



About the Letters 1916-1923 Digital Treasure Hunt

The Letters 1916-1923 Digital Treasure Hunt is an initiative developed by the projects eDuCaTE and Letters of 1916-1923 to encourage novel ways of engaging with datasets and digital resources around the Decade of Commemorations in the classroom. Project goals include by providing training to teachers we seek to spark students' interest in genealogical and historical research; teach students different search strategies depending on the types of online resources used; and to critically reflect, interpret and analyse a variety of web-based resources.

The templates provided will allow teachers to develop a customised Digital Treasure Hunt that can be used in a lab so that their students can explore a variety of primary sources, learning about people (both well known and not so well known) and events in Ireland between 1916 and 1923 with the goal of encouraging students to engage in this pivotal period through a variety of subjects including history, literature and Irish.

Tips

- **Advanced preparation required:**

- Teachers should make sure to familiarise themselves with the web-based resources and should run through the quiz prior to doing it in class.
- We created a PPT for you to use in class. This can be adapted as necessary. You will particularly need to adapt slide 5 according to the case studies you choose

- **Access issues:**

- Teachers should make sure the websites to be used are unblocked in the lab where the activity will take place (past experience has shown that some will need to be unblocked in advance).
- All schools have access to the Dictionary of Irish Biography





- **Activity Methodology:**

- We recommend that students work in groups of two or three (in a pinch!)
- Present the databases to be used in advance and tell students what each one is used for/is about
- Be aware that the Letters 1916-1923 site is a little slow!
- Try to discourage them from using Wikipedia so that they get acquainted with other sources for biographical information
- We provide you with a blank template and a template with all the answers

- **Activity Format:**

- Part I: All students should do the first part on the Letters of 1916-1923 database as a warmup
- In this first section we suggest a couple of questions you can add to customise the treasure hunt, but feel free to add other questions that relate to course material you have/will cover
- Part II: is a series of case studies. We suggest choosing two –three for a single class period. Start with the O’Rahilly as it is the easiest. After that, choose two others that will interest your class, or make up your own!
- Some case studies have challenge questions. These should be answered by groups that finish early. Ideally all groups will answer all the questions, with those finishing before the class ends answering the challenge questions. So instruct the class to skip these until the end
- Leave yourself around 7-10 minutes to go through the questions at the end, depending on how much you want to draw the students out on certain topics.

Resources Used

The Bureau of Military History - <http://www.bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie/>

The 1901/1911 Census Records - <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>

Dictionary of Irish Biography - <http://dib.cambridge.org/>

The Diary of Mary Martin - <http://dh.tcd.ie/martindiary/>

The Letters of 1916-1923 Project - <http://letters1916.ie>



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