


BICYCLES, BARRACKS AND BANDOLIERS

Suggested Activities

Police badge design

Notes to Teachers

These tasks encourage the pupils to observe and interpret the design of police badges in Ireland. These activities help pupils to research the multiple meanings of different symbols and develop an understanding of how cultural identities can be expressed through symbols. Tasks can be completed by pupils individually or in pairs. Where a class discussion and teacher input is required this is marked with a .

The activity set finishes with a concluding task, *task 6*, that supports pupils to evidence their learning across the theme.

Resources required:

Task 4: whiteboard or computers with internet access.

Curricular Links

Learning Areas: History, Local & Global Citizenship, Art & Design

KS3 History:

- *Knowledge, Understanding and Skills*
 - Developing critical thinking skills;
 - Understanding of different perspectives and interpretations.

KS3 Art & Design:

- *Key element:* Cultural Understanding
 - Explore the diversity of various cultures that are expressed through Art & Design.

KS3 Local & Global Citizenship:

- *Key concept:* Diversity & Inclusion
 - Investigate ways in which individuals and groups express their identity;
 - Investigate ways of managing conflict and promoting community relations, reconciliation.

Learning Outcomes:

- Communicate effectively in oral and written formats, showing clear awareness of audience and purpose.

Key Skills and Personal Capabilities

Managing information, Self management

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These are the five badges of the national police forces of Ireland/Northern Ireland from 1836 - present.



Constabulary Badges (l-r): Badge 1 - Irish Constabulary, Badge 2 - Royal Irish Constabulary, Badge 3 - Royal Ulster Constabulary



Badge 4- An Garda Síochána badge



Badge 5 - Police Service of Northern Ireland

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Task 1: Observation of badges

1. Take each badge in turn and notice the colours, shapes and the use of symbols and words in each shield.
2. Create a two column table, and for each badge describe the different elements included in the design i.e. for the Irish Constabulary badge.

Badge 1 - Irish Constabulary	
Oval shape	
large red and gold crown on top of oval	
background black	
green shamrock in centre	
band around outside of shamrock	
white text reads 'constabulary'	
small gold decoration on bottom of oval	

Task 2: Identifying the symbols used in the badges

Badges or shields will often combine a number of symbols, shapes and colours to convey a particular message to viewers. The symbols used will have some meaning and connection to the country, organisation and their history.

1. Look at each part of the badge can you interpret the meaning behind it?
2. Add the descriptions to the table.

Badge 1 - Irish Constabulary	'meaning'
Oval shape	
large red and gold crown on top of oval	A crown is often an emblem of the sovereign state, a monarch's government, or items endorsed by it;
background black	
green shamrock in centre	A shamrock is a young sprig of clover, used as a symbol of Ireland. Saint Patrick, Ireland's patron saint, is said to have used it as a metaphor for the Christian Holy Trinity.
band around outside of shamrock	
white text reads ' constabulary '	Irish Constabulary
small gold crown shape on bottom of oval	

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Task 3: Understanding the symbols used in the badges

1. Read the brief history of policing below.
2. Use the symbol meaning and historical context to suggest a reason for the choice of symbol i.e.

Badge 1 - Irish Constabulary	'meaning' & reason
Oval shape	
large red and gold crown on top of oval	A Crown is often an emblem of the sovereign state, a monarch's government, or items endorsed by it; - <i>Irish Constabulary operated when all of Ireland was under British rule. Crown represents British Rule</i>
background black	
green shamrock in centre	A shamrock is a young sprig of clover, used as a symbol of Ireland. Saint Patrick, Ireland's patron saint, is said to have used it as a metaphor for the Christian Holy Trinity.- <i>The shamrock represents Ireland, the jurisdiction of the constabulary</i>
band around outside of shamrock	

A brief history of the different police forces in Ireland/ Northern Ireland

- From 1801 until 1921, Ireland was governed by British rule through the Dublin Castle administration.
- Peace Preservation Force was established in Ireland in 1814.
- The provincial County Constabulary was established in Ireland in 1822.
- In 1836, the county constabularies were brought together to form the Irish Constabulary. *[badge 1]*
- In 1867, the Irish Constabulary was awarded a Royal prefix by Queen Victoria for their role in the suppression of the Fenian Rising and became the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC). *[badge 2]*
- Under the terms of the Government of Ireland Act 1920, Ireland was partitioned and responsibility for law and order transferred from Britain to the new governments in Belfast and Dublin.
- In 1922, the RIC was disbanded and new police forces were established in each jurisdiction:
 - the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) in Northern Ireland. *[badge 3]*
 - the Civic Guard, later An Garda Síochána is set up in the Irish Free State.*[badge 4]*
- After the British army became primary agent of civil power in 1969, responsibility for law and order returned to the British government.
- After the Good Friday Agreement was signed in April 1998, an Independent Commission into Policing (ICP) recommended that the name and badge of the RUC be changed.
- In 2001, the RUC became the Police Service of Northern Ireland. *[badge 5]*
- Since the signing of the St Andrew's Agreement, responsibility for justice and policing has returned to Northern Ireland.

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Task 4: Identifying the cultural meaning

Symbols can have more than one meaning and these additional interpretations can change over time. In Northern Ireland, symbols have become associated with particular cultural identities. These symbols have the power to draw support from or offend different communities.

1. Return to your table and add a third column called *cultural identity 'meaning'*.
2. Visit the following links.

CAIN: Nationalist/ republican symbols

<http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/images/symbols/nationrepub.htm>

CAIN: Unionist/ loyalist symbols

<http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/images/symbols/unionloyal.htm>

CAIN: Cross-community symbols

<http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/images/symbols/crosstrad.htm>

3. Add any information about the symbol's cultural associations into the third column.

Badge 1 - Irish Constabulary	'meaning' & reason	cultural identity 'meaning'
Oval shape		
large red and gold crown on top of oval	A Crown is often an emblem of the sovereign state, a monarch's government, or items endorsed by it; - <i>Irish Constabulary operated when all of Ireland was under British rule. Crown represents British Rule</i>	
background black		
green shamrock in centre	A shamrock is a young sprig of clover, used as a symbol of Ireland. Saint Patrick, Ireland's patron saint, is said to have used it as a metaphor for the Christian Holy Trinity.- <i>The shamrock represents Ireland, the jurisdiction of the constabulary</i>	<i>It is one of Ireland's national emblems, and is used by mainly by the Nationalist tradition, but is also evident within the Unionist tradition.</i>

After the Good Friday Agreement was signed April 1998, an Independent Commission into Policing (ICP) was established. The commission's aim was to make recommendations for policing in Northern Ireland that would encourage widespread community support. The ICP or Patten report was published in September 1999 and contained 175 recommendations for changes to the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) including a new name, oath and badge.

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Patten recommendations 150 & 151

“While the Royal Ulster Constabulary should not be disbanded, it should henceforth be named the Northern Ireland Police Service.”

“The Northern Ireland Police Service should adopt a new badge and symbols which are entirely free from any association with either the British or Irish states.”

Despite the mixed reaction to the Patten report, the majority of the recommendations were progressively implemented. On the 4th November 2001, the RUC became the Police Service of Northern Ireland. A month later, the Policing Board agreed on a new badge.



Above: PSNI badge
Left: RUC badge

Task 5: Evaluating the RUC badge design

1. Review your table of symbols and meanings for the RUC badge.
2. Why do you think the ICP/Patten report recommended a change of name and badge for the RUC?
3. Why do you think the decision angered Unionists?

Task 6: Evaluating the PSNI badge design

1. Review your table of symbols and meanings for the PSNI badge.
2. Why do you think the symbols featured in the PSNI badge were chosen? Discuss your reasons with the class.

