for their sons
Disadvantage of Surrender and Regrant for Gaelic lords/chieftain

- If a lord/chieftain who accepted Surrender and Regrant later decided to rebel against the king, the king and the English government could confiscate the land from him because in theory they owned the land and were just letting lord control it for them.
How successful was Surrender and Regrant

- Henry VIII hoped Surrender and Regrant would give him more control in Ireland but many Chieftains or Lords did not accept the offer and even those who did weren't always loyal or obedient to the king
A new policy: Plantation

- The English government decided the best way to get control in Ireland would be to get English people to settle in Ireland.
- They would speak English, follow English law, spread English customs, be loyal to the English King or Queen, pay taxes and even fight for the King or Queen if necessary.
- The English government decided to take land from Gaelic Irish and Anglo-Norman Lords who weren't loyal and give it to settlers who would be loyal.
What was Plantation?

- Mary I, Elizabeth I, James II and Oliver Cromwell decided to send troops and 'planters' or settlers to Ireland in order to strengthen their control of the area.

- Planters would also help spread the English language, English Common Law and English customs (and later the Anglican religion).

- Planters got land which was confiscated from Irish tribes/chieftains who were defeated by the English troops.

- 3 groups got land: Adventurers or Servitors (soldiers), Undertakers, and Loyal Irish.
Plantations in Ireland 1550-1610

- English Settlers
- Scottish Settlers
- English & Scottish Settlers
- Privately Planted

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Queen Mary I and Laois-Offaly Plantation

- Queen Mary I did not really have control over most of Ireland
- Irish lords and chiefs continued to rule their own areas
- Irish chiefs sometimes had attacks or raids on the Pale and other parts of Leinster
How did Queen Mary get land to give to the 'planters'?

- The English government sent troops to attack and defeat the Irish lords who attacked the pale or who refused to obey the English government.

- Their land was then confiscated and given to (a) English soldiers (b) English settlers or planters or (c) Irish lords and chiefs who were loyal to the English government.
What did the Planters have to do?

- Planters or settlers would have to speak English, use English Common Law, follow English customs.
- They were also supposed to help defend the Pale and other areas from attack by Irish who weren't loyal to the English.
How successful was the Laois-Offaly Plantation?

- 2/3 of the confiscated land was supposed to go to English settlers but none came over.
- Most of the confiscated land went to loyal Irish lords but they continued to speak Irish, follow Gaelic laws and customs.
- Attacks on the Pale continued.
- So overall the Laois-Offaly Plantation was not that successful.
Queen Elizabeth I and the Munster Plantation
Queen Elizabeth I and the Rebellion by the Fitzgeralds of Desmond

• In 1579 the Fitzgeralds of Desmond (Lords in Munster) rebelled against Elizabeth

• She sent 8,000 soldiers called 'adventurers' to get control of Munster
Defeat of the Fitzgeralds of Desmond

• Fighting went on for 4 years and many crops were destroyed, 30,000 were killed or fled abroad

• Eventually the Fitzgeralds were defeated and their land and the land of any lords who supported them was confiscated

• In all \( \frac{1}{2} \) million acres of land was confiscated by the English government
Elizabeth 1's phrase book

Irish, Latin, English,

Conpectatu, Quomodo habes, How do you.
Tant go maith, Bene sum, I am well.
Go no maith again, Habeo gratias, I thank you.
In color tegal, Possis ne, can you.
Dor laudan, hibernice loqui, speke Irish.
Abas ludden, Dic latine, Speake Latten.
Dialepinean, Deus aduan, God save the
parona, Regina Angliae, Queene off
Englande.
Planning the Munster Plantation

- Confiscated land was divided into estates of 4,000, 8,000 and 12,000 acres
- Each estate was given to a man called an 'UNDERTAKER'
  - He had to undertake or promise to:
    - Bring English families to Ireland as servants and as tenants to farm the land
    - To pay for soldiers to protect them
    - NOT to employ Gaelic Irish or rent land to them
    - To follow the protestant Anglican religion
Aims of the Munster Plantation

- To spread the English language in Ireland
- To spread English farming methods
- To spread the protestant Anglican religion
- To spread English common law
- To increase English control in Ireland
How successful was the Munster Plantation?

- More successful than the Laois-Offaly Plantation but not as much as the English government hoped
- New plantation towns were built
- New farming methods and breeds of animals were introduced
- But:
  - Only 4,000 settlers came instead of 20,000
  - Undertakers ended up renting land to Gaelic Irish and Anglo-Irish tenants
- During the Nine Years War (1594-1603) some planters were attacked and fled to towns or back to England
King James VI of Scotland (James I of England) and the Nine Years' War

• By 1590s England controlled much of Ireland but Gaelic clans controlled Ulster

• In the Nine Years War the Gaelic Lords (with the help of the Spanish) fought the English

• In 1603 King James I made peace with the Gaelic lords

• But the English continued to interfere and try to get more control in Ulster
The Flight of the Earls

• In 1607 the main Gaelic Lord in Ulster Hugh O'Neill and other Gaelic Lords left Ireland hoping to convince the Spanish to help them defeat the English but they didn't succeed and never returned to Ireland.
King James I and the Ulster Plantation

- James decided to organise a plantation in Ulster
- 5 million acres of land was confiscated
- Estates of 1,000, 1,500 and 2,000 acres were divided up
- They were given to UNDERTAKERS, SERVITORS AND LOYAL IRISH
Who were the planters?

- Undertakers were English and Scottish Settlers
- Servitors were mainly English and Scottish soldiers
- Loyal Irish were Gaelic landowners who had been loyal to the king
What did the planters have to promise to do?

- Pay rent to the king
- Build stone houses and bawns (walled courtyard)
- Undertakers had to bring English and Scottish settlers to rent their land
- Undertakers and Servitors had to promote the protestant religion and English common law
- Undertakers had to build new towns and bring in craftsmen from England
Stone House and Bawn
Londonderry

- King James convinced London companies to send craftsmen to County Derry (renamed Londonderry)
- Craftsmen were given areas of the county where they set up their workshops
- They built new towns including Londonderry with walls around the town for protection
- Gaelic people had to live outside the walls of the town in an area known as the Bogside
Craftsmen in County Londonderry
Londonderry town
What impact did the Ulster Plantation have?

- New roads and towns were built (Londonderry, Coleraine)
- New farming methods and crops were introduced
- Many English and Scottish people moved to Ireland
- The new settlers were protestant (Anglican or Presbyterian)
- More stone houses and bawns were built
- 40% of the land in Ireland was now owned by Protestants
- There was tension and sometimes violent conflict between the protestant settlers and the catholic natives (many of whom had lost their land when it was confiscated by the king)
Oliver Cromwell

- In England James I died and was succeeded by Charles I
- Between 1642 and 1649 there was a civil war between the King and the Parliamentarians led by Oliver Cromwell
Cromwell becomes Lord Protector

- Cromwell defeats and executes Charles I and is named Lord Protector of England
- A rebellion against the English had begun in Ireland
- Cromwell arrives in Dublin with 12,000 well armed, well equipped soldiers to put down the rebellion
Cromwell gets control of Ireland

- Cromwell captures Drogheda and massacres the soldiers who defended the town
- Dundalk and Trim surrender without a fight
- Wexford, Clonmel, New Ross and Youghal are captured
- Cromwell returns to England in 1650 and leaves his son-in-law to continue getting control of Ireland
- Limerick captured 1651, Galway 1652 and eventually all of Ireland under English control
The Cromwellian Plantation

- Cromwell gave land to Adventurers who had lent money for the army and to Servitors who had fought in his army.
- Land was confiscated from anyone who had revolted against the English.
- Those that lost land were 'transplanted' west of the Shannon to Connaught ('To hell or to Connaught').
- Some were deported to Barbados.
- By 1660, 80% of land in Ireland owned by Protestants.
How was Ireland changed by the Planations

• Ireland came under English rule
• Large numbers of settlers from England and Scotland came to Ireland
• This meant that the English language, English common law, English culture and customs and the Protestant religions (Anglican or Church of Ireland and Presbyterianism) became more widespread in Ireland
• The landlord system became widespread and landlords were mostly protestant
• Rich Landlords sometimes known as the Protestant Ascendancy took over from the Gaelic and Anglo-Norman lords as the powerful ruling class in Ireland
Other changes resulting from the Plantations

- New towns were built
- The landlord system became widespread
- New crops and farming methods and enclosed farms were introduced into Ireland
- New industries were set up
- English common law replaced Gaelic Brehon Law
- Tension and conflict between Catholics and Protestants
- Anti-Catholic Penal laws introduced in 1600s
Plantations: Key Words and Facts