

## Activity Book for Schools 6

# Clothes Make the Soldier



### How do you decide what to wear?

Perhaps you try to look the same as your friends, or you might prefer certain colours or styles of clothing. The clothes you choose reveal things about yourself to other people.

If you wear a uniform, does it make you feel part of the school or the team? When you wear a uniform, it says you're part of a group, instead of revealing your taste as an individual.

**My Name:**

**Irish soldiers who served in different armies** over the past few hundred years wore the uniforms that are now on display in the *Soldiers and Chiefs* exhibition. In some ways a uniform makes all the soldiers in the same army look the same. In other ways, the uniform shows the differences among those soldiers.



**Be a History Detective**

- Examine the uniforms to discover the hidden codes.
- Look for clues about the soldiers who wore the uniforms and the armies in which they served.



**Enter the first room after the introduction space.**

# Uniform Codes in 'The British Garrison in Ireland'

## 1 What Is a Uniform? - Stop at the big display in the middle of the room.

A uniform is a recognisable kind of clothing worn by a group to identify themselves to each other and to other people. Uniforms often include codes (such as badges).

How many different kinds of uniforms can you find on the Stokes Tapestry in the middle of the room?



**Be a History Detective**

### Clue

- Look for people wearing identical coats and hats.

## 2 Stripes and Wings - Stop at the first display to the left of the exit.

At 'Part-time Soldiering' you will see a display with several military uniforms. Find the sergeant's jacket.



Draw the part of his uniform that reveals his rank is that of sergeant.



Draw one of the 'wings' on the shoulders of his jacket.

### 'Wings'

Look for another jacket that has similar fancy decoration on the shoulders. Soldiers who wore the jackets with wings belonged to an elite unit of infantry soldiers (soldiers trained to fight on foot).

### 3

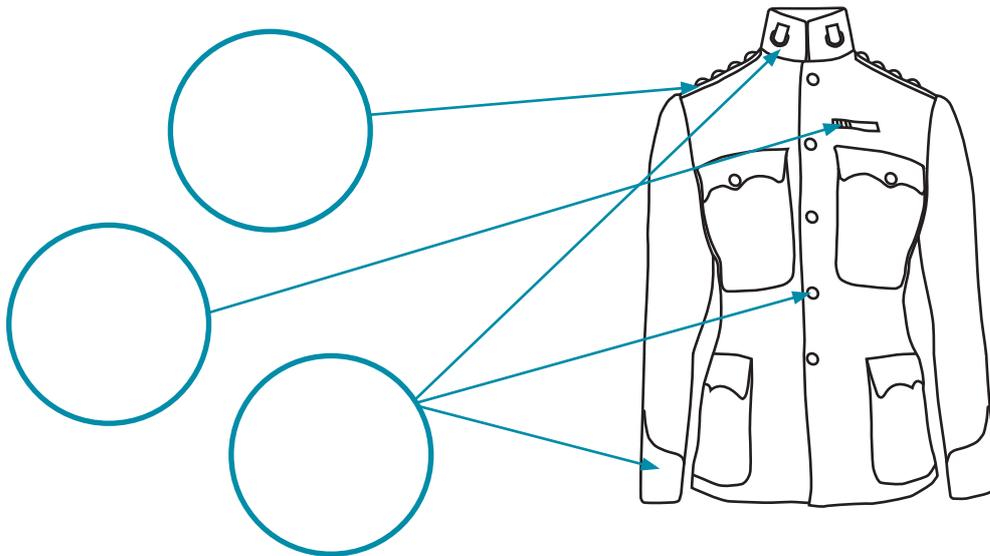
## The Tailor's Reference Guide - Stop at the last display to the left, in the corner.

Officers from many different regiments in the army ordered their own uniforms directly from a tailor. This tailor was an official supplier of uniforms for the British Army. He kept track of the army specifications for each regiment and recorded the orders from each customer.

A **regiment** is a group of soldiers in a permanent unit with its own history and traditions.



Look at the red jacket in the display case.  
Write the word 'regiment', 'soldier' or 'rank' in the circle that points to the matching codes on the jacket.



**Be a History Detective**

#### What to Look For

- Medals and ribbons tell us about the soldier's achievements, awards and where he served
- Symbols on buttons and collar badges show the regiment
- The colour of the cuffs and collar show the regiment
- The number of diamond shaped buttons on the shoulder straps shows the rank



Enter the next room.

## Uniform Codes in 'Warfare in Ireland'

### 4

## Looking Like a Soldier - Stop at the group of soldiers.

Examine the uniforms worn by the four soldiers in the centre of this room. If you saw them on the street, would you know that each one was a soldier?

Put a tick beside the soldier who is most obviously wearing a uniform.  
Put 'X' beside the soldier whose clothes look least like a uniform.

- Musketeer from The Nine Years War
- Pikeman from The Irish Wars of Religion
- Jacobite Grenadier from the War of the Two Kings
- Croppy Boy from the 1798 Rebellion



The Irish pikeman faces his enemy (who is in the display case) – the cavalry soldier with the yellow jacket in Cromwell's army. **Which one of these two soldiers wears an outfit that is better designed for the soldier's job on the battlefield?**

Irish pikeman

English cavalryman



**Leave through the doorway, walk past the row of helmets and enter the next room.**

## Uniform Codes in 'The Wild Geese'

**5** **Regimental Colours** - Stop at the soldier who stands beside the model of a battlefield.

The lifelike soldier in this room and the three soldiers on this page all served in different Irish regiments in the French Army. To find the regimental code, look for the parts on each uniform that have a different colour from the other uniforms.



Draw a line to connect the name of the regiment to the drawing of its uniform.



Dillon



Bulkeley



Berwick

Why do you think the regiments' colours were shown on their uniforms?



**Be a History Detective**

**Clues**

- Bulkeley's Regiment (green)
- Berwick's Regiment (white)
- Dillon's Regiment (black)
- Walsh's Regiment (navy blue)



**Enter the next room.**

## Uniform Codes in 'Irish in the American Civil War'

**6 Plain and Fancy - Turn right and stop at the soldier in the middle of the room.**

The two enemy armies in the American Civil War were called the Union Army (the north) and the Confederate Army (the south).

Most soldiers in the Union Army wore this plain blue uniform. But many soldiers chose to wear a more colourful variation, called the Zouave.

**Look for the Zouave uniform in the display on the wall to the left of the soldier.**



Compared to the regular blue uniform:

Is the Zouave jacket:

Plain

Fancy

Would the Zouave jacket be:

More expensive

Less expensive

If you were a Union soldier, which uniform would you have rather worn?

The regular uniform

The Zouave uniform

Give a reason for your answer

### Army Colours

Soldiers in the Confederate Army wore simple, grey uniforms. Look for a Confederate jacket beside the telescope in the first display along the wall.

7

## Epaulettes - Stop at the red uniform jacket in front of a large wall map.

This uniform belonged to William Ferguson, an Irishman who fought with Simon Bolivar's army in South America against the Spanish.

The uniform had a special decoration – **epaulettes** – attached to the shoulders.

**First look at the epaulette in its protective case – you are looking at it from above.**

What words would you use to describe its decoration?

Now look at the other epaulette. This is a side view, showing how it would fit onto the shoulder of the uniform.



Draw either the side view or the top view of the epaulette.

Epaulettes were first worn in the 18th century to identify officers. Epaulettes were worn on one or both shoulders, depending on seniority and rank. The word comes from the French *épaule*, meaning shoulder.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for drawing a side or top view of an epaulette.

Enter the next room.

## Uniform Codes in 'Irish in the British Service'

8

### The Code of the Red Sash - Turn right at the doorway, then turn left around the display case and stop near the end of the case.

Find a red jacket with a red sash and look at the painting and description of the uniform on its label. The long red sash draped over the left shoulder of this jacket (called a *coatee*) gives two pieces of information – **guess what they are from this list:**

- The soldier is an officer.
- He is undergoing punishment.
- He is from a Scottish highland regiment.
- He is a member of a light infantry company.
- He is the duty officer for the day.

# 9

## Codes for Zulu Warriors - Stop at the display on the other side of the three firearms.

Find a black and white African shield.

Armies from African societies also used visual codes for their warriors. For the Zulu, the more white that appeared on his cowhide shield, the more senior the warrior was.

Place the shields in order of seniority (A, B, and C), from most to least senior.



# 10

## The Elite of the Elite - Stop at the display in the middle of the longest wall.

Look at the display about 'Anglo-Irish Officers'.

Cavalry officers, such as Pakenham, thought they were the elite soldiers of the army because they belonged to the 'Hussars'. Examine this officer's fancy jacket and furry hat to discover how these uniforms conveyed the elite status of the light cavalry.

True or False? (Put a T or F in each box)

This uniform would have been ...

- very expensive
- practical to wear

- impressive to look at
- easy to keep clean



**Be a History Detective**

### Clues

- The fine quality and variety of the materials
- The very ornate decoration
- The impracticality of the uniform



Leave this room, cross the bridge, walk past the aeroplane, and enter the next room.

## Uniform Codes in 'The First World War'

### 11 Dressing for the Occasion - Cross to the opposite wall and stop at the first display.

Imagine you are a soldier in the army at the outbreak of the war. You have two uniform jackets to wear – a red tunic and a khaki jacket. **Draw the jacket you would wear for each occasion.**

The Occasion: Going to War

The Occasion: A Ceremonial Dinner



**Be a History Detective**

#### Clues

- For Wartime - A service jacket is made to be practical for battle and difficult for the enemy to see.
- For Peacetime - A dress tunic is made to be impressive for special occasions and to draw attention to the wearer.



Leave this room and go down the stairs.

## Uniform Codes in 'Claiming the Future'

### 12 Reinventing Uniforms - Turn left at the bottom of the stairs and stop at the display near the middle of the wall.

Look for the display called 'The Creation of the Irish Defence Forces'.

Examine the six dress jackets that are hanging in a row. Look at the overall colour and general style of all these officers' jackets to decide if they are:

Mainly the same

Very different

What parts of the jackets vary from one to another?





## Be a History Detective

### Clue

- The differences are codes for different branches of the Irish Army.

## Uniform Codes in 'The Emergency: Second World War'

- 13 Full-Time and Part-Time Uniforms** - Walk around the stairs, turn right and stop at the first display.

Compare the two uniforms in the display case near the stairs and decide:

Which soldier do you think would have got more attention if he wore his uniform in the street?

Full-time soldier

Part-time soldier

What uniform codes and features helped you to decide?



The Construction Corps Worker (the life-sized figure) wore a simple uniform for carrying out special duties, such as digging turf. **Do you think he is still a soldier when people cannot recognise his uniform because he takes off his shirt?**

## Uniform Codes in 'Training for Peace'

- 14 Specialised Uniforms** - Walk toward the exit and stop at any, or all, of the displays in this half of the room.

Look at the variety of uniforms and equipment worn by Irish soldiers. Now imagine you are an Irish Army soldier going on a mission. List the equipment and uniforms you need for each mission from the ones shown in these displays. Feel free to choose different pieces from different soldiers to help you with your mission.

**Mission A:** to operate as part of a United Nations force in an area where riots by civilians are expected

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**Mission B:** to operate in a training mission as a special operations soldier behind the enemy lines

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**Mission C:** to operate as part of the elite unit trained to rescue hostages from buildings

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### Codes in Your Clothes

Now that you understand many of the codes used in military clothing, think about the clothes that you and your friends wear.

**Do you ...**

- wear different kinds of clothes on school days than you do on the weekend?
- belong to a sports team that has a uniform?
- wear green on St. Patrick's day?
- have shoes that you wear only on special occasions?

Do any of the codes in your clothes use similar ways of sending messages as uniforms do – by colour, badges, or special ways of wearing the clothes?

## Now check your answers to find out if you cracked the codes.

- 1 What Is a Uniform?**  
Uniforms from different armies in two battle scenes  
Different uniforms from the same army for foot soldiers and cavalry soldiers (with horses)  
Uniforms worn by soldiers in the ceremony with the queen  
Police uniforms in the scene at the bottom
- 2 Stripes and Wings**  
Sergeant's jacket: three stripes = sergeant
- 3 The Tailor's Reference Guide**  
**Top circle – Rank**  
Two diamond-shaped buttons, plus a crown, on each shoulder strap show that a colonel wore this jacket  
**Middle circle – Soldier**  
Two medal ribbons on the chest  
Left – Egypt Medal for service in Egypt 1882-89  
Right – the Khedive Star, from the ruler of Egypt for British soldiers who took part in the campaigns in Egypt  
**Bottom circle – Regiment**  
Buttons down the front, badge on the collar (bugles for light cavalry regiment), dark blue collar and cuff for a royal regiment
- 4 Looking Like a Soldier**  
The Jacobite Grenadier wears a full uniform.  
The Croppy Boy does not wear a uniform.  
**British Cavalryman**  
The uniform worn by Cromwell's cavalry was better designed for the soldier's job on the battlefield because his thick jacket protected him from sword cuts.
- 5 Regimental Colours**  
The facings behind the buttons and the cuffs are all different colours.  
The soldiers could recognise their own and other soldiers' regiments. It encouraged the men in these units to work together.
- 6 Plain and Fancy**  
Fancy  
More expensive  
The regular uniform was more practical; the Zouave uniform was more stylish.
- 7 Epaulettes**  
Expensive, rich, gold and silver thread, embroidery, fancy braid, leaves and flowers, detailed. They were only used on formal occasions.
- 8 The Code of the Red Sash**  
He is an officer.  
He is from a Scottish highland regiment.
- 9 Codes for Zulu Warriors**  
From left to right: B, C, A
- 10 The Elite of the Elite**  
**Left column**  
True  
False  
**Right column**  
True: and his horse would have had a fancy saddle pad!  
False: it was hard to keep clean, but his batman (a servant) kept it shiny and in good repair; regular soldiers in the cavalry cleaned their own uniforms.
- 11 Dressing for the Occasion**  
Going to War – the khaki service jacket  
A Ceremonial Dinner – the red dress tunic
- 12 Reinventing Uniforms**  
They are mainly the same.  
The things that vary include:  
colour and style of the collar and cuffs  
badges on the epaulettes  
presence or absence of braided cord
- 13 Full-Time and Part-Time Uniforms**  
Full-time Irish soldier - short green tunic with military buttons and metal helmet  
The Emergency LDF uniform for part-time soldiers has no military character – a simple uniform and cap of inexpensive brown cloth  
Construction Corps Worker: probably not recognised as a soldier; considered just a labourer
- 14 Specialised Uniforms**  
**Mission A**  
In riot situations you need the shield and baton, but you also want to identify yourself as a United Nations peacekeeper, so wear the blue beret.  
**Mission B**  
Operating stealthily behind enemy lines you don't want to be seen. Go for the camouflage outfit, but without the bright blue flak jacket!  
**Mission C**  
Getting hostages out often requires using tear gas to knock out the hostage-takers. You need full protective gas gear to go in and not be affected by the gas yourself.

# ANSWERS

## Want to know more?

For more information on exhibitions and education programmes, contact the Education and Outreach Department of the National Museum of Ireland.

Tel: 01 648 6453 Fax: 01 679 1025 email: [bookings@museum.ie](mailto:bookings@museum.ie)

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Cover image: model soldier, Ultonia regiment of the Spanish Army, c.1780, made by Ken Hayes, National Museum of Ireland

