

“Insurrection”

definition: A violent uprising against an authority or government

(Oxford English Dictionary)

Mapping Sites of Action: 1916

- 1. Abstract:** This lesson requires students to visualise and map the various sites of action, be they conflict zones or otherwise, associated with the Easter Rising. Using primary sources, the students will create a networked web of information about the locations of the Easter Rising and illustrate the role these sites played. Students are encouraged to identify a number of key sources (at least five citable sources), synthesise information and create their own unique map based on what they have discovered. These resources will be developed into a final group presentation on their contribution to the map and an overview of the material they sourced (time and method of presentation will be determined by the teacher and the student). The scope of the project is dependent on the teacher and how much time and technology they want to use to develop the lesson. Sites of action may refer to city wide or country wide events and locations.
- 2. Subject(s):** History & Geography
- 3. Themes:** Sites of Action
- 4. Estimated number of classes:** 2-3
- 5. Toolkit:**
 - Projector
 - Computer lab
 - Internet connection
 - Print outs
 - Photographs
 - Pins & string for map-work (equipment for marking up/customising the map)
- 6. Lesson Aims/Objectives:**

Note: Objectives will vary according to the focus of the lesson and the subject, gathered below are some general objectives

 - i. Analysis and interrogation of primary sources
 - ii. Development of a project that builds a detailed profile of an Easter 1916 action site using a variety of sources to identify personalities involved at the site
 - iii. The lesson can be used to bring in modern mapping techniques (plotting grid references and OS coordinates)
 - iv. Wariness of bias with regards to historical documents.
 - v. Students will enhance their presentation and writing skills in addition to their creativity and accuracy
- 7. Advance preparation required:**
 - i. Teacher should ensure that the websites that they intend to use are white-listed in the school (<http://dh.tcd.ie/letters1916/>, <http://www.militaryarchives.ie/en/home/>, <http://www.bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie>)

- ii. Identify technology required and identify the location / site of action. The map will be mounted on the wall (if offline) or hosted (if online)
- iii. To generate more interest, the teacher could locate four or five sites of action relevant to the local area/address of the school. The Military Service Pensions collection has a tool which shows a map view of pension applications (that are presently online) which were made by 1916 veterans <http://www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/online-collections/military-service-pensions-collection/search-the-collection/easter-rising-1916/applicants-at-action-sites>
- iv. Pick a location map that features the chosen sites of action (see Materials Needed section below).
- v. Identify the individuals present at each action site
 - 1. E.g. The Officer in Command, members of other organisations, identified via witness statements, pension records, photographs, letters.
- vi. Prepare printed resources
- vii. Teacher should display the chosen site map on projector (if online) or place it on wall (if offline)

8. Methodology:

- a. The teacher should introduce the map and present the project by demonstrating the steps students are expected to emulate. Using a single site of action as an example, show how the resources are used to add information to the map (e.g. map of Maynooth, [account of the Maynooth Volunteers](#) page 3-5, pension record of Thomas Harris - see Materials Needed sections 'f').
- b. Students will be divided into groups to research primary source material pertaining to their relevant site of action. Possible resources for 3 Dublin sites of action - the GPO, Ringsend and Four Courts - are listed below as a starting point (see Materials Needed section 'g').
- c. The students will break down the events that occurred from different sources and statements in a similar manner to the teacher's example
 - i. For example, linking letters, witness statements, pension records and photographs to particular locations
 - ii. Students will add their research to the larger map and deliver a final presentation of their specific site on the map at a later date

9. Assessment:

- a. Students will be assessed on their identification of key sources, synthesis of information and creation of class map developed from sites of action
- b. Presentation of individual site with associated material - allotted time and method of presentation to be determined by the teacher

10. Materials Needed:

The site of action could be determined and map sourced using suggested links below.

- a. An tOglach accounts with map from the Military Archives site <http://www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/archives-spotlight/online-exhibitions/easter-1916-an-toglach-accounts>
- b. Map of Dublin sites of action (city) <https://archive.org/stream/sinnfeinrebellio00dubl#page/n40/mode/1up>
- c. Map of Enniscorthy, 1916

http://www.militaryarchives.ie/fileadmin/user_upload/MSPC/MAPS/5.pdf

- d. Bureau of Military History Witness Statements
 - <http://www.bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie/bmhsearch/search.jsp>
- e. Teacher example (Maynooth/Kildare area)
 - i. Account of the Maynooth Volunteers
 - http://antoglach.militaryarchives.ie/PDF/1926_05_08_Vol_4_No17_An%20t-Oglac-17.pdf page 3-5
 - [ii. Pension record of Thomas Harris](#)
- f. Teacher example Dublin sites (GPO, Ringsend, Four Courts)
 - i. GPO - Commemorative article(s) detailing events in the G.P.O during Easter Week, An t-Óglach 1916
 - 1. "How the Troops took over the GPO"
http://antoglach.militaryarchives.ie/PDF/1926_01_16_Vol_4_No1_An%20t-Oglac.pdf
 - 2. "The defence of the Dublin GPO in 1916"
http://antoglach.militaryarchives.ie/PDF/1926_01_23_Vol_4_No2_An%20t-Oglac-2.pdf
 - 3. "The evacuation of the GPO"
http://antoglach.militaryarchives.ie/PDF/1926_02_27_Vol_4_No7_An%20t-Oglac-7.pdf
 - ii. GPO - Diarmuid Lynch Supplementary Statement on Easter Week (p21-340)
<http://www.bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie/reels/bmh/BMH.WS0004.pdf#page=25>
 - iii. Ringsend - Commemorative article(s) detailing events in Ringsend during Easter Week, An t-Óglach 1916
 - 1. "Occupation of the Ringsend area in 1916" part I of account
http://antoglach.militaryarchives.ie/PDF/1926_04_17_Vol_4_No14_An%20t-Oglac-14.pdf
 - 2. "Occupation of the Ringsend area in 1916" part II of account
http://antoglach.militaryarchives.ie/PDF/1926_04_24_Vol_4_No15_An%20t-Oglac-15.pdf
 - iii. Ringsend - Witness Statement of the Very Rev James Doyle
 - 1. <http://www.bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie/reels/bmh/BMH.WS0311.pdf#page=6>
 - iv. Four Courts - Commemorative article(s) detailing events in the Four Courts during Easter Week, An t-Óglach 1916
 - 1. "Four Courts and North King street area" by John J. Reynolds Part I of account
http://antoglach.militaryarchives.ie/PDF/1926_05_15_Vol_4_No18_An%20t-Oglac-18.pdf
 - 2. "Four Courts and North King street area" by John J. Reynolds Part II of account
http://antoglach.militaryarchives.ie/PDF/1926_05_22_Vol_4_No19_An%20t-Oglac-19.pdf
 - 3. "Four Courts and North King street area" by John J. Reynolds Part III of account
http://antoglach.militaryarchives.ie/PDF/1926_05_29_Vol_4_No20_An%20t-Oglac-20.pdf

- v. Four Courts - Witness Statement of Mortimer O'Connell (p24-25)
 - 1. <http://www.bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie/reels/bmh/BMH.WS0804.pdf#page=26>
- vi. Photographs of sites of action (captured by the Air Corps in the 1950s) available on
<http://photogallery.bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie/thumbnails.php?album=39>