Great Scots-Irish Americans
Curriculum

How Great Scots-Irish Americans links to 
Key Stage 3 curriculum requirements

Background Notes

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Teaching Sequence

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Answer Sheets

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Assessment Sheets

Page 20
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
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
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 came 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 that 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 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.
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

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<th>Business</th>
<th>Acting</th>
<th>Inventor</th>
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<tr>
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<td>James Stewart</td>
<td>Cyrus McCormick</td>
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<td>Cyrus McCormick</td>
<td>John Wayne</td>
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<th>Religion</th>
<th>Education</th>
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<td>Francis Makemie</td>
<td>William Tennant</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Hamilton IV</td>
<td>George Hamilton IV</td>
<td>Mark Twain</td>
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<th>Action Hero</th>
<th>Military</th>
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<td>Sam Houston</td>
<td>Sam Houston</td>
<td>Sam Houston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Davy Crockett</td>
<td>William Clark</td>
<td>William Clark</td>
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<td>John Dunlap</td>
<td>James Stewart</td>
<td>James Stewart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Thomson</td>
<td>Davy Crockett</td>
<td>Stonewall Jackson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Stonewall Jackson</td>
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</table>
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.
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 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 Chigago. 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:
Research Skills

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.
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 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’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 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 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.
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
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 KNOX 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?
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 Mc Kinley
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