

# Great Scots-Irish Americans



TEACHER BOOK

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## TEACHER NOTES

# Unit 8: Great Scots-Irish Americans

This unit of work on Great Scots-Irish Americans gives pupils the opportunity to :

- Take part in a balloon debate
- Research using the Internet
- Work independently
- Complete a project
- Make an oral presentation

### KEY STAGE 3 CURRICULUM

The activities in this unit would fit into work on aspects of the General Learning Areas of English ; Environment and Society (History) and also link into aspects of Local and Global Citizenship.

The unit provides opportunities to teach, practise and assess some of the following skills and capabilities:

- Critical and Creative Thinking Skills—creativity; managing information; problem solving/decision making
- Personal and Interpersonal Skills—self management, working with others
- Communication
- ICT

## TEACHER NOTES

# Aim and Objectives of the NI Curriculum

### Aim

The Northern Ireland Curriculum aims to empower young people to achieve their potential and to make informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout life.

### Curriculum Objectives

The Northern Ireland Curriculum should provide learning opportunities for each young person to develop as:

1. An individual
2. A contributor to society; and
3. A contributor to the economy and the environment

Work in this unit 'In the White House' provides opportunities for pupils to :

### As an individual

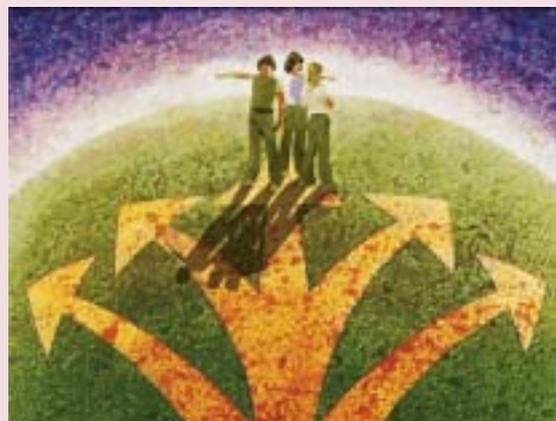
- Be aware of their creative potential (personal understanding)
- Respect and cooperate with others (mutual understanding)
- Be reliable and committed to tasks (moral character)

### As a contributor to society

- Recognise the interdependence of people (citizenship)
- Negotiate and compromise (citizenship)
- Recognise the richness and diversity of cultural influences in contemporary society (cultural understanding)

### LEARNING EXPERIENCES

- Challenging and engaging
- Relevant and enjoyable
- Linked to other curriculum areas
- Media rich
- Skills integrated
- Active and hands on
- Varied to suit learning styles
- On-going reflection



## BACKGROUND NOTES

# Great Scots-Irish Americans

The links between the island of Ireland and the United States of America are well recognised. What has not been so well recognised is the strength of the links between those of Ulster-Scots heritage and America. Much of this is due to the almost complete assimilation of the Ulster-Scots emigrants into early American society. Yet they were influential in many aspects of American life and today some 4.3 million Americans acknowledge themselves as of Scots-Irish origin\* while researchers estimate that the actual figure is probably around 27 million.

The Scots had come to Ulster to better themselves economically, and to gain comparative freedom of worship which existed in Ulster as opposed to 17th century Scotland. However, religious restrictions were imposed in Ireland in 1703, so that once again they faced persecution as they had in Scotland in the previous century. A large number of Scots had arrived in Ulster in the 1690's and had taken up either 21 year or 31 year leases. These had been offered at attractive rates by the landlords to encourage improvements on their estates. When these original leases expired, the landlords either raised the rents exorbitantly (rent racking), or put the leases up for auction, causing many to move off the land and begin to think about moving on westwards to America. Nearly 1700 leases for 21 years terminated in 1717 and it is not surprising therefore that in that same year, more than 5000 Ulstermen left for America. Five great periods of migration to the American Colonies followed - in 1717/8; 1725-29; 1740/1; 1754/5; and 1771-75. In the period 1714-1720 alone, some 55 ships full of immigrants sailed from Ireland to ports in New England and between 1717 and 1776, over 200,000 Ulster-Scots made the journey. By the time of the first census of the United States, in 1790, the Scots-Irish were the second largest nationality group (the English were the largest).

The Scots - Irish were among the first 'Americans' peopling the frontier. Land was cheap and there was lots of it! In the 1730's and 1760's, for example, South Carolina offered land, tools and seeds to immigrants. The Scots-Irish began to head further west into western Pennsylvania and Virginia. Moving, being mobile and following new opportunities as they opened up became a way of life for the Scots-Irish. The Great Wagon Road led them on to search for even cheaper land in the Carolinas —mainly in the Piedmont district. About 1730 the Scots-Irish began to pour into the Shenandoah Valley. *"Governor Gooch was then dispensing the Valley lands so freely and indiscriminately that one Jacob Stover, it is said, secured many acres by giving his cattle human names as settlers; and a young woman, by dressing in various disguises of masculine attire, obtained several large farms."* \*\* Small farms, however, were the rule. The first Scots-Irish settled along the Opequon River; and their very oldest churches, the Tuscarora Meeting-house near Martinsburg (<http://mal.net/EarlyPresbyterians/prescongva.htm>) and the Opequon Church near Winchester (<http://opequonchurch.tripod.com/id4.html>), are still standing.

\* 2000 census figures

\*\* Conway's Barons, p. 213; Kercheval's History of the Valley of Virginia, Winchester, 1833, p. 65.

## TEACHING SEQUENCE

# Great Scots-Irish Americans

The materials in this unit of work are designed to be used flexibly and appropriately for a range of abilities.

- **INDEPENDENT LEARNERS**

For some pupils it will only be necessary to use page 36 where the pupils are given the task of project work researching a famous Scots-Irish American. A number of such characters are suggested as possible topics but the student is given a free choice of research.

Work could culminate in the Balloon Debate on page 37.

- **PUPILS NEEDING SOME SUPPORT**

For those pupils who need some more structure, guidance and support the section 'Practising Your Research Skills' begins on page 4. It offers a series of cloze passages on 8 famous Scots-Irish Americans. For each there is also an extension activity suggested.

These cloze passages can be answered using the materials beginning on page 14 if pupils do not have easy access to the Internet or if time is limited.

Again work could culminate in the Balloon Debate on page 37.

- **GUIDED/TEACHER-LED APPROACH**

The materials beginning on page 14: Famous Scots-Irish offer short biographies of 8 famous Scots-Irish Americans. This could be used to support and encourage pupils towards a simplified project or a Balloon Debate.

Below are 9 categories. You have also been given the names of some famous Scots-Irish. Some of them you will know or have heard of, some may be new to you. You may need to use a reference book or a search engine on the internet to find out who they were and what they did if you do not already know.

Match up the person to the category for which they are known.

## CATEGORIES

<p><b>Business</b></p> <p>Randolph Hearst Cyrus McCormick</p>	<p><b>Acting</b></p> <p>James Stewart John Wayne</p>	<p><b>Inventor</b></p> <p>Cyrus McCormick</p>
<p><b>Music</b></p> <p>Crystal Gayle George Hamilton IV Francis Makemie</p>	<p><b>Religion</b></p> <p>Francis Makemie George Hamilton IV William Tennant</p>	<p><b>Education</b></p> <p>William Tennant Mark Twain</p>
<p><b>Politics</b></p> <p>Sam Houston Davy Crockett John Dunlap Charles Thomson</p>	<p><b>Action Hero</b></p> <p>Sam Houston William Clark James Stewart Davy Crockett John Wayne Stonewall Jackson</p>	<p><b>Military</b></p> <p>Sam Houston William Clark James Stewart Stonewall Jackson</p>

Some of these Scots-Irish individuals may be categorised in two or even three different ways.



## Sam Houston

Find out the following information about Sam Houston to fill in the blanks:

Sam Houston was born on **2nd March 1793** at **Timber Ridge, Rockbridge County** in the state of **Virginia**. His Grandfather had emigrated from the **Larne** area of county **Antrim**.

Sam worked as a teacher before moving into politics. His mentor was another Ulster-Scot and future president, **Andrew Jackson**. Sam was elected to the United States Congress in **1823**.

In 1833 Sam moved to Texas which was trying to break away from **Mexican** rule. Soon he was appointed **Commander in Chief** of the new revolutionary army. He led this army against the forces of Santa Anna at the Battle of **San Jacinto**. When Texas gained its independence, Sam became its first **President**.

### Extension Activity

Look at a map of the United States and find the city named after Sam Houston. It is the fifth largest city in America. See what else you can find out about it and create a fact file on it.



## William Clark

Find out the following information about William Clark to fill in the blanks:

William Clark was born in **1770** in Caroline County in the state of **Virginia**.  
He had **8** brothers and sisters.

In 1789 he joined the **Kentucky Militia** and reached the rank of **captain**.  
One of the junior officers who served under him was **Meriwether** Lewis.

In 1804 Clark and Lewis began an adventure together. At the request of  
President **Thomas Jefferson** they were going to map the territory of the  
**Louisiana** Purchase. The two led their Corps of **Discovery** for **3** years right  
across America.

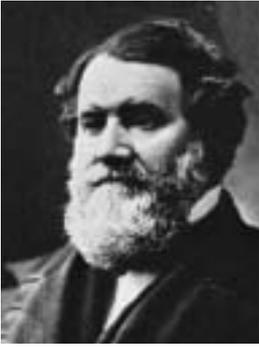
Clark also served as superintendent of **Indian Affairs** for the Louisiana  
Territory and as **Governor** from 1813-1820.

### Extension

### Activity

Research the Lewis and Clark Expedition using the Internet.

Then either prepare either an illustrated talk for your class, a wall display or a fact file on their adventure.



## Cyrus McCormick

Find out the following information about Cyrus McCormick to fill in the blanks:

Cyrus McCormick was born in **1809**. He grew up on a farm in **Rockbridge** County near Lexington. His family originally came from **Ballygawley** in County Tyrone.

In **1831** Cyrus built his first reaping machine. He and his brothers worked for **10** years to improve and develop it. When his sales and business expanded Cyrus moved it to **Chicago**. This was a convenient site because he could use the **Mississippi** river to move the machines to the southern states and the **Great Lakes** to move machines eastwards.

By the 1850s, Cyrus was **president** of the biggest harvesting company in the world.

### Extension

### Activity

Create a fact file or a PowerPoint presentation on Cyrus McCormick.

Here is a website to help you get started:

[www.invent.org/hall\\_of\\_fame/101.html](http://www.invent.org/hall_of_fame/101.html)



## Andrew Jackson

Find out the following information about Andrew Jackson to fill in the blanks:

Andrew Jackson was born 18 months after his parents left **Boneybefore** near **Carrickfergus** in County Antrim. He grew up to become the **seventh** President of the United States of America.

Andrew was born at the **Waxhaws** on **15th March** 1767. His father died before he was born and his mother died when he was only **14**.

In 1788 Andrew moved to **Nashville** in Tennessee and opened a **law** office. Here he met **Rachel Donelson** who became his wife.

He first entered politics as a member of the **Constitutional** Convention of Tennessee and he went on to become the first congressman and then senator for that state.

A sad event occurred on 22nd December 1828 when his **Wife Rachel died** just before Andrew became president. He served **two** terms as president and lived another 25 years, dying on 8th June 1845 at the age of **78**.

### Extension Activity

Research the life of one of the other Ulster-Scots Presidents.





## Charles Thomson

Find out the following information about Charles Thomson to fill in the blanks:

Charles Thomson was born in County **Londonderry** near the town of **Maghera** on **29th November 1729**.

When he was only **10** years old, his family emigrated to America. Charles' **parents** had already died and his **Father** died on the ship so Charles arrived in America as an orphan.

When he grew up he became a **blacksmith** and then a **teacher** but he is best remembered for his work as **secretary** to the Continental **Congress**. He and John Hancock were the only two to sign the original **Declaration of Independence**. Charles also designed **the Great Seal of the United States of America**.

He died on **16th August 1824** in **Lower Merion, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania**.



## Woodrow Wilson

Find out the following information about Woodrow Wilson to fill in the blanks:

Woodrow Wilson was the grandson of **James** Wilson who emigrated from **Strabane** in county **Tyrone**. Woodrow was born on **28th December 1856** in **Staunton**, Virginia. He was the son of a **Presbyterian** minister.

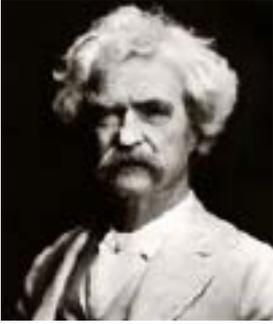
Woodrow studied at **Princeton** University and then worked as a **lawyer** in **Atlanta**, Georgia.

After studying for a PhD at **John Hopkins** University, he became president of Princeton University in 1902.

His first role in politics was as **Governor** of New Jersey. Within **three** years he was the **28th** President of the USA.

### Extension Activity

Take a virtual tour of Woodrow Wilson's birthplace at <http://www.woodrowwilson.org/index.cfm?action=a26&id=44,2176>



## Mark Twain

Find out the following information about Mark Twain to fill in the blanks:

Mark Twain's real name was **Samuel Langhorne Clemens**. His ancestors came to America from **Ballyclare** in County Antrim.

Mark was born on **30th November 1835** in **Florida, Missouri**. His parents had **six** children. They had a slave girl name **Jenny** who looked after the children. She was a gifted storyteller and Mark always remembered her stories.

Mark worked as a **journalist** before taking a job as a pilot on the **Mississippi** River steamboats.

His first published story was "**The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County**". His most famous book was called "**The Adventures of Tom Sawyer**". Mark died on **21st April 1910** aged **74**.



## Stephen Foster

Find out the following information about Stephen Foster to fill in the blanks:

Stephen **Collins** Foster was born on **4th July 1826** in **Lawrenceville**, Pennsylvania. He had **seven** older brothers and sisters.

He always loved music and had his first song published when he was only **18**.

His first big hit was a song called "**Oh! Susanna!**". Foster studied many different types of music but he is mostly associated with black-face **minstrel** music.

Although he wrote many popular songs, he never made a lot of money. He died almost penniless on **13th January 1864**. He was only **37** years old.

### Extension Activity

Either:

- Research the Christy Minstrels

Or:

- Take one of Stephen Foster's songs, perform or record it and illustrate it with the use of images



## Francis Makemie

Find out the following information about Francis Makemie to fill in the blanks:

Francis Makemie was born in **Ramelton**, County **Donegal** in **1658**.

He had to go to **Glasgow** to study because **Presbyterians** could not attend university in Ireland.

In 1680 he received an invitation from **Colonel William Stevens of Rehobeth, Maryland** to come to America. There he both preached and worked as a **(shipping) merchant**. He married his partner, William Anderson's daughter. Her name was **Naomi**.

The very first official Presbyterian meeting in Virginia took place in Francis' home on **6th October 1699**.

In **1707** the first presbytery in America was formed and Francis served as the first **Moderator**. He died in **1708**.





# Presidential Bingo


## RULES OF THE GAME

- Choose an Ulster-Scots president for each square. Write his name on the square. You may use the same president on up to 3 squares.
- The teacher (or person 'calling') will ask questions. If your president's name is the answer to the question you may mark that name out. You may only mark out 1 name for 1 answer (not every time you have used that president's name).
- The winner is the person who has completed all the names on his /her card first.

### TO HELP YOU HERE ARE THE NAMES OF THE ULSTER-SCOTS PRESIDENTS

ANDREW JACKSON

JAMES KNOX POLK

JAMES BUCHANAN

ANDREW JOHNSON

U. S. GRANT

CHESTER ARTHUR

GROVER CLEVELAND

BENJAMIN HARRISON

WILLIAM McKINLEY

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

WOODROW WILSON

HARRY TRUMAN

RICHARD NIXON

JIMMY CARTER

GEORGE BUSH Snr



# Presidential Bingo

Here are some sample questions for each of the 17 presidents:

## **ANDREW JACKSON**

- Whose family came from Boneybefore, Carrickfergus?
- Who was president from 1829-1837?
- Whose wife was named Rachel Donelson?
- Which president is associated with the Waxhaws region of the Carolinas?
- Which president served in the army and commanded the US forces at the Battle of New Orleans?

## **JAMES KNOW POLK**

- Who was president from 1845-1849?
- Which president was born near Charlotte in North Carolina?
- Which president's great-grandfather emigrated from Lifford, County Donegal?
- Which president died in 1849?
- Which president was born in Mecklenburg County, N. Carolina?

## **JAMES BUCHANAN**

- Which president was born in Cove Gap?
- Which president was born on 23rd April 1791?
- Which president died on 1st June 1868?
- Who became president in 1857?
- Which president said: "My Ulster blood is my most precious heritage?"

## **ANDREW JOHNSON**

- Which president had ancestors from Mounthill near Larne?
- Which president was born on 29th December 1808?
- Which president was born in Raleigh, N. Carolina?
- Which president took over after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated?
- Which president never attended any school but was taught to write by his wife?

## **ULYSSES SIMPSON GRANT**

- Which president was born in Mount Pleasant, Ohio?
- Which president commanded the Union Army in the American Civil War?
- Which president was born on 27th April 1822?
- Which president's ancestors came from Derganagh in Co. Tyrone?
- Which president died on 23rd July 1885?

## **CHESTER ALAN ARTHUR**

- Which president was born in Fairfield, Vermont?
- Whose ancestral home is at Dreen, Cullybackey?
- Which president was born on 5th October 1829?
- Which president's family emigrated from Ulster not to America but Canada?
- Who entered the White House when President James Garfield was assassinated?



# Presidential Bingo

## **GROVER CLEVELAND**

- Which president was born in Caldwell, New Jersey?
- Which president served in the White House for 2 terms but not consecutively?
- Which president was born on 18th March 1837?
- Which president died on 24th June 1908?
- Who was both the 22nd and 24th President of the United States?

## **BENJAMIN HARRISON**

- Which president was born in North Bend, Ohio?
- Which president was born on 20th August 1833?
- Which president died on 13th March 1901?
- Which president was the grandson of another president?
- Who became president in 1889?

## **WILLIAM McKINLEY**

- Which president was born in Niles, Ohio?
- Which Scots-Irish president was assassinated?
- Who became president in 1897?
- Which president was born on 29th January 1843?
- Which president died on 6th September 1901?

## **THEODORE ROOSEVELT**

- Which president was born in New York City?
- Which president was born on 27th October 1858?
- Which president died on 6th January 1919?
- Who became president in 1901?
- Who was the 26th President of the United States?

## **WOODROW WILSON**

- Which president was born in Staunton, Virginia?
- Which president had ancestors from Dergelt near Strabane?
- Which president was born on 28th December 1856?
- Which president died on 3rd February 1924?
- Who was a lecturer at Princeton University before becoming president?

## **HARRY TRUMAN**

- Which president died on Boxing Day 1972?
- Which president was born in Lamar, Missouri?
- Who became president in 1945?
- Who became president when President Franklin D. Roosevelt died suddenly in office?
- Which president was born on 8th May 1884?

## **RICHARD NIXON**

- Who was born at Yorba Linda, California?
- Which president resigned to be replaced by Gerald Ford?
- Which president was born on 9th January 1913?
- Which president died on 22nd April 1994?
- Which president had Millhouse relatives from Carrickfergus and Ballymoney?



# Presidential Bingo

## **JIMMY CARTER**

- Which president has the middle name 'Earl'?
- Which president was born in Plains, Georgia?
- Which president was born on 1st October 1924?
- Which president was a peanut farmer?
- Who became president in 1977?

## **GEORGE BUSH (SENIOR)**

- Who was the 41st president?
- Which president was born in Milton, Massachusetts?
- Which president was born on 12th June 1924?
- Which president was the youngest pilot in the US Navy during the Second World War?
- Which president was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross?

## **BILL CLINTON**

- Which president was born in Hope, Arkansas?
- Which president was born on 19th August 1946?
- Who became president in 1993?
- Who became president after serving as Governor of Arkansas for 12 years?
- Which president's real surname is Blythe?

## **GEORGE W. BUSH**

- Who had lived in the White House before he became president?
- Who was born on 6th July 1946?
- Which president was born in New Haven, Connecticut?
- Which president has the middle name 'Walker'?
- Which president worked in the oil industry before entering politics?



**CCEA ASSESSMENT GRID  
FOR MAKEMIE WOODS  
EXTENSION ACTIVITY**

# **CCEA ASSESSMENT GRID FOR PROJECT WORK**

# **CCEA ASSESSMENT GRID FOR BALLOON DEBATE**