

## Teacher Information Card

### The Growth of the Linen Industry in Belfast

In 1850, a third of the flax spinning mills, producing over half of the linen output for all of Ireland, were located in the Belfast area. By 1852, the number of linen mills in Belfast reached 28 with the majority located in the Shankill and Falls areas. The population of the city grew from 20,000 in 1803 to 100,000 in 1851.

In 1861, Belfast had 32 linen mills and by 1873 it had become the largest linen-producing centre in the world and was known as 'Linenopolis'. By the start of the twentieth century the population of Belfast was over 300,000 and more than 35,000 of the city's inhabitants, mostly women, were involved in the textile industry.

