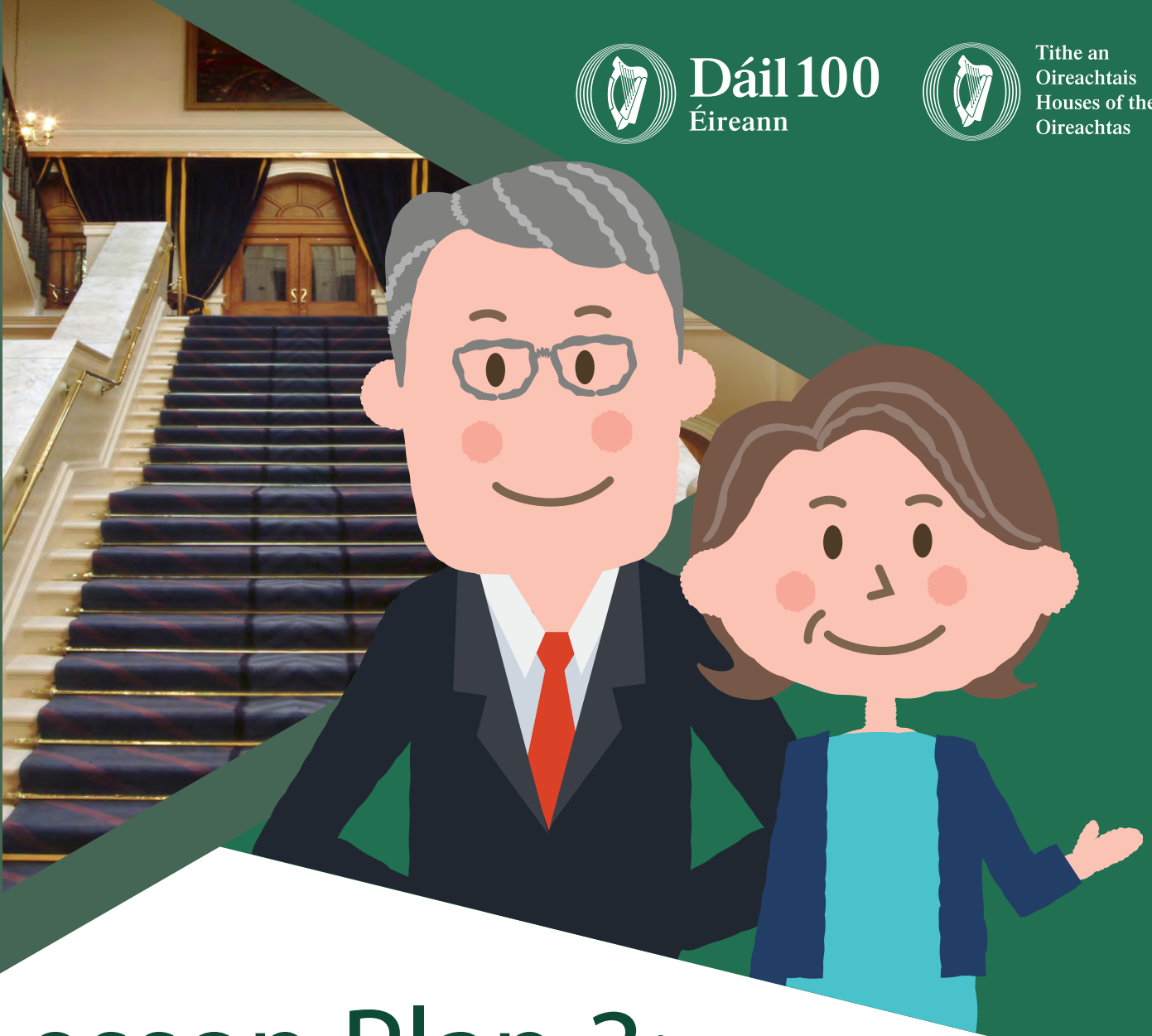




Dáil 100
Éireann

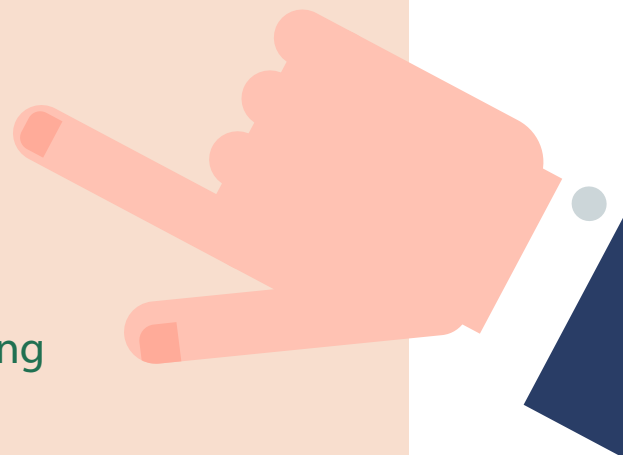


Tithe an
Oireachtais
Houses of the
Oireachtas



Lesson Plan 3: On the day 21st January 1919

Junior Cert/Cycle CSPE, History:
Democracy (CSPE) Developing historical
consciousness, working with evidence,
acquiring the 'big picture' (History Strand 1)
Recognising key change, exploring people,
culture and ideas, applying historical thinking
(History Strand 2)



Lesson Plan 3: On the day 21st January 1919

Learning intentions

At the end of this lesson students will understand

1. The national and international view on the meeting,
2. The different perspectives in Ireland with regard to this meeting.

Key skills

Communicating, Working With Others, Managing Information and Thinking.

Resources

www.rte.ie/archives/exhibitions/920-first-dail-eireann-1919/

Introduction

Ask students to come up with a list of words which they would use to describe the atmosphere around Dublin and the country on the night before or morning of the first sitting of Dáil Éireann. Discuss why they think those would be the main feelings.

Listen to [Mood on Election Day](#). What did The Irish Times say Sinn Féin would have to do? The London Times said the whole thing was “childishly what?” There would be no interference from the government provided it was what? According to Liam Ó Briain, what group of people “didn’t know what these curious fellows were going to do?” What was the attitude of the Unionists and the Irish Party? Who were the third group he mentions and what did they want?

Listen to [The Country was Jubilant](#) up to 2 minutes. What county was the speaker from and how many representatives were there from that county? What was the message from the first Dáil according to the speaker? What was the British attitude to the Dáil? What word starting with “A” does he use to describe the British attitude

towards developments in Ireland?

Listen to [A Witness Account](#). What county was the speaker from and why was she able to get tickets? Had she and her friends a good view? What were they able to see and hear? Did they leave straight after the meeting? Where did they go and what did they do?

Development

Divide the class into groups which Liam Ó Briain mentioned: ordinary people, Unionists/members of the Home Rule party, and people who voted for Sinn Féin. Ask each group to imagine that they are present outside the Mansion House as the members start to arrive and to compose a short conversation they would have with one of the other groups about this meeting. Give them guidelines such as: why are you here, did you vote and if so for who and why, what do you think is going to happen, what do you hope will happen and will there be any big change to your everyday life?

Conclusion

Examine some of the conversations. What themes are beginning to emerge? Ask the students can they see why other groups would have different opinions to their group and can they understand where these feelings or attitudes come from?

