

LESSON
6.



LESSON DESCRIPTION

The lesson will describe the change in strategy of the republican movement in Northern Ireland after the Hunger Strikes of 1981. After adopting what became known as the “Armalite and Ballot Box” strategy, Sinn Féin became a rising force on the political scene while the Provisional IRA carried out a campaign of bombing on the British mainland

LESSON INTENTIONS

1. Describe Sinn Féin’s change in policy and review its success.
2. Explain the reason why the Provisional IRA carried out a bombing campaign in the mainland UK throughout the 80s and 90s and what effect it had on Sinn Féin.
3. Demonstrate intentions 1 & 2 through digital media.

LESSON OUTCOMES

- Be able to summarise how Sinn Féin adopted a new policy and conclude how successful this new policy was.
- Be able to explain why the Provisional IRA’s bombing campaign affected Sinn Féin.
- Employ ICT skills to express an understanding of the topic.

HANDOUTS AND GUIDES

- Lesson 6 Key Information
- Comic Creation Storyboard
- Video Editing Storyboard

DIGITAL

- Suggested Additional Resources

SOFTWARE

- Comic Creation Software e.g. Comic Life
- Video Editing Software e.g. Movie Maker

HARDWARE

- Whiteboard
- PCs / Laptops

MODULE 2. THE CONFLICT IN NORTHERN IRELAND
6: POLITICS AND VIOLENCE



ACTIVITY	LEARNING OUTCOMES
<p>Starter – View Suggested Additional Resource 1 (Northern Ireland’s Path To Peace) from the Key Information.</p>	<p>Viewing the slideshow offers students a recap of the conflict in Northern Ireland as well as a summary of some of the content which will be covered in the lesson. (It will also serve as an example for the Comic Life digital task)</p>
<p>Using the Key Information, teachers will have a choice of activities to engage students.</p> <p>Teachers may choose to split the class into groups and ask students to use the discussion points to discuss some aspects of the Key Information. Students will then share their discussions with the rest of the class.</p> <p>Alternatively, teachers may want to use the Introductory / Progression Questions as group discussion questions or to test individual knowledge.</p> <p>The Alternate Task requires students to seek out information and work collaboratively to form a timeline of events. Students will then be required to have a discussion and identify key events from within their timeline and communicate this information to other classmates. When all groups have completed the task, the class will have collectively created a timeline which highlights key information from an important timeframe in Northern Ireland history.</p> <p>*If possible, allow students to research the topic on the internet – suggested additional resources / search engine.</p>	<p>The Key Information is designed to cover the information within the topic and meet the learning intentions.</p> <p>The discussion questions on the Key Information are designed to meet the learning intentions through interaction and Q&A.</p> <p>The questions on the Key Information are designed to meet the learning intentions through the students understanding of the information.</p> <p>The various activities should allow the students to learn while they interact. The activities will also serve to reinforce knowledge and encourage discussion.</p>
<p>Plenary – View Suggested Additional Resources 2 (The IRA and Sinn Féin) from the Key Information.</p>	<p>Watching the video will act as a summary and recap to the content that was presented in the Key Information</p>

KEY INFORMATION
6.

POLITICS AND VIOLENCE



(c) RTÉ Stills Library

A security incident in Belfast, December 1982

"Who here really believes we can win the war through the ballot box? But will anyone here object if, with a ballot paper in one hand and an Armalite in this hand, we take power in Ireland?"

Danny Morrison, Director of Publicity for Sinn Féin, speaking at the 1981 Sinn Féin Ard Fheis.

In April 1981, the IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands was elected Member of Parliament for Fermanagh and South Tyrone. Although Bobby Sands died less than a month after being elected, this success at the ballot box set in motion a change in policy of the republican movement in Northern Ireland.

Prior to the 1981 election, Sinn Féin and the Provisional IRA had supported the controversial policy of Éire Nua. On 31st October 1981 at the Sinn Féin Ard Fheis (Annual Conference), a new policy was adopted: the Armalite and Ballot Box Strategy.

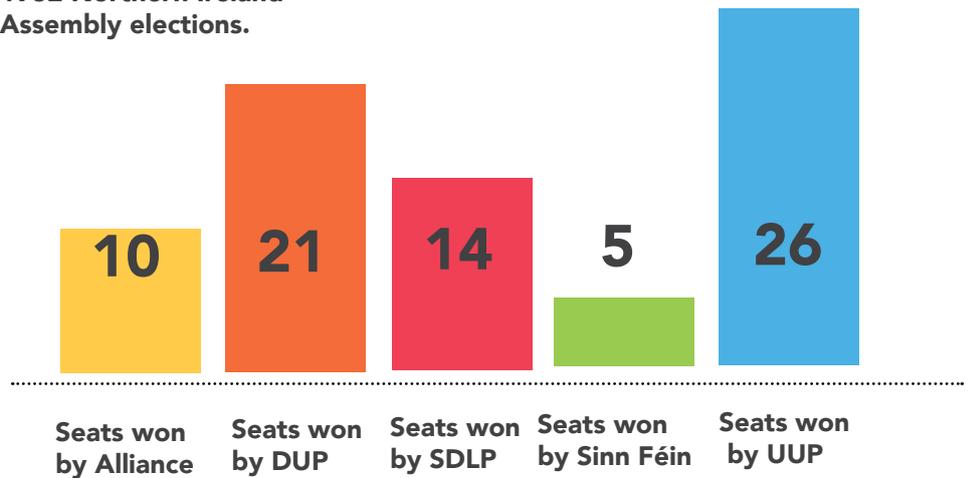
<p>ÉIRE NUA</p>	<p>A policy supported by Sinn Féin and the Provisional IRA during the 1970s and early 80s. Éire Nua (or "New Ireland") proposed the establishment of a federal all-Ireland Republic with a parliament for each of Ireland's four provinces and a central parliament. The policy did not have the full support of Republicanism, especially in the north. With the policy coming under increasing criticism in the late 70s and early 80s, Sinn Féin decided on a new direction (this would eventually lead to a split in the party).</p>
<p>THE ARMALITE AND BALLOT BOX STRATEGY</p>	<p>During the 1981 Sinn Féin Ard Fheis, it was decided that Republicanism would pursue a new strategy in its aim of a united Ireland. Known as the "Armalite and Ballot Box Strategy", Sinn Féin would contest elections in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland whilst the Provisional IRA would continue its armed struggle against the British Army, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) and loyalist paramilitaries.</p>



Stormont, Belfast

With the Armalite and Ballot Box Strategy in place, Sinn Féin began to contest local and national elections. This new political strategy by Sinn Féin had immediate results as they won 5 seats in the 1982 Northern Ireland Assembly elections.

1982 Northern Ireland Assembly elections.



A Northern Ireland Assembly was established in 1982 in an attempt at devolution. Despite an election being held, the Assembly never met and devolution never took place. The Assembly was abolished, and a new Assembly wouldn't be established until the Good Friday Agreement.

The five seats won (out of a possible 78) represented 10.1% of the vote. This was seen as a triumph for Sinn Féin and their new policy. Sinn Féin's new political presence was also felt in Westminster when Gerry Adams won the West Belfast seat in the 1983 general election. Although just one seat, this represented 13.4% of the vote in Northern Ireland. 1983 was also the year in which Gerry Adams became the President of Sinn Féin.

ABSTENTION

To further their political aims, at the 1986 Ard Fheis Sinn Féin decided to end its policy of abstention (a refusal to take seats that are won in an election) from Dáil Éireann (the lower house of the Irish Parliament). The decision to end this policy led to a split in Sinn Féin, with a number of members leaving to form Republican Sinn Féin. Sinn Féin ended its policy of abstention in Northern Ireland in May 1998 after signing the Good Friday Agreement.

POLITICAL AGREEMENTS

By 1985, it was obvious that Sinn Féin were a rising force in politics whilst the Provisional IRA were continuing to target mainland Britain in a bombing campaign. With a growing fear that more voters would begin to support Sinn Féin and in an attempt to stall the IRA's bombing campaign, the British and Irish governments signed the **Anglo-Irish Agreement**. The Agreement was criticised by both republicans and unionists: republicans rejected it as it maintained Northern Ireland as part of the UK and unionists rejected it because it gave the Republic of Ireland a say in the running of Northern



Ireland. In the years following the **Anglo-Irish Agreement**, Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams and SDLP leader John Hume engaged in secret talks to try and bring about a peace agreement in Northern Ireland. These talks led to Sinn Féin becoming more open to peace talks with the British government. This did not go unnoticed. The **Downing Street Declaration**, issued on the 15th December 1993, promised that parties that had links with paramilitary organisations (such as Sinn Féin) could take part in future peace talks. A political agreement which would result in the devolution of powers from Westminster to Stormont did not come about until 10th April 1998, with the signing of the **Good Friday Agreement**. Due to links with the Provisional IRA, at various stages leading up to the signing of the Good Friday Agreement Sinn Féin was excluded from peace talks. Despite this, Sinn Féin approved of the agreement and campaigned for the public to approve it.

THE POLITICAL GROWTH OF SINN FÉIN

WHAT WAS THE DOWNING STREET DECLARATION? ??

Issued on 15th December 1993, this was a joint declaration between the British and Irish governments which recognised the freedom of people in Northern Ireland to choose their own identity and decide on the future of Northern Ireland at the appropriate time. It also pledged that the governments would attempt to seek a peaceful settlement to the conflict.

1.))) DISCUSSION
Can you identify any trends in voting between the DUP and UUP?

UK General Elections	Alliance MPs Elected	DUP MPs Elected	SDLP MPs Elected	Sinn Féin MPs Elected	UUP MPs Elected
1983	0	3	1	1	11
1987	0	3	3	1	9
1992	0	3	4	0	9
1997	0	2	3	2	10
2001	0	5	3	4	6
2005	0	9	3	5	1
2010	1	8	3	5	0

NI Local Elections	Alliance Councillors Elected	DUP Councillors Elected	SDLP Councillors Elected	Sinn Féin Councillors Elected	PUP Councillors Elected	UUP Councillors Elected
1981	38	142	104	n/a	1	151
1985	34	142	102	59	2	189
1989	38	110	121	43	3	194
1993	44	103	127	51	1	197
1997	41	91	120	74	7	185
2001	28	131	117	108	4	154
2005	30	182	101	126	2	115
2011	44	175	87	138	2	99



The Grand Hotel, Brighton after an IRA bomb in 1984

£800,000,000

FINANCIAL COST OF THE BALTIC EXCHANGE BOMB

At this point in the Troubles there had been up to 10,000 bomb attacks at a cost of approximately £600m.

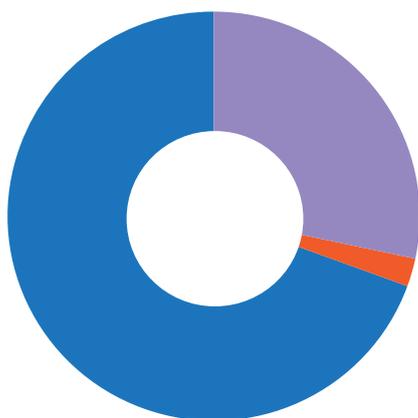
STRATEGIC USE OF VIOLENCE

With Sinn Féin’s growing political profile, the Provisional IRA stepped up its bombing campaign on the mainland UK. The Provisional IRA believed that bombing targets in mainland UK would get the attention of the British government more than attacks within Northern Ireland and force them into political talks. These bomb attacks included both military and civilian targets. Focused mainly around London, the Provisional IRAs bombing campaign not only caused a number of fatalities, but a massive amount of physical and economic damage (one such attack on 10th April 1992 at the Baltic Exchange building in London, killed three people and caused an estimated £800m worth of damage). From 1982 to 1997, the Provisional IRA was responsible for 52 deaths and hundreds of injuries on the mainland UK. In the same period in Northern Ireland, the PIRA’s continued bombing campaign claimed the lives of more than 200 people – over half of which were British Army and security force personnel. 65 civilians also lost their lives in the course of this campaign. In response to the PIRA’s violent campaign, loyalist paramilitaries undertook their own violent campaign. The tactic employed by loyalist paramilitaries involved the targeting of nationalist civilians in the hope that this would put pressure on the PIRA from within their own community to halt their campaign.



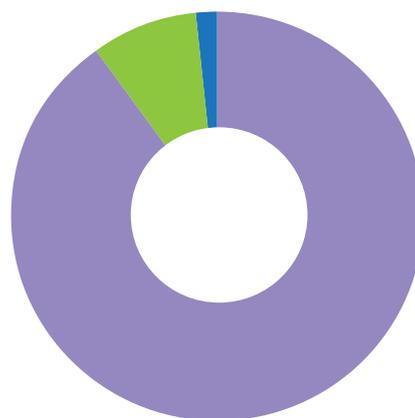
The Combined Loyalist Military Command was a body which brought together the leaderships of the Ulster Defence Association, the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Red Hand Commandos. Despite calling a ceasefire in October 1994, these loyalist groups returned to violence when the PIRA broke their ceasefire.

People killed in PIRA bomb attacks in NI 1982-1997



- Civilian
- Loyalist
- British Army and Security Forces

People killed by Loyalist Paramilitaries in NI 1982-1997



- Civilian
- Republican
- British Army and Security Forces

Year	Number of people killed by the IRA (Total)	Number of people killed on British mainland by the IRA	Number of people killed by loyalist paramilitaries	Number of people killed by British security forces
1982	52	11	15	12
1983	49	6	9	12
1984	44	5	7	12
1985	44	0	4	5
1986	37	0	15	5
1987	57	0	15	9
1988	67	1	23	10
1989	52	11	18	4
1990	50	3	19	10
1991	43	4	40	6
1992	34	5	38	10
1993	36	3	49	0
1994	19	0	37	1
1995	4	0	2	0
1996	5	3	3	1
1997	3	0	16	0

2.))) DISCUSSION
 Why do you think continuing IRA violence affected political talks between Sinn Féin and the British government?

Their bombing campaign initially came to an end on 31st August 1994 when they announced a ceasefire as a result of positive steps forward in the peace process following the Downing Street Declaration. This ceasefire came to an end on 9th February 1996 with the bombing of Canary Wharf in London, which killed two civilians, injured 40 and caused an estimated £150 million worth of damage. The reason for the end of the ceasefire was the breakdown in negotiations between the British government and Sinn Féin. With their ceasefire over, the Provisional IRA carried out a series of gun and bomb attacks both in Northern Ireland and the mainland UK. Some of these attacks caused massive damage and disruption (on 15th June 1996 a bomb exploded in Manchester destroying a large part of the city centre and injuring 200 people) and some of these attacks were direct attacks on the security forces (on 7th October 1996 two bombs exploded at British Army Headquarters in Lisburn, County Antrim). The Provisional IRA would later renew their ceasefire on 20th July 1997 following an approach from Sinn Féin. This renewed ceasefire paved the way for Sinn Féin to be allowed back into all party talks which would eventually lead to the Good Friday Agreement.

PERSPECTIVES

1. "We have to achieve a situation where the British government cannot govern, the British government cannot propagate to the world that we have a normal system here."

Gerry Adams during the 1983 General Election

2. "We do not talk with any group that supports violence."

*Margaret Thatcher
(7th December 1984)*

3. "In view of the recent serious happenings in Northern Ireland, will the right hon. Lady tell the House when her Government will bring in proposals to deal with the Sinn Fein/IRA godfathers in the councils of Northern Ireland? Is she aware that as her Secretary of State at present holds conversations with the Social Democratic and Labour party, that party is holding conversations with the hon. Member for Belfast, West (Mr. Adams) and the Sinn Fein/IRA leadership? Is she aware that the purpose of these talks, as the SDLP has declared it, is to get Sinn Fein to the conference table? Will she take it from me and my right hon. Friend the Member for Lagan Valley (Mr. Molyneaux), the leader of the Unionist party that we will never sit down with Sinn Fein or with the IRA?"

Ian Paisley (12th April 1988 – PM Question Time)



(c) RTÉ Stills Library

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS:



EXTENSION ACTIVITY:
Summarise how Sinn Féin intended to achieve their aim of a United Ireland and explain how the Provisional IRA helped or hindered this aim.

PROGRESSION QUESTIONS:



EXTENSION ACTIVITY:
Considering their association with the Provisional IRA, how do you think some may have felt about the British government taking part in peace talks with Sinn Féin?



ALTERNATE TASK

- Split the class into 6 groups, with each group representing a year from 1993-1998.
- Each group will go to <http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/events/peace/pp9398.htm> and read through the part of the timeline which corresponds to their year.
- On a large piece of paper each group will construct their own timeline highlighting what they consider to be important events which involved Sinn Féin or the Provisional IRA.
- Each group will then communicate what they believe were the three most important events that happened in their assigned year and why.

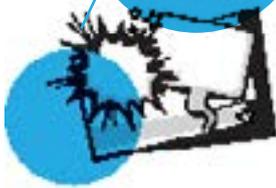
SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

-  1) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/0/22449987> - Northern Ireland's Path to Peace
-  2) http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/topics/troubles_paramilitaries#p016kt9g
The IRA and Sinn Féin
-  3) http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/topics/troubles_violence
-Violence in the Troubles
-  4) http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/static/in_depth/northern_ireland/2001/provisional_ira/1981.stm
Provisional IRA: War, ceasefire, end game?
-  5) <http://irishelectionliterature.wordpress.com/2014/01/06/sinn-fein-winning-seats-would-worry-me-thatcher-give-her-a-headache-vote-adams-poster/>
Sinn Féin 1983 Westminster election poster
-  6) <http://irishelectionliterature.wordpress.com/2013/01/17/sinn-fein-the-voice-of-principled-leadership-leaflet-from-the-1983-westminster-elections/>
Sinn Féin 1983 Westminster election leaflet



DIGITAL TASKS

COMIC CREATION TASK



TASK DESCRIPTION

In pairs, students will create a graphic timeline. Students will detail at least five events between 1981 and 1998 which highlight the rise of Sinn Féin as a political force. The comic will be at least 5 pages with each page representing one event. Students will research images and information from the internet which will be used in their comic. (Alternatively, images and information may be sourced by the teacher prior to the lesson)

PLAN

Images and information will be sourced from the internet and designed in the form of a storyboard.

- Students will be supplied with search terms by the teacher and source appropriate images and text from the internet – ask students to consider the reliability and objectivity of the information they find.
- Students will identify and select images/text to use and save them appropriately in a dedicated folder with a meaningful filename.
- Students will keep an account of the sites they have visited in a saved document.
- Students will use the images and information they have sourced and design their comic on a storyboard

DO

Before beginning, change the Page Setup in page properties to A5 and Landscape. Students will use images and caption boxes to describe each event. Each page will have 2 caption boxes (one with the date and one with information) and one/two images. Students will complete their piece of work by exporting it in a suitable file format (e.g. JPEG).

- Encourage students to consider the size and style of fonts, the size and cropping of images, the colours used and the tools available to them within the software package.
- Remind students to save their work in a dedicated folder with an appropriate filename.

REVIEW

Give students the opportunity to view each other's work. This may be done by displaying the best work on the whiteboard or students may circulate the room.

Taking other students' feedback into account, ask students to justify their choices and decisions, including any difficulties they encountered in the creation of their comic. This may be completed in the form of a saved document.

ALTERNATIVE TASK

With students working in pairs, have half the class complete the stated task and the other half creating a comic which highlights the Provisional IRA bombing campaign from 1981 to their 1997 ceasefire (the task parameters remain the same).



DIGITAL TASKS

FILM MAKING TASK



TASK DESCRIPTION

Students will create a movie of at least 30 seconds which will summarise why Sinn Féin changed their policy and the outcome of changing this policy. Students will research images (and if possible audio and video) and information from the internet which will be used in their movies.

PLAN

Information will be sourced from the internet and designed in the form of a storyboard.

- Students will be supplied with search terms by the teacher and source appropriate images, videos, audio and information from the internet – ask students to consider the reliability and objectivity of the information they find.
- Students will identify and select information to use and save it appropriately in a dedicated folder with a meaningful filename (this may be images or quotes that helped them to write their script).
- Students will keep an account of the sites they have visited in a saved document.
- Students will use the information and media they have sourced and construct a storyboard for the making of their movie.

DO

Students will import the various media items they sourced from the internet. Using their storyboards as a guide, students will construct their movie using various editing tools (Splitting, Trimming, Transitions, Effects and Captions/Titles). Students will complete their piece of work by exporting it in a suitable file format (e.g. WMV/MP4).

- Encourage students to consider the size and style of fonts, the size of images, the effects/transitions used and the tools available to them within the software package.
- Remind students to save their work in a dedicated folder with an appropriate filename.

REVIEW

Give students the opportunity to view each other's work. This may be done by viewing selected pieces of work or students may circulate the room.

Taking other students' feedback into account, ask students to justify their choices and decisions, including any difficulties they encountered in the creation of their movie file. This may be completed in the form of a saved document.