



Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann

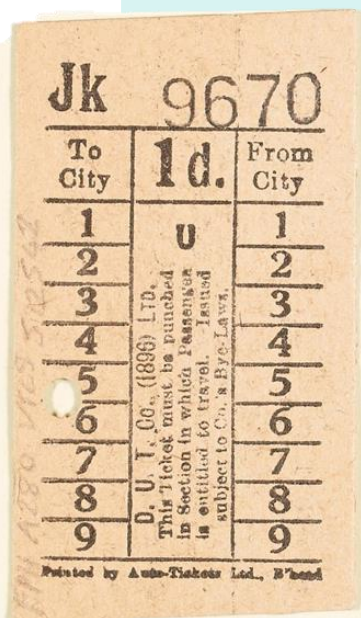
National Library of Ireland

EXPLORING EPHEMERA

An Introduction to Postering in Public Spaces

Teacher's Guide

This resource uses items from the NLI collection to explore ephemera—what it is, how street culture contributes to it and how to analyse its content.



Introduction

Ephemera is all around us whether we process it as such or not. These can relay a surprising amount of information. When something temporary is kept and preserved, we can understand more about the motivations and interests of the person. A train ticket stub from 70 years ago can provide information about inflation. Political posters give context about popular references and opinions surrounding a topic of election.

Students should be able to analyse and contextualise these sources and recognise how they operate in the world around them. This resource will introduce students to ephemera as historical evidence. This guide includes curriculum links as well as helpful resources.

Junior Cycle

Statements of Learning

SOL 8: The student values local, national and international heritage, understands the importance of the relationship between past and current events and the forces that drive change	They will investigate the historical roots of a contemporary issue or theme and examine how it has impacted the modern world
SOL 9: The student understands the origins and impact of social, economic and environmental aspects of the world around him/ her	The student will explore social change by looking at causes and consequences
SOL 18: Observe and evaluate empirical events and processes and draws valid conclusions and deductions	Explore the discipline of history, including working with evidence and making historical judgements based on an interrogation of evidence

Strand 1

- Developing historical consciousness; working with evidence; acquiring the big picture

Strand 2 & 3

- Recognising key change; exploring people, culture and ideas; applying historical thinking

Senior Cycle

Learning Outcomes

Working with Evidence	Varieties and repositories of historical evidence Nature of historical evidence and changing dynamics
Documents Based Study	Varieties of historical evidence How to interrogate

Topic 3: The pursuit of sovereignty and the impact of partition, 1912-1949

Politics and Administration	State building and the consolidation of democracy; from Free State to Republic
Culture and Religion	State and culture

Sources

- Dublin City Council – "Printing the 1916 Proclamation" [access here](#)
- National Archives, UK – "Imagining Empire in the 1920s: Posters of the Empire Marketing Board" [access here](#)
- Hans Aufricht – "Presidential Proclamations and the British Tradition" [access here](#)
- NLI Collections – [access here](#)

- "Using Historical Ephemera in the Classroom" – [access here](#)