

DBQ: Document-Based Questions

The Great Famine in Ireland

“We entered a cabin. Stretched in one dark corner, scarcely visible, from the smoke and rags that covered them, were three children huddled together, lying there because they were too weak to rise, pale and ghastly, their little limbs—on removing a portion of the filthy covering—perfectly emaciated, eyes sunk, voice gone, and evidently in the last stage of actual starvation.”

- William Bennett

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the reading and your knowledge of social studies.

1. According to this passage, how were children affected by the potato famine?

2. Imagine that you are a visitor to Ireland during the Great Famine. How might you react to seeing a scene like the one described by William Bennett?