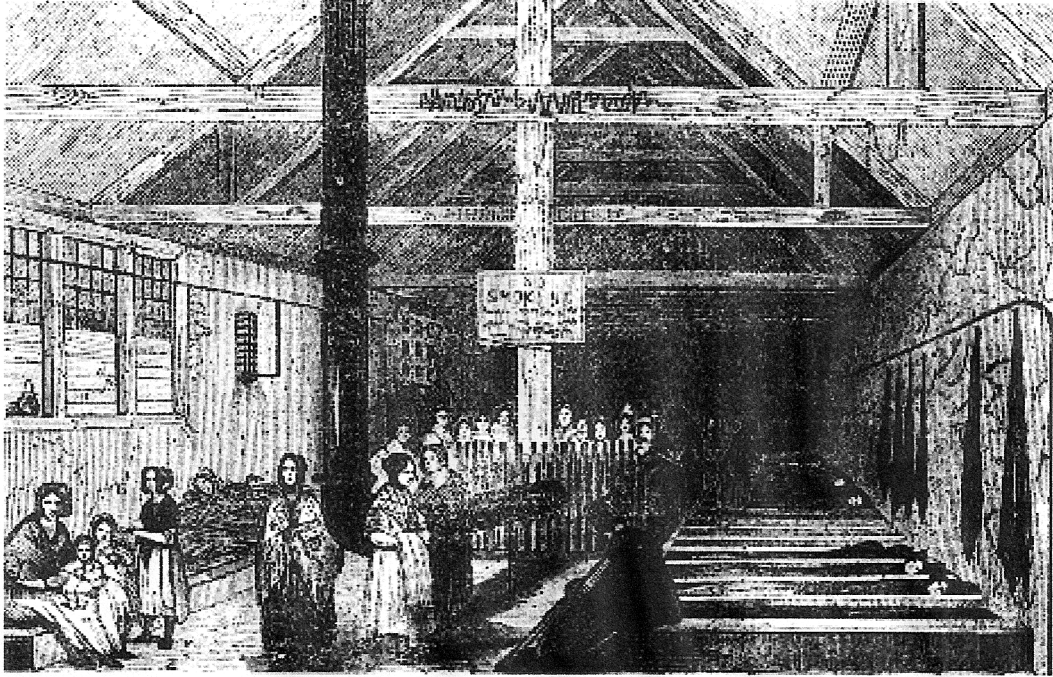


DOCUMENT 6



Source: <http://adminstaff.vassar.edu/sttaylor/FAMINE/Master/WorkhouseInterior.html>

The famine came and Sheila, her father and her mother and little Diarmuid had to go down to Macroom and go into the workhouse. As soon as they were inside, they were separated. The father was put with the men and the mother with the women. Sheila was put with the little girls and little Diarmuid with the younger children. The workhouse was full and all the poor people were sunk in every kind of dangerous sickness. The people were falling with sickness as fast as they were coming in. There was not room in the workhouse for half of them. Those that could not get in lay down on the river to die . . .

Not long after they went in and little Diarmuid was separated from his mother, little Diarmuid died. His little corpse was heaved onto the cart, carried to a big pit and thrown into it with the other corpses. Soon Sheila followed . . .

Source: John O'Connor, *The Workhouses of Ireland: The fate of Ireland's Poor*. Irish books and media, 1995

6A. Based on the documents, identify two ways the workhouse created unhealthy and inhumane conditions for the poor people of Ireland.

6B. Describe problems that might be faced by mothers, fathers and children who were separated upon entry to the workhouse. What tasks could they be given and what hope of ever reuniting.
