

**Northern Ireland War Memorial**  
**StoryMaps for Leaving Certificate Ireland: Topic 3**  
**The Pursuit of Sovereignty and the Impact of Partition, 1912-1949**

## INTRODUCTION

These learning resources have been designed to highlight how the Northern Ireland War Memorial's *StoryMaps* can be used to address the *Leaving Certificate* curriculum in reference to **Ireland Topic 3: The pursuit of Sovereignty and the Impact of partition, 1912-1949** specifically focusing on '*The Impact of World War II, North & South*'.

It addresses 6 key themes:

- Smuggling
- Americans
- Blitz
- Evacuation
- Industry
- Victory

Use these StoryMaps to answer the example essay questions below.

## KEY ELEMENTS

| Aims                                 | Learning Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Knowledge and Understanding          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To develop knowledge and understanding of human activity in the past.</li><li>• To promote understanding of the present through the development of a historical perspective on issues of contemporary importance.</li><li>• To develop knowledge and understanding of Irish, European and world history.</li><li>• To develop students' understanding of historical concepts.</li><li>• To provide students with a perspective of change in a world of change.</li></ul> |
| Skills of history                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To develop an awareness of different interpretations of particular historical issues.</li><li>• To develop a range of research skills essential for the study of history.</li><li>• To develop an appreciation of the nature and variety of historical evidence.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Preparation for life and citizenship | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To develop the ability to think critically.</li><li>• To develop positive values associated with the study of history.</li><li>• To develop in students an appreciation of the society in which they live and of other societies, past and present.</li><li>• To develop in students an informed and critical awareness of their historical inheritance</li></ul>                                                                                                        |

## SMUGGLING

Access the Smuggling StoryMaps by visiting: <https://arcg.is/1jmKPm1>

Listen to the extracts found on the StoryMap above and use these to consider the questions below:

- Why do you think people engaged in smuggling despite the risk of fines, criminal charges or loss of goods?
- How tightly enforced were customs regulations and what impact could both corruption or discretion play if an individual was caught smuggling?
- How useful are these oral history extracts in studying the social and economic impact of Second World War on Northern Ireland? What are their limitations?

## VICTORY

Access the Victory StoryMaps by visiting: <https://arcg.is/1SXinb0b>

Listen to the extracts found on the StoryMap above and use these to consider the questions below:

- How was Victory celebrated in Northern Ireland? Use specific examples of how and where these celebrations took place.
- Suggest three reasons why Victory over Japan celebrations in August 1945 differed to the much larger Victory in Europe celebrations in May 1945.
- How can eyewitness testimony enrich our understanding of historical events and their impact, with specific reference to Victory celebrations of Spring/Summer 1945?

## AMERICANS

Access the American StoryMaps by visiting: <https://arcg.is/PCvDa1>

Listen to the extracts found on the StoryMap above and use these to consider the questions below:

- Do you think the Americans were a welcome presence to the people of Northern Ireland? Please provide examples showing both positive and negative opinions
- Using the oral history extracts for examples, evaluate the cultural, economic and social impacts of the American Presence in Northern Ireland.
- How useful are these as primary sources for a historian?

## INDUSTRY

Access the Industry StoryMaps by visiting: <https://arcg.is/1niG5P1>

Listen to the extracts found on the StoryMap above and use these to consider the questions below:

- How did the Second World War impact the farming industry in Northern Ireland?
- What products did Northern Ireland produce during the Second World War?
- Would these extracts be useful to a historian researching the economic impact of the Second World War?

## BLITZ

Access the Blitz StoryMaps by visiting: <https://arcg.is/1eCqge2>

Listen to the extracts found on the StoryMap above and use these to consider the questions below:

- How do these extracts suggest that the 'Dockside', 'Easter Tuesday' & 'Fire' Air Raids on Belfast differ?
- What contributing factors led to the very high casualty numbers of the Easter raid of 15/16 April 1941 on Belfast?
- How reliable are these eyewitness oral history accounts of the Belfast Blitz? Consider the effect of emotion, trauma and the passage of time between event and interview.

## EVACUATION

Access the Evacuation Blitz StoryMaps by visiting: <https://arcg.is/18LiXG1>

Listen to the extracts found on the StoryMap above and use these to consider the questions below:

- How do these extracts suggest that life in the countryside differed to life in wartime Belfast?
- Do these oral history accounts suggest that evacuation experience was positive or negative for evacuees?
- How useful are these oral history extracts in studying the process of evacuation- are there more suitable sources that should be considered?