

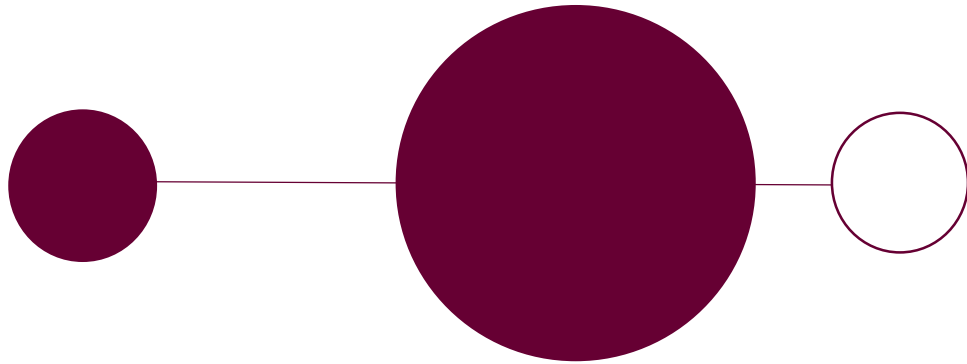
IRISH VOICES OUR STORIES SHARED

LEARNING RESOURCE

TIMELINES:

AN INTRODUCTION TO IRISH VOICES

LESSON PLAN





“Can we put the four “W’s at the front?”

TIMELINES

CLASSROOM WORKSHOP

OBJECTIVE

Students develop an understanding of the wider context and the historical background of the Irish Voices oral history project.

PREPARATION

Make an empty timeline running from 1950 to 2014, to cover the time period of Irish Voices. Stick the timeline on to a large flat surface, which can be easily seen and accessed by the group.

Then prepare around 20 Irish Voices event cards, each with an event from the [Irish Voices website timeline](#) to use with students in activity three. The events should range from the personal, to the parades themselves, as well as wider national histories. Add a picture to these where possible. Don't include the dates-this is for students to work out!

Prepare some sources that the students can use for later research– images, newspaper clippings, textbooks and websites. Familiarise yourself with the Irish Voices website – audio clips in the [Politics theme](#) and the [Year of Transition](#) in the Change theme will be particularly useful. Biographies of narrators, images of newspaper articles and programmes also hold relevant information.

ACTIVITY TIME : 1-2 HOURS

ACTIVITY ONE CREATING A TIMELINE

In pairs, ask the students to consider memorable events that have taken place during the timeline period.

- Think of family, school, local, national and international events.

Students can draw on their historical, political and cultural knowledge as well as on personal memories. For example, when the Berlin Wall came down, the London Olympics, when the school was built, when their parents first met, moving to a new home.

Students note these events on post-it notes and stick them under the year in the timeline. They can be inspired by reading other students notes as they go. Look at the connections between the different events on the timeline.

- Are there connections between the international, national, local and family historical events?
- Are there connections between the past and the present?

ACTIVITY TWO WATCH THE IRISH VOICES FILM

Watch the [Irish Voices film](#) from the website to develop a picture of the time period and major events in the history of the London St. Patrick's Day Parade. Ask the students to take notes and think about the following:

- What key events are narrated in the film?
- Record any dates that are given for events.
- Can you tell the age of any of the narrators? Does this help you identify what time period they are talking about?
- Can you make any connections between the personal events being narrated and events occurring at the same time in London, nationally or internationally?

ACTIVITY THREE CREATING AN IRISH VOICES TIMELINE

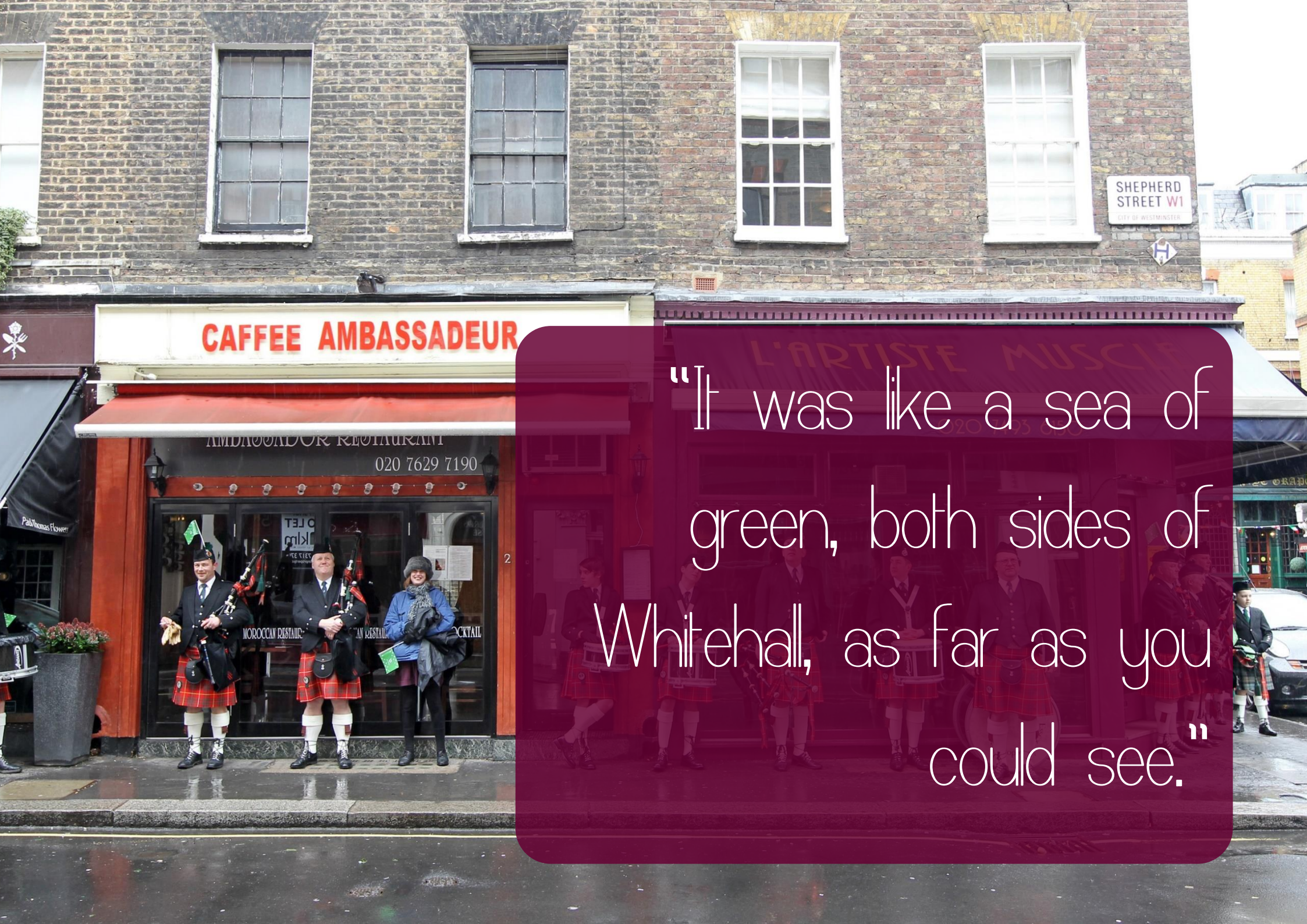
Divide the class into groups of 4-5 students. Give each group 3 of the prepared Irish Voices event cards. They should use the Irish Voices website to correctly identify the period the event took place. They should search the audio clips, transcripts, history and image sources as directed. (They should not refer directly to the timeline on the website) Based on their research, ask each group to place their cards on the year that the event took place on the big timeline-they will be making an educated guess! Check and see that everyone got close!

Then, ask each group to focus on one of their event cards that might have particular interest to them. This card needs to be examined in more depth, and will be presented to the whole class later. Students should use the Irish Voices website and any additional materials that have been sourced for research. (See suggestions below). They should look at other things happening locally, nationally and internationally, as well as in their own family history, at the time of the event. Student groups can then present their in-depth research and what they have found out about that event and add it to the big timeline.

Following this ask the whole class to come together to consider:

- Can you see any connections between the personal experiences, the London Parade and national events?
- What connections are there between the events from the first activity and the Irish Voices events?
- Did you find out anything surprising while doing your research?
- Did your research help you to discover something new about London, or Britain or the world?

The big timeline with the student's contributions should be displayed in the classroom throughout the duration of the project.



“It was like a sea of green, both sides of Whitehall, as far as you could see.”

The Irish Voices timeline of the London St. Patrick's Day Parade spans the height of Irish immigration to the UK, and the founding of the County Associations who supported the Parade, to the current large-scale event we see today. It shows the impact of the conflict in Northern Ireland when the London Irish were a community under suspicion in the 1970s and 80s. It then reflects the Peace process as a marker for celebration of the contribution the Irish community has made to London.

Using oral history narratives allows us to consider the links between personal memories and collective memories, between individual experiences and local or national histories, in this case London, and English-Irish relations.

The Irish Voices Timeline has been developed to illustrate this spread of remembered events. When selecting events for students to research, ensure you use a wide range of events to illustrate this point.

The [Irish Voices audio Snapshot](#), similarly to the Irish Voices film, presents an over view history of the London St. Patrick's Day Parade and can be used as an alternative or additional introduction to students, prior to identifying their Irish Voices events on the timeline.

Images can be particularly effective in illustrating events. For example there are numerous images of the conflict in Northern Ireland that can be viewed through web searches.

TIPS

&

TEACHERS

NOTES

USEFUL RESOURCES

IRISH VOICES

Irish Voices Timeline <http://www.irishinbritain.org/irishvoices/irish-voices-timeline/>

Irish Voices Film <http://www.irishinbritain.org/irishvoices/film/>

Irish Voices Audio Snapshot <http://www.irishinbritain.org/irishvoices/audio-snapshot/>

BOOKS

Adair, Daryl and Cronin, Mike (2002). *The Wearing of the Green: A History of St Patrick's Day*. London and New York: Routledge.

Harrison, Gerry (2004). *The scattering: a history of the London Irish Centre, 1954-2004*. London: London Irish Centre.

McKittrick, David and McVea, David (2001). *Making Sense of the Troubles: A History of the Northern Ireland Conflict*. London: Penguin.

Sorohan, Sean (2012). *Irish London During the Troubles*. Sallins, Co. Kildare: Irish Academic Press.

WEB RESOURCES

Here are some applications that students can use to create their own timeline <http://www.timetoast.com> and <http://timerime.com/>

The BBC History / The Troubles - useful information on the conflict in Northern Ireland with related links to specific themes – Everyday Life, Violence, Politics, Peace. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/troubles>

