Dublin Lockout-Impact and Aftermath

Activity Worksheet

Welcome!

Although this activity sheet will direct you to particular items, we suggest you explore the entire exhibition.

Enter the first room of the exhibition.

It is estimated that in 1911, 20,000 Dublin families were living in single rooms. Previously elegant buildings were now falling into disrepair and housing the poor.



- 1. Look for the large photographic image depicting an impoverished kitchen scene to the right of the room
 - What does this image tell you about the types of living conditions that existed in 1913?

Workers began to strike in 1913 in a bid for to stand up to their employers .This year saw the greatest workers dispute in Irish History. During these strikes, trams were abandoned on O'Connell Street – the transport system linking the middle class suburbs with the city centre.

- By abandoning trams, what do you think strikers were trying to achieve?
- Do you think this was effective?



2. Look for Exhibition Case 1 -

Women played a significant role in the 1913 Lockout

"In their 17 weeks fight no section had shown no more pluck and endurance and solidarity than the women workers"- James Larkin, January 1914, oration of funeral of Alice Brady.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Alice Brady was a young member of the Irish Women Workers Union (IWWU) who was shot dead by a strike breaker delivering coal

More than 700 women were organised into the Irish Women Workers Union. Throughout the entire six months of the lockout, all members remained on strike.



Look for the suffragette related items in case 1 to the left as you enter

- Think and discuss the actions of these women. Were they brave? Why? How do women's rights of 1913 differ from their rights today?
- What other movements do you think they may have been involved in during the early 20th century?



3. Look for the Dublin Metropolitan Police baton and helmet in case 2

The Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP) was established in 1836 and was closely modelled on the London Metropolitan Police. It was a popular force until 1913. Following the arrest of Jim Larkin on 31ST August 1913, the DMP flowed in from the side streets and baton charged the crowd, many of which were passers-by returning from Sunday mass, injuring 500 people.

- Do you think the baton charge methods of the DMP were justified in controlling disputes or do you think they were being too harsh?
- How do you think the public reacted to the DMP's actions? Did they become more sympathetic to the strikers cause?



Enter the second room of the exhibition



4. Look for the exhibition case displaying the Plough and the Stars Flag

The Irish Citizen Army was founded by James Connolly on 13th November 1913; many of its members were drawn from the Irish Trade General Workers Union.

During the 1916 Easter Rising, Connolly from his position in the GPO, sent the Starry Plough Flag across O'Connell St. to be flown over the Imperial Hotel, which was owned by William Martin Murphy, also the location where Larkin delivered his famous speech in 1913.

•	Why do you think James Connolly ordered the flag to be flown over the Imperial Hotel in
	1916? How would you have felt if you were William Martin Murphy?

Dublin 1913

Housing

87,305 people live in tenements in the inner city while 20,108 families occupy one room

20,000 notices served in a year by health officers over unsanitary toilets

No.7 Henrietta St. 19 families live in one house, making up a total of 104 people

Income

18s average wage of 21,000 heads of household in registered tenements

A typical weekly budget for a tenement dweller

Rent2s. 6d.

Fuel and Light2s.

Bread4s.

Sugar......0s. 8d.

Milk (usually condensed)......0s. 6d.

Butter(dripping, Margarine).....1s. 6d.

Potatoes(or other veg.).....1s.

Meat/ Fish......2.s

Total......14s. 11d.

Wages for week18s.

Balance.....3s. 1 d. * s. = shillings

*d. = pence

In many cases this budget would be too generous. Often men would be out of work, or fuel prices might be higher. Any money left over had to provide clothes, furniture, general amusements and other odd items

Mortality

Dublin has the highest rate for children in any city in Europe- infant mortality, per 1,000

Dublin County: 160

Dublin City: 153

London: 106

Source: The Irish Times, Magazine, September 11, 2013

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