

Activity Two

Why go to Ulster?

Suggested Learning Intentions

Children are learning:

- why people left Scotland to come to Ulster in the 1600s; and
- about the difficult choices migrants have to make.

Suggested Learning and Teaching Activities

Read the *Why go to Ulster?* section of the resource booklet **The Plantation of Ulster and Ulster-Scots: What's it all about?** Discuss key vocabulary.

Pose the question: Why do people move? Responses might include:

- work/jobs
- war
- weather
- family
- famine.

Ask the children to imagine they are moving to a new country. Divide the class into pairs and encourage them to list ten things they would take with them. Invite the children to arrange their lists in a Priority Pyramid and to give reasons for their choices and decisions.

As a class, sort these items into NEEDS and WANTS using a Venn diagram and discuss the following:

- What would you miss from your old home and why?

Recap on the previous activity and ask the children to imagine they are a member of a Scottish family moving to Ulster in the early 1600s. (Remember no electricity, no technology!) Discuss what essentials these settlers might have brought with them and why.

Prompt the class to think about the intangible things that travel with us, such as, language, names/surnames, stories, history and culture. Ask whether they think these things are important? Why?

The Scottish settlers coming to Ulster throughout the 1600s brought these things with them, and survive today as Ulster-Scots surnames, language, music and heritage.

Extension Activities:

- Immerse the children in the Ulster-Scots experience (past or present) through role-play, such as freeze-frame, conscience alley or hot seating and creative writing activities, for example, diary entries or letter writing.
- Find out whether any of the children's friends or family members have migrated or immigrated and ask them to interview them about their experiences.
- Immigration is topical today – use news stories to explore the modern day issue.

