

Politics and Society

Topic 7 L.O. 7.1

Globalisation and Identity

Possible Learning Activities

7.1 representations of national identity made available to young people

- Invite students to work together in small groups to create a group self-portrait made up of objects, symbols and/or imagery that represent key elements of their identity. Display the portraits around the room and facilitate a whole class discussion questions such as these:
 - Does each of us have one fixed identity, or are they multiple?
 - Do identities change over time? Why?
 - What role do other people have in shaping our identities?
 - How evident is the idea of national identity in the images created?
 - How is your sense of national identity formed or constructed?
- Watch Professor Paul Connolly's talk then facilitate a discussion on: How can the education systems on the island of Ireland help to shape a positive sense of national identity for young people?
- Find a range of different school text books and investigate the way in which school text books represent 'Irish' national identity, e.g. History books.
- Divide the class into small groups and give each group a text to study (opposite). Ask each group to summarise and present the main findings or the big ideas that are presented in their reading. Build on this to discuss the role of history education in the construction of national identity both North and South.
- Discuss the idea that 'learning to value their own culture and ethnicity is central to children's self-esteem and sense of identity' (NCCA, [Intercultural Education in the post-primary school: Guidelines for Schools](#), p. 15). How can schools support this? How can learning to value one's own culture and sense of identity be balanced with respect for other cultures and identities?

Useful resources

Introductory teaching and learning activities on the theme of identity can be found in these and other resources:

[Equality in Second-level Schools: A Training Manual for Educators and Trainers](#), esp. pp. 9-14

[Life Stories: Exploring identity with young people](#)

Professor Paul Connolly, 'Awareness of Diversity Through Children's Eyes,' 8 mins video.

Roland Tormey (2006) 'The construction of national identity through primary school history: the Irish case' *British Journal of Sociology of Education* Vol. 27, No. 3: (especially pp 317-322)

Alan McCully (Ed) 2007. *Recent research on teaching history in Northern Ireland* (especially pp18-21 and pp37-42)

Keith C. Barton, Alan W. McCully, Margaret Conway, 'History Education and National Identity in Northern Ireland' *International Journal of Historical Learning, Teaching and Research* 3: 31-43: (especially see findings and discussion section)

Kenneth D. Bush & Diana Saltarelli (eds) (2000), '[The two faces of education in ethnic conflict](#)' [UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre](#) (especially chapter 2)

How will students show evidence of their learning?

Examples of ongoing assessment related to Topic 7 LO.7.1

Write a response to the statement: Education plays an important role in shaping a young person's sense of national identity.

Ask students to carry out an investigation of the representation of 'Irish' identity in a selection school textbooks and present their findings.

Research recent history textbook controversies in countries such as South Korea, Japan and Taiwan and prepare to argue for or against the following debate motion: *The teaching of history is always highly political.*

What am I looking for? Sample criteria for success

The response should:

- Provide reasons and evidence to back up the statement. Or provide reasons and evidence to argue against the statement. Or do both.
- Draw on concrete examples from Ireland (North and South). Reference to other counties may also be made.
- Draw some conclusions regarding the possible consequences/implications. Capacity to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of an argument