

EPIC The Irish
Emigration
Museum

Secondary School

Resource Pack



epicchq.ie

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About Us

EPIC: The Irish Emigration Museum is a state-of-the-art interactive experience located in the beautiful vaults of the 200 year old Custom House Quarter (CHQ) building in Dublin's docklands, the original departure point for so many of Ireland's emigrants. It will inspire and guide you on a journey to discover the stories of Irish emigration around the world, from early times to the modern day.

Over the centuries, some 10 million people have left the island of Ireland. At EPIC you can step through 20 themed galleries to find out why people left, see how they influenced the world they found, and experience the connection between their descendants and Ireland today. Immerse yourself in the stories of some of the most remarkable tales of sacrifice, endurance, adventure, and discovery the world has ever known. EPIC brings these amazing stories to life in a unique and spectacular way.

Also on site is the Irish Family History Centre. As part of EPIC's visitor experience, The Irish Family History Centre operated by Eneclann is an exciting way for visitors to search for their Irish ancestors, discover their own unique family story and explore their Irish heritage. Knowing who you are and where you come from is something we feel everyone should get involved in! We want you to unearth your Irish roots in the most memorable way you can.

This pack aims to...

- Provide teachers with the essential resources and information to enable their students to get the best out of EPIC.
- Aid students in sharing knowledge, working together, accessing information and making well-thought out conclusions, understanding how information is processed, being creative, using their imagination, and developing oral skills.

Booking and Practical Information

Opening Hours

7 days a week from 10.00am – 5.00pm.
Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Facilities

Lockers are available to store bags, coats, and lunches and are operated with a €1 coin. The CHQ Building has large seating areas both inside and outside to eat packed lunches, and also great options for buying lunch.

Accessibility

EPIC is fully wheelchair accessible. There is one wheelchair available for use if required. There are multiple places to sit within the exhibition.

Bookings

We welcome and encourage teachers or group leaders to visit EPIC beforehand for free to plan their group's visit.

To book in a school group please contact the bookings office 9.00am – 5.30pm, Monday – Friday. Email groups@epicchq.com or phone +353 (0)1 906 0861. Or complete our booking form.

Please note...

We require a 50% deposit within seven days of booking. This deposit is non-transferable and non-refundable. Bookings will be cancelled if no deposit is received within seven days.

Payment can be made by cash, card, invoice, or cheque. Cheques can be made payable to EPIC Ireland Exhibitions Ltd. If paying by invoice, please send a request to groups@epicchq.com for a customer setup form which must be completed prior to visit.

Please contact EPIC as soon as possible if you need to cancel your tour. If you are cancelling within 24 hours of your tour, a 100% cancellation fee will be applied.

Prices

Primary school student €6

Secondary school student €8

One free teacher place for every 15 students

Additional teacher €12

Guided tours €40 per guide, one guide per 20 people, minimum 10.

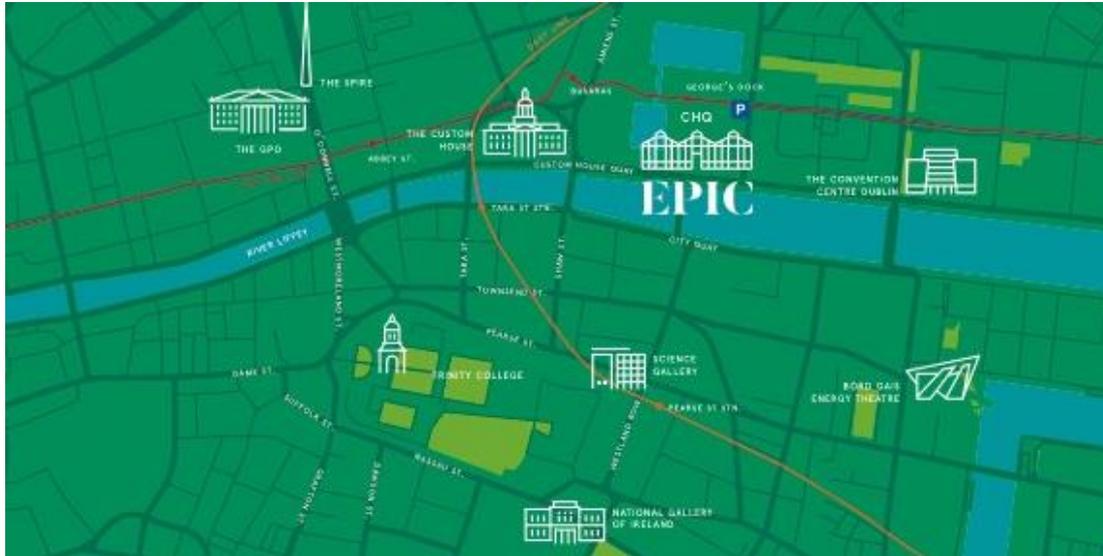
Audio guides €1 (Available in English, French, Italian, German, and Spanish)

If you have a large group (10+) please arrive 10 minutes prior to your booking time at the EPIC ticket desk. EPIC is a self-guided visitor attraction. We recommend 60-90 minutes to complete the self-guided tour. We require adequate supervision from teachers/supervisors. 1:5 for primary groups, 1:10 for secondary groups, and 1:20 for tertiary groups.

Groups can however book a dedicated tour guide at a cost of €40 – this is only available on request prior to your visit.

Guided tours last about 60 minutes.

Where to Find Us



Address

EPIC: The Irish Emigration Museum
CHQ, Custom House Quay
Dublin 1

House Quay/Hilton Garden Inn Hotel and from there it's a 1 minute walk to EPIC. Parking is available at Park Rite IFSC Car Park, 1 Commons Street, Dublin 1. Please contact directly for current parking fees.

By foot

EPIC is a 10 minute walk from O'Connell Bridge in Dublin city centre. Walk east from the bridge along Eden Quay with the River Liffey on your right. Continue along Custom House Quay straight past the historic Custom House until you see an arch on the left, beside the CHQ Building. Our entrance is beside this arch.

By coach...

Group leader should call the EPIC Visitor Experience mobile phone (+353 (0) 87 092 6193) to let the EPIC team know when they are 5 minutes away from their drop off point at the Hilton Garden Inn on Custom House Quay. The EPIC Welcome Host will make their way to the drop-off point to meet the group. When the coach arrives, we kindly ask that the coach driver provide their contact number to the Welcome Host so that they can be notified when the group is ready for collection. The group will then be escorted to the west entrance of the CHQ Building where they will be briefed regarding the facilities in the CHQ Building and the museum. The group will then be accompanied by the Welcome Host into the exhibition. From there the group will continue unguided, unless a guided tour has been pre-arranged.

By public transport...

LUAS – Accessible by LUAS Red Line at the George's Dock stop.

DART – We are a 5 minute walk from Connolly Station, and a 7 minute walk from Tara Street Station and Pearse Station.

Dublin Bus – Get the 14, 15, or 27 bus to Amiens Street/Connolly Station and walk 3 minutes to the CHQ Building. Buses 15a, 15b and 151 arrive at the Custom

Curriculum Links

Junior Cycle History

The Job of the Historian
Plantation in Ireland
From Farm to Factory
Political Developments in Ireland in the Late 19th Century and the 20th Century
Social Change in the 20th Century
International Relations in the 20th Century

Junior Cycle Geography

Population – Distribution, Diversity and Change
People on the Move

Junior Cycle English

Using technology and digital media tools to learn, communicate, work and think collaboratively in a responsible and ethical manner
Syllabus authors featured in EPIC: Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw

Junior Cycle Music

Culture and Context

Junior Cycle Religion

Community
Communities at Work
Relationships between Communities of Faith
Law and Morality

Senior Cycle Art

Irish and European Art

Senior Cycle Geography

The Dynamics of Population
Culture and Identity
Global Interdependence

Senior Cycle History

Working with Evidence
Irish History 1494-1815
History of Europe and the Wider World 1492-1815
Irish History 1815-1993 (specifically The Irish Diaspora)
History of Europe and the Wider World 1815-1992

Senior Cycle Music

Irish Music

Senior Cycle Religious

Education

Religion: The Irish Experience

Senior Cycle CSPE

Human Dignity: The Basis for Human Rights
Global Citizenship
The Law and the Citizen

Pre-Visit Resources

The following questions can be asked before your visit:

1. Ask your class to define emigration and immigration. Does anyone in the class have an emigration or immigration story of their own? Ask them if they would like to share their story.
2. In relation to the above question, how do you think people felt when they left Ireland? What do you think their hopes and fears were?
3. How do you think Irish immigrants felt when they first arrived in places like Ellis Island or Liverpool?

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4. What challenges do you think they faced upon arrival?
 5. What does diaspora mean? Who are the Irish diaspora? Can the class come up with their own definition?
 6. Can you name any well-known members of the Irish diaspora? For example, politicians, scientists, actors, writers, sports stars.
 7. Can you name five countries outside of Ireland where Irish people live?
 8. What countries and cities around the world are well known for their Irish immigrant populations?
 9. Do you think that emigration is still an important issue in Ireland today?

During Your Visit

School groups will be given the opportunity to ask questions during their visit and to discover new and exciting information about the diaspora via our worksheets.

You will begin your journey by receiving a souvenir passport as you enter the exhibition. In each gallery there is the option to collect a stamp as you follow a path through twenty remarkable galleries organised into four themes:

Migration: An introduction to Ireland and the arrivals and departures that have shaped it.

Motivation: Discover the reasons why so many left Ireland over the centuries – war, poverty, famine, adventure, hope, ambition, liberty, love, family, religion, oppression, crime – discover where they went and what they did, and explore the relationship between them and those who stayed behind.

Influence: What Irish people did overseas, and the extraordinary influence they have had in their adopted homelands in everything from music, literature, and art, to politics, business, science, and medicine.

Connection: How today's diaspora maintain their sense of identity and connect to their heritage and homeland.

Factsheets

Take a sneak peek at a few of the well-known characters on display in the museum!

Annie Moore

Annie (1877-1923) was born in Cork, in the south of Ireland, in 1877. Her parents left for America in 1890, leaving Annie and her two brothers in the care of an aunt. Once they were established, they sent for the children to join them. Annie and her brothers departed on the SS Nevada in December 1891. The picture on the right shows them arriving at Ellis Island. Arriving twelve



days later on January 1st 1892, Annie was first off the ship and became the first passenger processed at the new immigration centre on Ellis Island. Over the next 62 years, more than 12 million immigrants followed in her footsteps. To put this in perspective, 40% of Americans today have at least one ancestor who arrived through Ellis Island.

Annie lived the rest of her life in the tenements on New York's Lower East Side. She married and had at least ten children – five of whom died, due to the poverty and the conditions in which the family lived. She died from heart failure at 50, and her previously unmarked grave in Calvary Cemetery in Queens was marked in 2008 with a Celtic cross made of limestone imported from Ireland. Ellis Island is now a museum, and a statue of Annie Moore stands there and at her departure point in Cobh, County Cork. Keep an eye out for her in the **Arriving in a New World** gallery!

Mari Steed

Born in 1960, Mari Steed was sent to America at the age of two. Her mother, Josephine Bassett, had given birth to her out of wedlock in the Magdalene Laundry in Cork. Josephine had been born out of wedlock herself, and was raised in an industrial school. She was able to leave in 1957, after finding work with the church in a hospital in Dublin. Having been raised completely by nuns, Josephine had little knowledge of the world outside the convent and had received no sexual education. She became pregnant with Mari two years after leaving school, and was sent to a mother and baby home in Cork. Thousands of Irish girls and women were admitted to the Magdalene Laundries in the twentieth century. Most were unwed mothers like Josephine. They were forced to do heavy labour for no pay, and could only leave the laundries if a member of their family came to claim responsibility for them. However, the perceived shame of having a relative in the laundry deterred families from reclaiming these girls. The last laundry closed its doors as recently as 1996.

Mari was adopted by an American couple in Philadelphia. Adoptions like this were justified on the grounds that Irish single mothers were incapable of caring for their children outside of an institutional context, and because Irish families were in general reluctant to adopt illegitimate children. Mari became pregnant herself when she was sixteen, and her adopted parents admitted her to a home for unwed mothers. Her own child was given up for adoption. When she was older, Mari searched for both her mother and daughter, and eventually managed to reunite with them both. Mari is a high profile advocate of adoption activism. She co-founded

Justice for Magdalenes in 2003, provided testimony to the US ratification of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, and worked with the rights campaigners Adoption Rights Alliance, Bastard Nation, and Adopted Citizens of Eire. She campaigned for the Irish government to take responsibility for women forced to work in the laundries. They received an official apology from the Irish government in February 2013. Look out for her in the State and Society Gallery!

Ernest Shackleton

Ireland has produced many famous explorers, including Ernest Shackleton (1874-1922), an Irish-born British explorer, who led an expedition to Antarctica in 1914 on the ship Endurance. Shackleton was born in Kildare, in Ireland, to Anglo-Irish parents. The family moved when he was young, and he was raised in London. At sixteen, he joined the merchant navy, becoming a master mariner six years later. In 1901, he joined Robert Falcon Scott, the British naval officer and explorer, on a difficult expedition to the South Pole. Though he fell seriously ill and had to return home, this expedition ignited in him an obsession to reach the Antarctic.



The 1914 expedition was his third trip to the South Pole. Tom Crean, from County Kerry in the south of Ireland, was also on the expedition. Their aim was to sail through the Antarctic towards the South Pole, however Endurance became stranded when it was crushed by ice in early 1915. They were forced to abandon ship and set up camp on the floating ice, on which they drifted for months until the ship sank and they had to plan their escape. Shackleton and his crew crowded into three small boats and set off for the uninhabited Elephant Island, seen in the picture below. There was little hope of being rescued from here, and so Shackleton led a smaller party in a small boat across 1,300km of sea to South Georgia to organise a rescue effort, which was ultimately successful; the whole crew of twenty-eight men survived the ordeal. They had been stranded for two years. Shackleton's expeditions to Antarctica and the South Atlantic are legendary. He later died while setting out on another Antarctic expedition. Keep an eye out for Ernest in our **Discovering and Inventing Gallery!**

Mother Jones

Mother Jones (1837-1930) was born in Cork as Mary Harris Jones. After the Great Famine, while she was still a teenager, she immigrated with her family to Canada and then to America, where she found work as a teacher. In 1867, she sadly lost her husband and four children to yellow fever. More bad luck followed in 1871, when her dressmakers business was lost in the Great Chicago Fire. She then became involved in the American labour movement, becoming a prominent labour activist and community organiser, who coordinated major strikes and co-founded the Industrial Workers of the World. She became well-known for her speeches and determination, as an opponent of child labour, and as a champion of mine workers in America. In the picture on the right, she is shown marching in Trinidad, Colorado, in 1910.



In 1902 she was dubbed the "most dangerous woman in America" after her successful campaigns against mine owners and success in improving working conditions. She is

famously quoted as having said ‘Pray for the dead, and fight like hell for the living’ and ‘I’m not a humanitarian, I’m a hell-raiser’. Mother Jones only joined the struggle for workers’ rights in middle age, but by the time she’d reached her 50s she had achieved fame as a fiery activist, calling on men, women and children to demand better working conditions. She died in 1930 at the age of 93. Look out for her in the **Leading Change Gallery!**

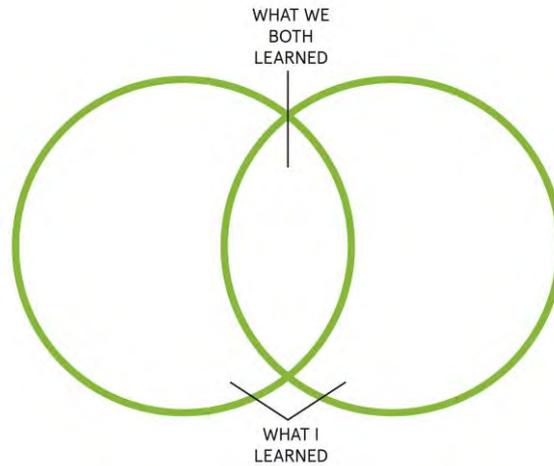
Les Darcy

Boxer Les Darcy (1895 – 1917) was born into a large Irish Catholic family near Maitland, New South Wales, Australia. His grandparents came from Tipperary. He left school aged twelve and worked as a carter before he became a blacksmith’s apprentice at fifteen, and first made a name for himself in the boxing ring at fourteen. The picture on the right is from 1910, when



he was just fifteen years old. By the time he was nineteen, he was Middle- and Heavyweight Champion and popular across the whole of Australia as well as the United States. However, with the dawn of the First World War, Darcy refused to enlist, instead choosing to fight for his family to support them financially through his boxing career. Hounded by the press, he secretly left for New York City, and would not return to Australia until after his death. When his body was brought back to Australia, he had one of the greatest funerals in Australian history, and many Irish Australians hoped to see him canonised as Australia’s first saint. Find him in our **Changing the Game** gallery!

Post-Visit Resources



What I learned

Activity

Working in pairs, have your students make a Venn diagram which looks like the example above. The diagram should include two sections named 'what I learned' and a middle, overlapping section entitled 'what we both learned'.

This activity helps pupils to think about their experience at EPIC and what they learned from it. Working as part of a team enables a shared knowledge base to be established and provides the opportunity to discover new information.



What if you had to leave?

Activity

Pick one of the characters from the list below and then, based on what you learned during your visit, write one of the following pieces from their point of view. Imagine you had to leave Ireland. A) You have just arrived in a new country, and are writing a letter home to your family in Ireland **or** B) You have been in a new country for one week now. Write a diary entry about your experiences.

1. Someone who suffered religious persecution in Ireland in the 16th or 17th century.
2. Someone who left Ireland to flee the Great Famine in the 1840s.
3. Someone who left Ireland in the 2000s to find work.

Key Terms and Vocabulary

Ellis Island: USA's first federal immigration centre. It operated from 1892 to 1954 and processed over 12 million immigrants during that time. Located in New York harbour.

Emigration: The act of leaving the country of your birth for a new life abroad.

Fenian: A member of the Fenian Brotherhood, a 19th century group dedicated to freeing Ireland from British rule through armed warfare.

Grosse Isle: A quarantine island in the Canadian Gulf of St. Lawrence which was used to house Irish famine immigrants from 1832 to 1848. Now the site of an Irish Famine Memorial.

Immigration: The act of coming to live in another country.

Irish Diaspora: The global community of Irish people and people of Irish descent.

Magdalene Laundry: Institutions from the 18th to the late 20th century to house "fallen women". The term "fallen women" primarily referred to prostitutes, however most of the women who entered were unmarried mothers who were forced into these institutions by the Church or by

family members who did not wish to live with the shame of being associated with a woman who gave birth to a child out of wedlock.

Missionary: A person who was sent or who departed on a religious mission to promote their faith in another country.

Navy: Short for 'navigational engineer'. A laborer employed in the excavation and construction of a road, railway, or canal.

Penal Convict: A person sentenced to exile outside their home country as punishment for a crime they committed, usually to a distant place.

Tenements: Single-family dwellings divided into multiple living spaces for multiple families. Often cramped, poorly lit, and lacking proper plumbing and ventilation.

Van Diemen's Land: Modern Tasmania. Between the years 1800 and 1853 it was a penal colony of Great Britain.

Wild Geese: A term for Irish soldiers or mercenaries serving in foreign armies in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries.