

## Tutorial 3

## 1916 The Battle of the Somme and the Easter Rising

For this final tutorial we will investigate one of the greatest paradoxes in Irish history – how could Irishmen proclaim their loyalty to Ireland while fighting for the Crown in World War I? For this, classes will be broken into two groups. **The first group** will give a Powerpoint presentation on the 1916 Rising and answer the following questions:

- 1) What happened during the 1916 Rising?
- 2) To what extent was it a popular uprising?
- 3) What happened after the execution of its leaders?
- 4) How do people in Northern Ireland remember the 1916 Rising?

**The second group** will give a Powerpoint presentation on the Battle of the Somme. They must address the following questions:

- 1) What was the Battle of the Somme?
- 2) Why were Irishmen fighting for the Crown?
- 3) Why does the Somme have a special resonance in contemporary folk memory in Ulster?
- 4) How have people from the South of Ireland commemorated the Battle of the Somme.

Then we will have a class debate on this formative period of Irish history: What can history tell us about Ireland today?

### Suggested Readings

(Please note that these are suggestions for your presentations, feel free to investigate anything that you may feel is relevant).

- 1) Visit the following website that has pictures of all the murals in Northern Ireland [www.belfast-murals.co.uk](http://www.belfast-murals.co.uk)
- 2) Google the lyrics to 'The Foggy Dew' and the words to WB Yeats's poem 'Easter 1916'.

### Recommended Reading

- 1) John Horne's introduction to *Our War* (History Week 3, Reading 1)
- 2) Joe Lee's chapter on 1912-1922 (History Week 3, Reading 2)