

DOCUMENT 4



Source: *Causes of emigration in Ireland*, The Lady's Newspaper, January 13, 1849

The Act of Union in 1801 dissolved the Irish parliament and Ireland's needs were administered by the Westminster parliament, many members of which held land in Ireland. The Irish were tenant farmers tending the landlord's crops in return for a rented patch of land on which to grow their own crops. The tenant's crops were sold to pay rent to the landlord, taxes to the Crown and a tithe to the church of England. When the blight hit in 1845 the tenant could not grow enough crop to sell to pay his debts. Many landlords forbade the Irish from hunting and fishing on their lands restricting the Irish from an alternative source of food to sell or feed their families. The British parliament failed to act to help the Irish survive.

Source: *The Reason for Learning* Mike McCormack, 2009

4A. Based on the above picture, describe the problems facing the Irish tenant farmer.

4B. According to Mike McCormack, what were some of the reasons for the Great Hunger.
