British Library Sources:

Ideas on each of sources:

**About Source 1**

**Source Details**A Catholic propaganda print from the late 16th century, showing the treatment of Catholic priests in Ireland by the English.

**Context**This print was made at a time when the rivalry between Protestants and Catholics was causing violence and misery across Europe. Protestant publications told tales of Catholics massacring Protestants, while Catholic publications told the same story, just the other way around. The bitter struggle in Ireland gave both sides the chance to accuse the other of atrocities; this print shows the Catholic viewpoint.

**Puzzled?**  
At first sight the source presents a horrific scene. We can see priests and bishops being tortured and killed for their faith. Notice, however, the calm expressions of the dead and tortured priests and the cruelty of the English soldiers. This is a sure sign that this print has been created as propaganda, and historians must be careful how they use it.

**Questions**

* How are the Irish priests presented in this source?
* How are the English presented in this source?
* Can we rely on this as a source to tell us what really happened? Give reasons for your answer.

**Source Details**Drawing from 'Image of Irelande', an English book about Ireland published in 1581.

**Context**  
John Derricke's book was dedicated to his patron, Sir Henry Sidney. The book is mainly about Henry Sidney's father, the Lord Sidney responsible for the Plantation of Munster. The book is full of illustrations of the 'wild Irish', but also stresses that many Irish gentry were loyal to Queen Elizabeth.  
**Puzzled?**The illustration shows the typical Irish chieftain eating out of doors with very rough and ready table manners. The English made many attempts to 'civilise' the Irish by trying to make them adopt English manners. This civilising usually involved converting to Protestantism as well, which rarely happened. This picture shows how the artist wanted people in England to see the uncivilised Irish.

**Questions**

* How are the Irish presented in this source?
* Is there anything here to suggest it is one-sided?
* Who would have read this book? Do you think they would have had to chance to see for themselves whether it was accurate or not?

**About Source 3**

**Source Details**  
Extract from Sir John Davies, 'A Discovery of True Causes why Ireland was entirely subdued', written in 1612.  
**Context**Sir John Davies (1570-1626) was an English nobleman who gained from the Plantation of Ulster. He held a number of important official posts in Ireland and served in both the Irish and English Parliaments. He also wrote several books praising Elizabeth I and James I, although he did sometimes disagree with their policies on Irish trade.  
**Puzzled?**  
The author is writing about the benefits which, in his opinion, Plantation brought to Ulster. He points to the fact that the land is farmed more efficiently and that the population of Ulster is loyal to the Crown. He also argues that Ulster and the rest of Ireland will soon be able to live in peace and harmony once the Plantation policy has had a few years to settle down.

**Questions**

* Do you think this version of the story gives a fair report of the facts. How much of this is factual and how much is someone's opinion.
* If you were an Irish farmer, which words and phrases would you disagree with? What might you say?
* Imagine you are an English planter, trying to justify your settlement on a plantation in Ireland. What might you say?

## About Source 4

**Source Details**Extract from the Itinerary of Fynes Moryson, published in 1617.  
**Context**From 1600-1603 Fynes Moryson was Chief Secretary to Baron Mountjoy, the Lord Deputy of Ireland. He travelled widely in England, Ireland and Europe, collecting stories as he went. His Itinerary was a description of what he saw and heard on his travels.  
**Puzzled?**  
Fynes Moryson was a loyal Englishmen and no friend of the rebels. Also, he did not actually witness many of the events he describes, so historians need to be careful about accepting what he says completely. However, he does seem to accept that in Munster Plantation made rebellion more likely.

## Questions

What were the causes of the rebellion from:  
a) An Irish point of view?  
b) An English point of view?

## About Source 5

**Source Details**  
An engraving of the Castle of Cahir and its estates, 1599.

**Context**  
The picture shows an estate settled in the Plantation of Munster. It is likely that the layout and organisation of this land would have been very different before the Munster Plantation began in the 1580s.

**Puzzled?**This image shows the changes that Plantation brought to the landscape of Ireland. The patchwork of enclosed fields was new to Ireland, and in fact these enclosures were relatively new in England. In addition to the new farming methods, the settlers in this area brought the English language, religion and customs. In addition, if the worst happened and the Irish rebelled, there was a strong fortress which would be very difficult to attack.

## Activities

* Imagine you are an English planter writing a letter home describing the estate and what changes you have made since settling here?
* Imagine you are an Irish farmer and you are writing a letter (to a friend) about the change since the English settled here? What sorts of thing would you mention?- social, political or economic? Try to imagine a event or happening which brought a great deal of change - how did you feel?

## About Source 6

**Source Details**Drawings from 'Ireland: Or a Booke: Very Usefull for all sorts of people, that have or may have interest in their Kingdome', an English book published in 1646.  
**Context**These drawings were drawn as England was rocked by Civil War and Ireland was being ruled by a Catholic Confederacy which had overthrown royal authority in 1641-2.  
**Puzzled?**The drawings are blatant propaganda. Reports in the book suggested that some 200,000 died in the rebellion, but there were not that many Protestants in Ulster at the time. There certainly were atrocities committed by both Catholics and Protestants. Perhaps the most valuable aspect of these pictures is that it gives us an idea about what the sides thought of each other and what they were prepared to believe the other side had done. Clearly religion and the loss of land in Ulster played a large part in making the Ulster Rebellion so savage.

## Questions

* Why do you think these images are so strong?
* What sort of a reaction they are designed to provoke from the reader?
* Think of a list of words that describes your reaction.