Plantation Revision Notes

At the beginning of the 16th Century, The **Pale** (an area around Dublin) was the only part of Ireland that was fully under England's control. It was often attacked by the native Irish **clans**. England feared that her enemies might use Catholic Ireland as a base to attack England. Something had to be done to prevent this. They began a policy of **Plantation**.



A Plantation was when land was taken from the Irish and given to the English. This was to make Ireland more like England and easier to rule. It would hopefully prevent Ireland from being used as a base to attack England.

- They wanted the Irish to follow the Protestant religion
- To follow English laws
- Speak the English Language.

There were four main plantations

- 1. The Plantation of Laois and Offaly
- 3. The Plantation of Ulster

- 2. The Munster Plantation
- 4. The Cromwellian Plantation

The most successful of these was the Ulster Plantation carried out by King James.

<u>Causes</u>

Ulster was divided into clans and their leaders were Chieftains.

The most powerful chief was **Hugh O Neill**. The chieftains often fought with each other, this made them weak. Hugh O Neill knew that to defeat the English, they would have to unite. They fought a nine year war against the English but were defeated in the **Battle of Kinsale** in 1601. They were so harassed by English Officials that they fled Ulster in 1609 which is called the **Flight of the Earls**. King James called them traitors and planted their land with royal subjects

King James took six counties from Ulster they were Antrim, **Cavan, Derry**, Down, Fermanagh and Tyrone. They needed to map the land so sent surveyors to map the land. There were 4 million acres available



Three types of people got land.

- <u>1.</u> <u>Undertakers</u>: Were rich English and Scottish people who brought other families. They were each given estates of 2,000, 1,500, or 1,000 acres for a small rent. They were not allowed to take Irish tenants. In order to defend their estates they were obliged to build castles or stone houses surrounded by walls called bawns
- <u>2.</u> <u>Servitors</u>: Were English soldiers. They were mixed with the Irish to keep an eye on them. They paid higher rent but were allowed to have Irish tenants they too had to build stone houses and bans.

Trusted Irish who the king thought he could trust and were loyal to the king. Their rent was double that of the undertakers.

Undertakers were the most important. They had to promise to

- 1. Within three years he would build a stronghold. This would protect them from the Irish.
- 2. Beside each stronghold he had to build a wall.
- 3. To bring at least 10 families
- 4. To keep a stock of weapons in his house

Towns in Ulster

Towns were important to the planters. People came from the countryside to buy and sell their goods. Walls were built around the town to keep it safe. Walls had a bulwark with a cannon. The diamond or square was in the middle which was an important meeting point.

The plantation changed Ulster in many ways

It was the most Irish part of the Country to being where the English had the strongest hold. Gaelic culture was replaced by English culture such as now speaking English and changing from cattle farming to crop growing.

- As the Irish got the worst land and had to pay high rent the remained very unhappy.
- A rebellion in 1641 saw thousands of planters massacred
- The divisions between the Gaelic Catholic Irish and the Scottish and English protestant planters can still be felt today.

A Planter who has come to Ulster

My name is John and I am a planter who has come from Scotland to Ireland. I have come to try and make the Irish more like the English.

I am an undertaker. I have to pay £5.33 in rent for every 1000 acres. I have to bring over 10 families to live on my land.

I speak English, follow English law and am a protestant.

I am not allowed to have Irish on my land. I have to build a castle with a bawn and keep weapons to protect me from attacks by the Irish. My land is in Derry. I have helped to build a new town. It has a diamond in the middle with a market cross.

- Build a large 2-storey stone and timber house
- Roof made of slate,
- Chimney built of red brick
- Very different from houses of native Irish

You **farming** methods

- You did not raise cattle like the Irish
- You began to grow lots of crops
- Introduced a new crop called the potato to the area
- You cleared large areas of forest and drained land
- Built lots of fences and ditches around fields

Your local town

- Lots of new people have settled there
- Many different craftsmen live there
- Town was specially planned
- Has wide, straight streets
- Has a central Square and important buildings
- Court House, Market House and Presbyterian Church
- Markets are held in the town every Friday

Your **fears**

- Feel that native Irish people really resent you
- Many are angry over loss of their lands
- Some of your friends have been attacked
- You too are afraid keep loaded muskets in house

• Happy that English system of justice has been set up

Goldsmith A person who makes things out of gold.

Grocer A person who sells food and small household goods

Fishmonger A person who sells fish for food

Haberdasher	A person who sells material used in dressing and sewing
Clothworker	A person who works with cloth
Ironmonger	A person who sells tools and other hardware
Salter	A person who puts salt in food to make it last longer
Draper	A person who sells fabrics
Skinner	A person who deals in the skins or hides of animals.