

WHAT DO YOU
KNOW ABOUT THE
IRISH FAMINE ?



THE POTATO AND THE BLIGHT

- THE LUMPER IS A WHITE POTATO THAT WAS COMMONLY GROWN IN IRELAND BECAUSE IT PRODUCED A LARGE CROP AND GREW ON POOR SOIL.
- HOWEVER , IT WAS ALSO PRONE TO DISEASE- THE BLIGHT. IT ARRIVED, IN 1845, FROM EUROPE AND QUICKLY SPREAD.

THE DISEASE

- THE FUNGUS HIT THE POTATOES FIRST, BEFORE SHOWING BLOTCHES ON THE LEAVES AND STEMS. EVEN POTATOES THAT SEEMED FINE WHEN DUG UP, ROTTED LATER.



HUNGER



- BY OCTOBER 1845, ONE THIRD OF THE CROP HAD BEEN LOST AND 87,000 PEOPLE HAD DIED OF HUNGER. FOOD PRICES ROSE QUICKLY AND THOSE WHO NEEDED FOOD MOST, COULD NOT AFFORD IT.

CORN

- THERE WERE LARGE AMOUNTS OF GRAIN PRODUCED IN IRELAND AND THESE WERE EXPORTED TO BRITAIN (Trevelyan's corn)



BLACK '47



- 1847 SAW THE GREATEST NUMBER OF DEATHS IN IRELAND. BY NOW OVER £5MILLION HAD BEEN SPENT ON RELIEF SCHEMES. (AID) OVER 3 MILLION PEOPLE DEPENDED ON THIS AID.

AID

- 'SOUP KITCHENS' RUN BY QUAKERS, WERE SET UP TO FEED THE STARVING PEOPLE. THE POTATO CROP WAS GOOD IN 1847, BUT ONLY A SMALL CROP HAD BEEN PLANTED. PEOPLE WERE EITHER TOO WEAK TO SOW THE PLANTS OR HAD EATEN THE SEED POTATOES.



EMIGRATION



- DURING THE FAMINE YEARS ABOUT 2 MILLION PEOPLE EMIGRATED TO ENGLAND, AMERICA, CANADA AND AUSTRALIA. CONDITIONS ON BOARD THE SHIPS WERE DREADFUL, WITH VERY LITTLE FOOD. THE 8 WEEK LONG VOYAGES TO CANADA AND AMERICA WERE THE WORSE. DISEASE WAS WIDESPREAD AND THOUSANDS DIED. THE SHIPS WERE KNOWN AS 'COFFIN SHIPS'

CHANGES AFTER THE FAMINE

- THE POPULATION HAD DROPPED BY AT LEAST 2 AND A HALF MILLION.
- EMIGRATION NOW PLAYED A LARGE PART IN IRISH LIFE.
- EMIGRANTS SENT HOME MILLIONS OF POUNDS.
- EDUCATION WAS SEEN AS A MEANS OF ESCAPING POVERTY



QUESTIONS

1. WHAT KIND OF POTATOES WERE GROWN IN IRELAND? WHY?
2. WHAT ARRIVED IN 1845 AND FROM WHERE?
3. AS FOOD PRICES ROSE, HOW DID THE POOR FARE?
4. WERE THERE CROPS BEING GROWN IN IRELAND AT THAT TIME?
5. WHY WAS 1847 CALLED 'BLACK '47'?
6. HOW DID THE QUAKERS HELP ?
7. WERE PEOPLE STILL DYING IN 1847? AND WHY? (2 REASONS)
8. NAME 2 COUNTRIES IRISH PEOPLE EMIGRATED TO?
9. WHY WERE THE 'COFFIN SHIPS' SO CALLED?
10. LIST 2 CONSEQUENCES OF THE FAMINE?