

Fifth & Sixth Class

History Revision

Chapter 1: Buildings and Ruins in My Area

- The name of an area can provide information about it. For example: Baile – town, Cill – church, Áth – ford, Dún – fort, Carraig – rock, Rath / Lios – Fort, Ard – high / tall, Mullagh / Mullach – top or top of mountain, Glen – valley
- St. Mary's Church in Drom was built in 1829. It is a replica of the Big Chapel in Thurles.
- Knocka Castle looks to have been once a great house with a Norman tower nearby for refuge.

Chapter 2: Let's Communicate

- In the past, people communicated using cave paintings, smoke signals, drums, flags and semaphore.
- Samuel Morse invented Morse code in 1837 by transmitting signals using wire. A system of dots and dashes was used to spell out words.
- Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876.
- Guglielmo Marconi sent and received the first radio signal in 1895.
- John Logie Baird invented the first working television. The first human face was televised in 1925. The first colour transmission was in July 1928.
- The first computers were developed in the 1940s.

Chapter 3: Explorers Over Time

- Early explorers set out to find trade routes, treasures, glory for their countries and sometimes to spread religion.
- Marco Polo (1254 – 1324) travelled to China along the Silk Road.
- Christopher Columbus (1451 – 1506) sailed west across the Atlantic in search of Asia. He found land in the Caribbean Sea. He believed he had landed in the Indies and China.
- Conquistadors, were Spanish explorers who travelled to America in the 16th century and took control of Mexico and Peru. Hernan Cortes conquered Mexico from the Aztecs, while Francisco Pizarro conquered the Incas in Peru.
- Ferdinand Magellan (1480 – 1521) led the first expedition that sailed around the world. Unfortunately, he was killed before completing the journey.
- Roald Amundsen (1812 – 1928) was the first person to reach the South Pole in 1911.
- St. Brendan the Navigator was born in Kerry in 484 and sailed west in a small boat called a currach.

- Tom Crean (1877 – 1938) was involved in three expeditions to the South Pole, two with Robert Scott and a third with Ernest Shackleton.
- Pat Falvey led the first Irish expedition to reach the South Pole in 2008.

Chapter 4: The Aztecs

- The Aztecs were a wandering people who left their home in Atzlan (North West Mexico) to find new land.
- They were led by their leader to swampy land in the middle of Lake Texcoco. Here they built the city of Tenochtitlan. The Aztec Empire had begun.
- Acamapichtli was their first Emperor.
- Huitzilopochtli, the Sun God, was the most important god.
- The Aztecs believed in life after death and believed that how they died affected what happened to them in the next life.
- Warfare was an important part of everyday life and their wealth grew as they conquered more land.
- Most Aztecs were farmers.
- Women wore skirts while men wore a poncho or cloak with a loincloth underneath.
- Hernan Cortes conquered the Aztec Empire in 1521 for Spain.
- The Aztecs had initially welcomed Cortes and his army, thinking he was a messenger from the Gods.

Chapter 5: The Kingdom of Benin

- The Kingdom of Benin is in modern day Southern Nigeria, Africa. It became very powerful between 1200 and 1300 AD.
- Most of the 'Edo' people made their living from farming. Yams were their main food. They were famous in Africa as warriors, traders and skilled metal workers.
- Benin City was the capital. It was the centre of a rich, well-organised empire.
- During the 15th Century, Portuguese explorers began to trade with the people of Benin. The Portuguese traded gums, oils, black pepper and ivory in exchange for fabrics, copper and beads.
- The artists of Benin were very talented and skilled and produced some of the most wonderful art in Africa.
- The kingdom was ruled by the all-powerful king called an Oba who was believed to be a God.
- In the 18th century, the power of the Kingdom of Benin began to decline due to power struggles among the people.

Chapter 6: Revolution and Change

American Revolution

- From the 1600s, British colonists sailed to America to settle. Britain ruled 13 colonies there.
- After the Seven Years War (1756 – 1863) between Britain and France for control of North America, Britain decided to bring in taxes making the colonists pay for the costs of the war:
 1. 1764: Sugar Act: Tax on sugar
 2. 1765: Stamp Act: Tax on printed materials
 3. Quartering Act: Americans had to house and feed British troops.
- Americans throughout the 13 colonies protested against 'taxation without representation' as they had no vote in the British parliament but yet had to pay taxes.
- On 16th December 1773, sixty men protested against the Tea Act by dumping an entire shipment of tea into Boston Harbour. This act gave one company the sole right to sell tea to the colonies. Boston harbour was closed by King George III and no food could be shipped in.
- The American War of Independence started on 19th April 1775 when British troops were attacked near Boston when they tried to seize guns and ammunition. The Americans were helped by the French.
- On 4th July 1776, the American Congress issued the Declaration of Independence stating they had a right to 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness'.
- The American Revolution ended on 9th October 1781. George Washington, the Commander-in-Chief of the American army became the first president in 1789.
- The Society of the United Irishmen was set up in Belfast in October 1791. Theobald Wolfe Tone was its leader. He hoped to unite Catholics and Protestants and to reform the Irish Parliament.
- In December 1796, Wolfe Tone brought 15,000 French troops to Bantry Bay to help the cause of the United Irishmen but storms prevented them from landing.
- The British Government introduced Martial Law from March 1797 (The army takes over the rule of law). Many acts of violence and destruction were carried out as soldiers searched for weapons.
- The United Irishmen decided to rebel without French aid. The Rising began on 24 May 1798.
- The Government successfully put down most of the rebel attacks.
- Fr. John Murphy from Boolavogue led the rebels in Wicklow. They captured Enniscorthy but failed to take New Ross. The Battle of Vinegar Hill took place on 21 June. The rebels were defeated in a bloody battle.
- The Act of Union in 1800 ended the Irish parliament and brought Ireland tighter under British control.

Chapter 7: An Gorta Mór

- The Great Famine took place from 1845 – 1851.
- More than half of the population lived in small mud cabins on tiny plots of land. They depended on the potato crop which needed little space, equipment or skill to grow and yielded a high crop.
- In 1845, a disease called blight killed the potato crop. When the blight destroyed the potato crops every year from 1845, the people faced starvation and death.
- Many months passed before the British government admitted help was needed. They left the responsibility of feeding the poor to different charities.
- In 1845-46, the British Prime Minister, Sir Robert Peel, organised some aid. Indian corn was bought from America. Many people did not have the money to buy the corn.
- Relief schemes such as canal and road building were set up to provide work for the people, but some workers died of starvation before ever receiving their wages at the end of the week.
- Food was exported throughout the famine.
- Workhouses were set up to help people. Conditions were terrible. Men worked for ten hours a day breaking stones while women had to knit. Families could not meet except during mass on Sundays.
- The Society of Friends, known as Quakers, set up the first soup kitchens to help feed the poor. Later, the government set up soup kitchens.
- It is estimated that almost one million people died, and another million Irish people emigrated on coffin ships during the famine. Ireland's population was over 8 million in 1841 but by 1851 it was reduced to about 6.5 million.

French Revolution

- By 1787, the French government was bankrupt after several expensive wars. Wealthy people, nobles and the clergy did not have to pay taxes. Peasants, on the other hand, had to pay many taxes.
- Queen Marie Antoinette was accused of spending too much on luxuries while peasants suffered due to a lack of food following poor harvests.
- Up until then, the nobility and the clergy controlled parliament but the middle and poorer classes grew tired of waiting for change and formed their own National Assembly.
- Rumours that the King was going to close the National Assembly led to an angry mob storming the Bastille prison on 14th July 1789. The French Revolution had begun. Liberty, Equality and Fraternity was the motto of the revolution.
- In the countryside, peasants and farmers revolted by attacking the estates of their landlords.
- King Louis XVI (16th) and his wife, Queen Marie Antoinette were executed by guillotine.
- The National Assembly passed the Declaration of the Rights of Man on 4th August 1789.
- A new constitution was introduced in 1791. France was declared a republic.

Rebellion in Ireland

Chapter 8: Irish Cultural Revival

The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)

- In the late 19th century and early 1900s, people started to take a greater interest and pride in their own country.
- In November 1884, Michael Cusack founded the Gaelic Athletic Association to encourage the playing of Irish games and draw up rules showing how these games should be played. Maurice David was the first president of the GAA.
- Members were encouraged to play hurling, football, handball and rounders while being banned from playing non-Gaelic games such as rugby or cricket. Members of the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) and the British Army were banned from becoming members.
- The first All-Ireland Championships in hurling and football were organised in 1887.
- A national stadium was built and named Croke Park after its patron, Archbishop Croke of Cashel.

The Gaelic League

- In 1893, Douglas Hyde and Eoin Mac Neill founded the Gaelic League to preserve and restore Irish as a spoken language. Branches throughout the country organised Irish classes, concerts and dances.
- From 1899, the Gaelic League published an Irish language newspaper called 'An Claidheamh Soluis'. Pádraig Pearse was the editor from 1903 – 1909.

Irish Literature and Art

- The poet W. B. Yeats wrote poems and dramas that were inspired by Irish myths and legends.
- The Irish National Theatre, the Abbey, was formed by Yeats and Lady Gregory to put on Irish plays.
- The Arts and Crafts Society of Ireland was founded in 1894. This encouraged Irish artists to present their work in exhibitions.

Chapter 9: Easter Rising 1916

- Since the Act of Union in 1800, Ireland had been under British rule.
- When World War I began in 1914, some Irish people thought it was a good time to make plans for an uprising against the British.
- In May 1915, the Military Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood began to plan a rising. The members of the council were Pádraig Pearse, Eamonn Ceannt, Joseph Plunkett, Thomas Clarke, Seán Mac Dermott, James Connelly and Thomas MacDonagh. They sent Roger Casement to Germany to buy arms. He was captured with the arms and hanged for treason.
- On the 24th of April, Easter Monday 1916, members of the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army occupied the General Post Office

(GPO) as well as other important buildings in Dublin city. One group of rebels took over the Four Courts and another group took over the South Dublin Union. They proclaimed the Irish Republic, read the Proclamation and raised the Irish flag.

- The British army initially suffered heavy casualties. Reinforcements arrived from England. The British army shelled the GPO and other buildings. After a week of fighting, the leaders of the rising surrendered. Many civilians died in the cross-fire. The guns and fires had destroyed much of the city and the GPO was in ruins.
- At first, the Rising was very unpopular with people in Dublin and throughout the rest of Ireland. However, this opinion changed when the British executed many of the leaders of the Rising after a court martial in Kilmainham Jail between the 3rd and 12th of May 1916. The executed leaders were gradually seen as heroes.

Chapter 10: Let's Celebrate

- Festivals are celebrated for many reasons including marking an historic event, honouring an important person or as part of religious celebrations. Most ancient celebrations were linked with planting and harvest time or with honouring the dead and were designed to keep the forces of nature happy.
- Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November and marks the arrival of the first English settlers to America.
- Independence Day in the United States, which is celebrated on the 4th July, marks the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia in 1776.
- Mexicans celebrate 'Day of the Dead' on 1st November. Families pray for the souls of the dead and decorate altars and visit cemeteries.
- Carnival: Brazilians celebrate Carnival on the Saturday before Ash Wednesday. People dress up in costumes and there are parades with music, fireworks and street performers.
- Chinese New Year: The Chinese New Year is usually celebrated for 14 days in January or February. People wear red clothes, give presents and set off firecrackers. A lantern festival marks the end of the celebrations. The dragon dance is the highlight of the festival.
- Halloween may have come from the ancient Celtic festival called Samhain when the Celts celebrated the end of the harvest season by lighting bonfires to keep away evil spirits. Today people dress up and play Halloween games.
- Muslims take part in the fast of Ramadan.
- During Holi, a Hindu festival, people throw colourful powder at each other.
- Hanukkah is the Jewish festival of lights.

Chapter 11: Rosa Parks

- Rosa Louise McCauley was born in Tuskegee, Alabama on February 4, 1913 to Leona and James McCauley. Her parents separated while she was still young and she, with her mother and brother, went to live on her grandparent's farm in the nearby town of Pine Level.
- Rosa went to the local school for African-American children where her mother was a teacher. After finishing up elementary school at Pine Level she attended the Montgomery Industrial School for Girls. Then she attended the Alabama State Teacher's College in order to try and get her high school diploma. Unfortunately, Rosa's education was cut short when her mother became very ill. Rosa left school to care for her mother.
- Rosa met Raymond Parks, a barber, and married him in 1932. Rosa went back to school, finally earning her high school diploma.
- During this time, the city of Montgomery was segregated. Blacks were required to pay their fare to the bus driver, then get off and re-board through the back door where they were required to sit. They were also required to give up their seats to white passengers if the bus was full.
- On December 1, 1955, Rosa refused to give up her seat to a white man. The bus driver called the police. Rosa was arrested.
- Found guilty of breaking the law which required black people to give up their bus seats to whites, Rosa Parks was fined \$14.
- A boycott of the bus system was organised in protest at her arrest. More than 42,000 protestors refused to travel using the buses. They shared cars, cycled or simply walked the long distances to work. The boycott was extended for 381 days and ended when the Supreme Court ruled that the segregation laws in Alabama were unconstitutional.
- Rosa Parks is often called the 'Mother of the Civil Rights Movement'

Chapter 12: Martin Luther King

- Martin Luther King was born in Atlanta, USA, on 15 January 1929. His father was a Baptist minister and his mother was a school teacher.
- He was a good student and began college at 15. He became a minister and later went on to qualify with a PhD from Boston University.
- King organised a bus boycott following the arrest and imprisonment of Rosa Parks.
- During the boycott, King was arrested and jailed. His home was bombed, and threats were made against his life. He became a leader of the Civil Rights Movement.
- He married Coretta Scott in 1953. He wanted to change segregation laws that made black people use separate fountains, toilets and restaurants.

- He organised marches and peaceful protests so that black people could have the same rights as white people.
- Black people lived in terror because of the violence of the Ku Klux Klan, a group of white people who attacked black people.
- In 1960, students who supported the Civil Rights Movement organised sit-ins which involved them refusing to move from cafes, restaurants or hotels that refused to serve black people. They were beaten by the police and arrested.
- In 1961, Freedom Rides began in Washington DC. Groups of black and white people travelled on buses together around the South to challenge segregation. The buses were attacked and stoned. In 1961, the law was changed, and black people were given equal rights to sit where they wanted to on the buses.
- In 1962, King met with John F. Kennedy to talk to him about the Civil Rights Movement.
- In August 1963, King delivered his famous 'I have a dream' address at a march in Washington DC. *'I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.'*
- In December 1964, he was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize.
- On 3rd April 1968, King spoke at a march in Memphis, Tennessee. He was assassinated the following day while standing on the balcony of his hotel room. He was 39 years old.

Chapter 13: Women Who Dare!

- 2700BC: The Egyptian Merit Ptah is thought to be the first female doctor.
- 42BC: Hortensia was the first woman to lead a march for women's rights, protesting the unfair taxes on women.
- 1893AD: New Zealand was the first country to grant all women the right to vote.
- 1903AD: Marie Curie was the first woman to receive a Nobel Prize for physics, for the discovery of radium.
- 1918AD: Countess Markievicz was elected the first female Member of Parliament in Ireland.
- 1932AD: Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.
- 1960AD: Sirimavo Bandoranaik from Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, was elected Prime Minister on 20 July 1960. She became the first female Prime Minister in the world.
- 1963AD: The Russian cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova was the first woman in space, spending three days orbiting the Earth.
- 1990AD: Mary Robinson was elected the first female President of Ireland.
- Suffragettes were brave and courageous women who were dedicated to getting women the vote.
- Women got the vote in Ireland in 1918.

Chapter 14: The Bronze Age

- The Bronze Age lasted for nearly 2000 years, from about 2600BC to 600BC.
- Bronze Age houses were circular. The builders began building the house by driving strong wooden posts into the ground. They wove light branches from trees between the posts to make a wattle wall. Next they made a type of plaster called 'daub' from mud and straw and they used this to cover the walls. They used straw or reeds to make a thatched roof.
- Bronze Age people kept cattle, sheep, goats and pigs. They grew crops of wheat and barley, which they used to make porridge. They also grew flax, which they used for making cloth.
- In the Bronze Age, people began using metal to make stronger, harder tools and weapons. They mixed copper and tin to make bronze.
- Bronze Age monuments can still be seen around Ireland. Standing stones are one example. They were probably used to mark the area where ancient meetings took place or where an important person was buried. Bronze Age people also built Stone circles. The celebrated events in these stone circles.