

THE WORLD AROUND US — HISTORY · P5–P7

Plandáil Uladh — The Plantation of Ulster

Knowledge Organiser — P5–P7

Key vocabulary

1

Plantation

The policy of replacing the native Irish population with Protestant settlers from Scotland and England. The Ulster Plantation of 1610 was the most significant.

2

The Flight of the Earls (1607)

The departure of the Gaelic Ulster nobility — Hugh O'Neill (Earl of Tyrone) and Rory O'Donnell (Earl of Tyrconnell) — from Ireland after the defeat of the Nine Years' War (1594–1603). Their departure left Ulster without Gaelic leadership and cleared the way for plantation.

3

Undertakers

English and Scottish settlers who were given large grants of confiscated Ulster land in exchange for agreeing to bring over Protestant settlers and build towns and defences.

4

Servitors

English soldiers and officials who had served the Crown in Ireland and received smaller land grants under the plantation scheme.

5

Native Irish grantees

Some Irish landowners received smaller grants of their own former land — those who had been loyal to the Crown or had converted to Protestantism.

6

Bawn

A fortified enclosure required to be built by undertakers under the plantation scheme. Many plantation castles in Ulster still have their bawns.



t of the Plantation

How the Plantation shaped Ulster — and

- **LAND:** millions of acres of Ulster land were confiscated from Gaelic Irish families and given to Scottish and English settlers. The original landowners became tenants on their own land.
- **RELIGION:** settlers were Protestant (Church of Ireland and Presbyterian). The native Irish were Catholic. This religious divide was embedded in the landscape.
- **TOWNS:** the plantation created many of Ulster's towns — Londonderry (Derry), Coleraine, Enniskillen, Strabane were plantation foundations.
- **LANGUAGE:** Scots settlers brought Ulster Scots (a Germanic language, related to Lowland Scots) which became widely spoken in counties Antrim and Down.
- **LONG-TERM DIVISION:** the 1610 settlement created the conditions for centuries of conflict between communities — ultimately contributing to the partition of 1921 and The Troubles.
- **CULCHIE WORDS:** many everyday Ulster words come from Ulster Scots — 'brae' (hillside), 'burn' (stream), 'thole' (to endure), 'weans' (children), 'dander' (walk).
- **TODAY:** plantation-era castles and bawns are visible across Ulster counties — visible reminders of the 1610 settlement.

