

ulster-scots curriculum Project



MEET THE ULSTER-SCOTS
Signs Symbols and Myths

PUPIL BOOKLET



What Is Ulster-Scots?



Before we begin work on this unit let's make sure we all understand what is meant by the term 'Ulster-Scot'.

Do you know exactly where and what 'Ulster' is? If not, you will need to find out.

You could use a search engine on the internet for this. Here's how -

go to www.google.co.uk/

You can now type in the word 'Ulster' and see what suggestions you are given.

Look at more than one suggested website for the answer.

Remember anyone can create a web page. You should always cross check the information you get from the internet to make sure it is accurate and up-to-date.

Just because it is there does not mean it is correct!



What Is Ulster-Scots?



So now you know that Ulster is one of the four provinces of Ireland.

The other three are Munster, Leinster, Connaught.

The province of Ulster is made up of nine counties: Down, Tyrone, Antrim, Londonderry, Fermanagh and Armagh which are all in Northern Ireland and Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan which are part of the Republic of Ireland.

THE PEOPLE

The term 'Ulster-Scots' is used to name the people in the six counties of Northern Ireland and the three border counties of (East) Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan in the Republic of Ireland whose ancestors came across to Ulster from Scotland.

There have been comings and goings across the short stretch of water between the eastern coast of Ulster and south-west Scotland for hundreds if not thousands of years. Most of the people who regard themselves as Ulster-Scots today trace their ancestry to Scots who came over in the 16th or 17th centuries although others have come more recently. Sometimes this group of people is easily recognised by their surnames—names such as McGregor or Stewart - but sometimes, because of marriage, their name might not reflect where their family originally came from.

IT'S THE WAY THEY SPEAK

The term 'Ulster-Scots' is also used in another way. It is the name used for the form of Scots which this group of people and others in these areas speak.

The Ulster-Scots are proud of their links with Scotland. Connections between the two countries can still be seen today for example in Scottish country dancing classes and the popularity of pipe band music as well as in the design of golf courses in Northern Ireland and an interest in the poetry of Robert Burns. Now let's find out some more.....

Word Association

To begin, let's play a word association game. Write down the first thing you think of when you see or hear the following words:

BAGPIPE

FIDDLE

ULSTER.....

CRAIC.....

LAMBEG DRUM

THE UNITED IRISHMEN

EMIGRATION TO AMERICA

SCOTLAND



Word Association



Now get into groups of 4-6. Discuss the answers which each one in the group came up with for the Word Association task.

- Was there something several of the group associated with a particular word?
- Why do you think this was?
- Was there any word where every person in the group thought of something different?
- Was there any word the members of the group had never heard before?

STEREOTYPE

- Find out what the word 'stereotype' means.
- Now in your group discuss the dangers of stereotyping people.
- Try to think of examples from history where groups of people have been stereotyped. What happened to them?



True or False?

In groups discuss the following statements.

Decide which you think are true and which are false.



Before the twelfth century Gaelic was the main language spoken on the island of Ireland

In the seventeenth century hundreds of Scots came over to settle in Antrim and other parts of Ulster

They brought English with them so people began to use both Gaelic and English

Ullans is another name for the Ulster -Scots language

Words like sleekit, sheuch, skitter and gulder are Ulster-Scots words

All Ulster -Scots speakers are Protestants

cultural Identity

It is important not to 'stereotype' any group of people. We are all individual and different. However we all have a sense of our cultural identity which we can share and celebrate with others.

Cultural identity is made up of a number of factors. Our family background, our parents, where we were born, our religion, the language we speak - all of these factors (and others) help to determine our cultural identity.

Northern Ireland is now a multicultural society with people from all over the world living here. Some of them may follow different religions or even speak a different language from us as their first language at home.

This cultural diversity is a good thing as it helps us to appreciate just how small our world really is and how we must all work together to help make it a better place.

Task

Research a different nationality or different religion.

You should find out as much as you can and then select the most interesting and relevant information for a 2-minute talk to the class (with or without a PowerPoint presentation) or a written project for display in the classroom.



cultural Identity



The nineteenth century Ulster-Scots Weaver poet, Samuel Thomson, wrote these lines:

I love my native land, no doubt,
Attach'd to her thro' thick and thin;
Yet tho' I'm *Irish all without*,
I'm every item *Scotch within*.

Samuel Thomson

In groups discuss:

- what you think Thomson meant by this verse
- if it is possible to feel an affinity/closeness with more than one culture
- does anyone in your group or class have a parent or grandparent from another country? How do they feel about their sense of cultural identity?

Find Out

How many different nationalities are represented in your class i.e. count any relatives from countries other than Ireland or relatives who have emigrated and include ancestors if you know where they came from. Or perhaps you could find out how many different countries in the world people from your class have visited.

You could create a class map of the world with all the different nationalities or destinations marked on it or you could make a histogram or pie chart to show the different nationalities represented.



The influence of the Ulster-Scots can be found in every county in Ulster (and in many places all over the world!).

Find out how many people in your class have a surname which you think might have originated in Scotland e.g. Campbell, Stirling, Dunlop, Burns or Stewart.
(For a longer list of Scottish surnames go to <http://www.electricscotland.com/webclans/clanmenu.htm>.)

When you have gathered the information about your class you could display it as a pie chart showing the number in the class with Scottish-linked names. and the number who do not have Scottish names. Or you could draw a histogram showing the ratio of Ulster-Scots names in your class and the ratio of such names among girls and among boys.

PLACE NAMES

Some surnames originate from the names of places. Can you find 5 Scottish towns or cities which are often found as surnames in Ulster?

TARTANS

Take your list of Ulster-Scots surnames and try to find if there is tartan to go along with these names. Here is a website where you could begin your search:

http://www.tartans.scotland.net/find_tartan.cfm

Wearing the tartan has come to represent all things Scottish but it started as the normal rough clothing of the poor folk of the highlands of Scotland. It was not until the Victorian era that tartan and kilts became more generally used and acceptable.

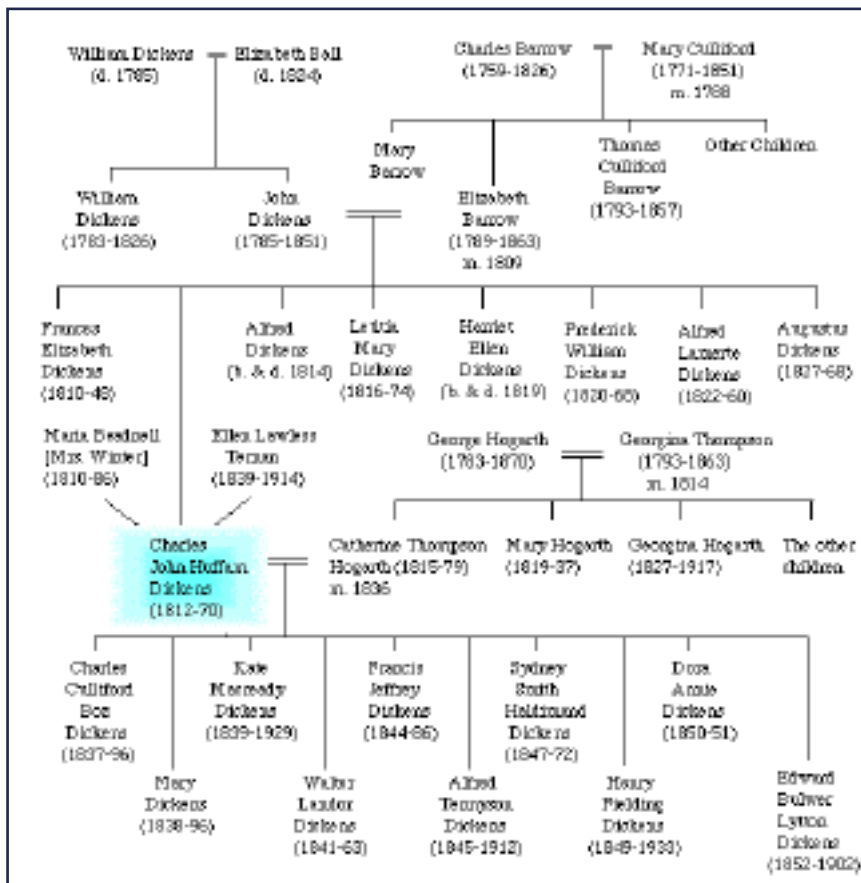


Hunting Stewart Tartan



The official State of California Tartan

Family Tree



We have been thinking about our origins; where our families come from. Many people want to research their family tree.

You are now going to draw out your family tree. You can do this using a framework like this one which is the family tree of the novelist Charles Dickens who wrote books like *“Oliver Twist”* and *“A Christmas Carol”* which you may have read.

Or you could use family photographs to show your family tree like this—



Symbols and Emblems

People sometimes express their sense of identity or belonging by choosing a symbol or emblem like a flag to represent the nation, country or group to which they feel they belong.

Can you identify any of these flags? Write your answer in the box underneath each flag.



Argentina



France



Portugal



Brazil



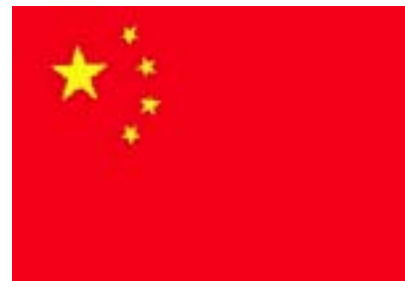
Germany



Ukraine



Italy



Symbols and Emblems

Here is the flag of the four provinces of Ireland.

Which quarter represents the province of Ulster?



Task

Work with a partner. You have a choice of 3 tasks.

TASK 1

Gather scraps of differently coloured paper and/or material and recreate one of the provincial flags. Stick your materials on a sheet of manila card. Make a list of the equipment you will need before you start.

TASK 2

The Ulster flag features a red hand. Why? Research and make a poster for display explaining the history of the “Red Hand” symbol.

TASK 3

Create a flag to represent your school. You will need to think about what aspects of your local area and your school in particular you would like to be reflected in the flag.

3 SCHOOL FLAGS



The Ulster-Scots settled in each of the nine counties of the province of Ulster, though today they are to be found mainly in Antrim, Down, north-west Derry and east Donegal.

People often feel very close to the landscape of the area they live in. We say that they identify with it, because some of their own personal identity seems to be linked to the familiar countryside or buildings in the place where they grew up. The picture below is of the Giant's Causeway. Most people from Northern Ireland would recognise this instantly and feel a sense of ownership of this famous landmark.



Task:

- Think about the whole of Ulster.
- List as many features of the landscape, whether natural or man made, that you would associate with different parts of it. Try to get at least two for each county. An example for County Down might be Scrabo Tower near Newtownards.
- Compare your list with a partner's.
- Choose six landmarks that you both feel best represent Ulster. They should remind people who live here of home. They should also be places that you would like people abroad to be aware of.
- Create a poster which includes pictures of these six landmarks with a brief caption for each one.



Who were these Ulster-Scots?

By now you should be aware that we all have our own sense of identity. No one is 'better' than another - just different.

Let's make sure you now know how the Ulster-Scots got their identity.

A glance at a map of the British Isles shows how close together the east coast of the north of Ireland and the west coast of Scotland are in relation to each other. They are about 15 miles apart at their nearest point. Today we can make this journey in under two hours on the HSS or about half an hour by plane.



In the 17th century it was actually easier to make a sea journey than a journey over-land. Therefore for trade it was easier to take goods across the Irish sea to-and-from Scotland than to transport them over difficult and often dangerous countryside southwards to Dublin. For this reason there was much coming-and-going across this short stretch of sea.

From early in the 17th century James I of England (the VI of Scotland) began the Plantation of Ulster, encouraging Scots and English settlers to move to the North of Ireland. About 800,000 acres of land were given over to the Plantation.

By 1640 approximately 100,000 Scots had taken up the opportunity. (About 20,000 English had also come.) Most of the Scots who came were Lowland Scots from Dumfries and Galloway in the west to Edinburgh in the east and they were followers of the Presbyterian Church.

In 1641 an uprising by the native Irish which resulted in many deaths among the Protestant population slowed the influx of settlers but it soon resumed so that by the end of the 17th century the north of Ireland was a stronghold for the Planters as they were called.

Of the nine provinces of Ulster, Down and Antrim were populated by the greatest number of Scots settlers, with quite a few in Donegal and Tyrone too. Fermanagh and Armagh were the destinations of most of the English settlers. Cavan and Londonderry had a mixture of both while only Monaghan could claim to be almost entirely native Irish in inhabitants.

Where in Scotland had they come from?

The Scots who came over to Ulster were Lowland Scots. They came mostly from the following counties or areas in Scotland:

Dumfries & Galloway

Renfrewshire

Ayrshire

Argyllshire

Lanarkshire

Edinburgh

Lothian

Berwickshire

Aberdeen*

Inverness*

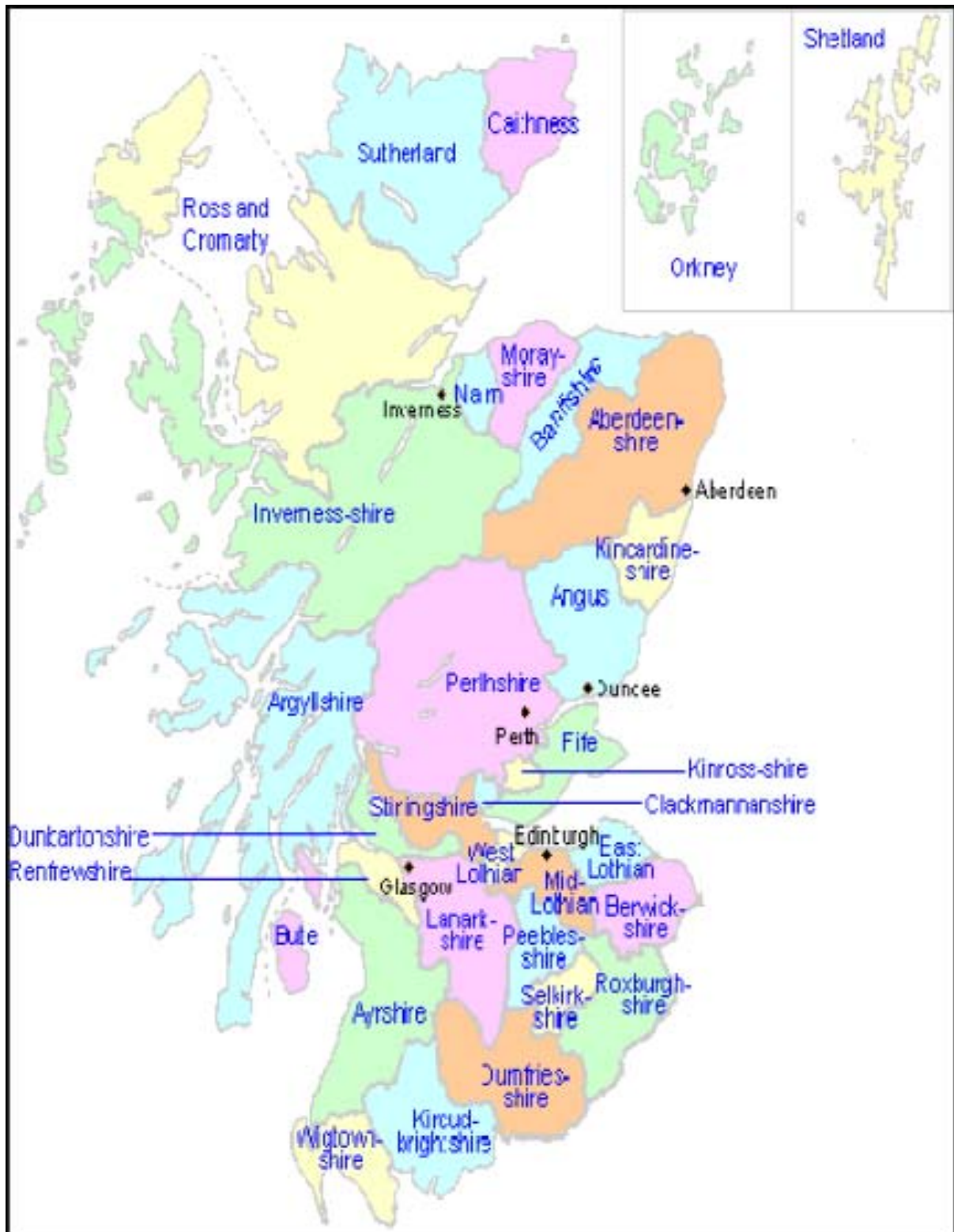
** Only a few came from these areas*

Task:

Here is an outline map of Scotland. On the following page there is a map of Scotland. Using it to help you, mark on the outline map the 10 areas from which the Ulster-Scots moved across to Ireland.



Key Question Map



“It’s jist the way we tak.”

Did you know that as you speak English you are using words from all over the world? The words ‘bungalow’ and ‘shampoo’ came into English from India; ‘balcony’ and ‘piano’ are Italian and ‘hamburger’ and ‘rucksack’ are from German. Of course, while we do not use all the same vocabulary as Americans, because we watch TV programmes and films from USA we all understand when someone talks about walking on the ‘sidewalk’ or drinking a ‘soda’.

Certain Ulster-Scots words have passed over into Ulster-English and you may have heard them or even use them. Some words you will probably never have heard. To finish this introductory unit of work you are going to try to match the Ulster-Scots words with their meanings. You will find the word, a picture and a clue on posters around the room to help you. “Guid luck!”

thole

brig

frae

heid

guldèr

sleekit

gunk

thrapple

neb

ferntickles

kye

tak tent!

weefla

redd

hirple

crabbit

kame

duncher

thran

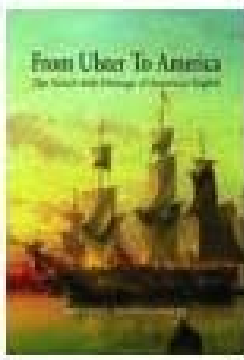
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Ulster-Scots Words Treasure Hunt

Ulster-Scots Word	Meaning
	cap
	bridge
	from
	nose
	yell or shout
	sly or cunning
	shock or surprise
	throat
	head
	awkward or stubborn
	cows
	Take care
	boy or lad
	tidy up
	limp, hobble
	short-tempered or cross
	comb
	put up with
	nag or whine
	freckles

The story goes on.....



When the largest group of Scots came to Ulster in the 17th century, that was not the end of the story. Their story had begun back in the mists of time when the very first Scot had climbed into his boat and sailed across to Ulster. It continues to this day when Scots come over to live in Ulster (and people from Ulster move across to Scotland too).

Not all the lowland Scots who moved to Ulster stayed in Ulster however. Just as life had been hard for them in Scotland, it could be hard in Ulster too. Some of the Ulster-Scots decided to move on and crossed the Atlantic to seek a better life in America where they became known as the Scots-Irish.

You can follow their story in Ulster and in America in the other units in 'Key into Ulster'.



A wall mural from County Down showing links between Ulster and America



Americans are now coming to Ulster to trace their Scots-Irish family roots.

Personal Evaluation Sheet

It is always useful to take time to think over what we have done; how we have done it and how we could improve. This is your chance to think about the work you have completed in this unit.

WHAT I DID WELL	WHY I DID THIS WELL
WHAT I HAD DIFFICULTY WITH	WHY WAS THIS DIFFICULT FOR ME

In order to improve my work I will

.....

.....