



Year 6 History Summer 1



Key vocabulary

Famine- A famine is when there is a widespread scarcity of food due to crop failure, population imbalances or the government. The Great Irish Famine of 1845-1850 was a time of suffering, misery, disease, starvation, poverty, eviction, emigration and death. Over one million Irish people died and two million emigrated.

Emigration- Emigration is when someone leaves their own country to seek settlement elsewhere. The Great Irish Famine of 1845-1850 resulted in over two million Irish people leaving Ireland to settle in England or North America forever. They had no choice as conditions in Ireland were appalling.

Potatoes- Potatoes are a starchy crop grown underground and were a staple food source to Irish people before The Great Irish Famine. Men used to eat at least 60 potatoes a day; women ate about 45 and children ate about 25 a day. Families, in particular poorer families, depended on potatoes in order to live.

Workhouses- Workhouses were built just before the Great Irish Famine and were used to house and feed the poor.

Blight- Blight is a disease that affects plants. Discoloration, wilting and the death of plants and crops occurs from this disease. In September 1845, this disease attacked the potato crop in Ireland.

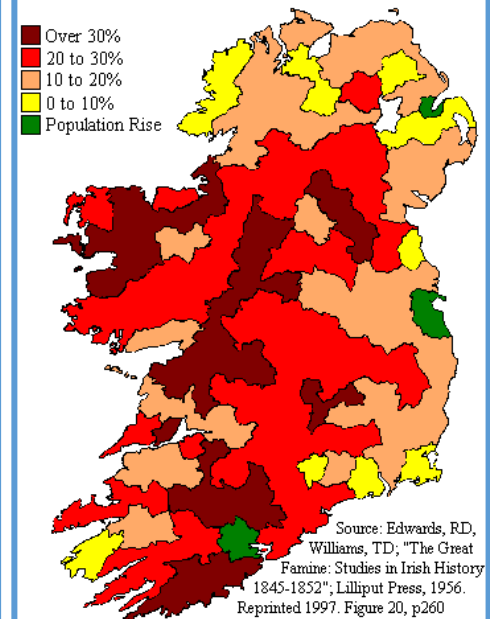
Relief workers- The Government decided to provide work for the starving Irish, for them to earn money to buy a little bit of food.

Black '47- The Great Irish Famine saw its worst year in 1847 and this is known as 'Black '47'. As well as starvation, people suffered from diseases, such as cholera and famine fever. This fever was contagious and so many people were affected and died. The number of deaths was increasing and the winter of 1847 was an extremely cold one.

Coffin ships- During the Great Irish Famine of 1845-1850 and for a few years after, over two million Irish people decided to emigrate from Ireland. They travelled on small sailing ships which were not suitable for the long, dangerous journeys they faced. As a result, many passengers died and so they became known as 'coffin ships'.



Population Fall in Ireland 1841-1851



Before we learn our topic:

- What are the three main causes of famine?

- Which year was the most devastating for the people of Ireland during The Great Famine?

- True or false? Blight only affects potatoes (circle one).

True

False

After we learn our topic:

- What are the three main causes of famine?

- Which year was the most devastating for the people of Ireland during The Great Famine?

- True or false? Blight only affects potatoes (circle one).

True

False