

Name:  
Class:  
Date:

## 1. Writing “Sunday Bloody Sunday”, p. 26



Read the text and explain the historical context in which the song was written.

### *Cultural fact*

#### **The “Troubles” (1968 – 1998)**

The conflict in Northern Ireland during the late 20th century is known as the “Troubles”.

Loyalists (also known as Unionists, or Protestants) wanted Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom whereas the Republicans (also known as Nationalists, or Catholics) wanted Northern Ireland to become part of the Republic of Ireland, which had been independent since 1922.

Over the course of three decades, violence on the streets of Northern Ireland was commonplace and spilled over<sup>1</sup> into Great Britain, the Republic of Ireland and as far as Gibraltar.

Over 3,600 people were killed and thousands more injured, including victims from IRA attacks<sup>2</sup> and “Bloody Sunday”<sup>3</sup> in 1972.

Several attempts to find a political solution failed until the Good Friday Agreement (10 April 1998), which restored self-government to Northern Ireland and brought an end to the “Troubles”.

There are actually two “Bloody Sundays” in Irish history. The first one was in 1920 when British troops fired into the crowd at a football match in Dublin in retaliation for the killing of British undercover agents.

**1.** impact • **2.** Irish Republican Army: extremist paramilitary republican group originally from 1919 which existed in various forms from then on. • **3.** On 30 January 1972, British soldiers shot unarmed protesters during civil rights protest in Derry, Northern Ireland, resulting in 28 deaths including 13 Irish citizens.