

2 MIND-MAPPING IRELAND

Aim

To explore how Irish people and people from other countries view Irish identity

Time

20 minutes

Materials

Flip chart paper and pens.

What to do

- Divide the group into pairs and label them A and B. Give each pair a piece of flip chart paper folded in two. Each pair writes 'IRISH' in the middle of the paper.
- Ask each pair to think of the first five words that they would associate with the word 'IRISH' and to write or draw these words around the word 'IRISH'.
- Each pair then thinks of words they would associate with each of the five chosen words and writes or draws these around the page. Explain that this is a mind-map.
- Ask each pair to cut a hole in the paper across the fold so that partner A can wear the piece of paper like a T-shirt with the mind-map on the front
- Bring the group back together and ask the B partners to explain the mind-maps on their A partners, to the rest of the group. Discuss with the group whether these words really reflect what it means to be Irish and where these ideas about Irishness come from.
- Ask the As to take off the T-shirt. Each pair writes 'IRISH' in the centre of the back of the T-shirt and writes or draws things that they think give a different picture of what Ireland is like.
- Bring the group back together with the Bs wearing the T-shirts. Ask the As to describe the new mind-maps. Ask the group how the mind-maps on the backs and fronts of the T-shirts compare.

Discussion Questions

- Where do our ideas about people in other countries come from?
- How might our perceptions affect the way we treat them?