

LESSON 5

Trade Union Movement in Modern Ireland



Lesson 5

Trade Union Movement in Ireland

Subject: History (Integrated with Drama)

Strand: Eras of change and conflict

Strand Unit: Modern Ireland

Learning Objectives:

- become familiar with the role of trade unions and the ways they represent their members
- examine and discuss a case study of a trade union in action
- engage in role-play to demonstrate their understanding of negotiating for a desired outcome
- select an outcome and back up their selection with an argument for/against a proposed pay agreement

Resources:

- PowerPoint Presentation 5 - *Trade Union Movement in Modern Ireland*
- Vocabulary wall
- Signs for two options
- KWL Chart

Introduction:

Teacher will review vocabulary covered so far – referring to word wall e.g. union, activist, collective bargaining, mandate, ballot etc.

Teacher will open up PowerPoint on first slide looking at the different images of trade unionists and trade union logos. Use this as a stimulus for discussion

- Are you familiar with any of these logos?
- Do you know what they stand for?
- These are all union logos-do you know who each union represents?
- Do anyone know someone who is a member of one of these unions?
- Do you know any other unions not mentioned here?



Development:

Re-cap on the 1913 Lockout from previous lesson.

What were the unions looking for at this time? – better pay and conditions, the right to be a member of a union.

Outline some gains made by unions since the time of 1913 Lockout (Slide 2).

Discuss the common aims of unions today (slide 3).

Put up Slide 4 showing the nurses involved in strike action and engage in a whole class discussion.

- Have you ever had to go a hospital?
- Have you ever had to stay in hospital?
- Who took care of you when you were there?
- Does anyone have a nurse in their family?

We're going to take a look at an example of a union at work-INMO-Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation strike.

Use the following prompt questions to discuss the dispute:

- What is a strike?
- Why do workers strike?
- What happens when workers strike?

- Why were the nurses striking?
- What was the outcome of the strike action?

Group Activity-Integration-Visual Arts-Drama

Group Activity (Slide 5& 6) : Groups of six -5 minutes per group. Teacher circulates and assists as necessary.

The children (in groups) feedback on how activity went using self-assessment-Traffic lights on how easy or difficult they found it to negotiate.

Conclusion:

Outcome of negotiations-think-pair-share-discuss with a partner the 2nd option put forward by management for 2 mins.

Teacher puts two signs at opposite corners of the room representative of option 1 and option 2. Children move to stand under their preferred option.

Feedback-who would recommend option 1 and why? Who would recommend option 2 and why?

Re-cap on Trade unions and their importance in such negotiations. Complete KWL chart now that all lessons have been completed.



Assessment:

- Teacher Observation
- Questioning
- Self-Assessment- Traffic Lights

Suggested Linkage/Integration:

- Visual Arts-Design your own logo for a trade union or a poster/banner for a worker issue
- Drama-Reflecting on drama
- Gaeilge-San Ospidéal

