

Ireland and Northern Ireland

Engelsk



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Klasse: _____

Indholdsfortegnelse

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The Emerald Isle (1,12 ns)



Geography

Ireland is one of the British Isles, separated from the island of Great Britain by the Irish Sea. It encompasses the provinces of Connacht, Leinster, Munster and Ulster and is divided into two parts: Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom, and the Republic of Ireland, which is independent. Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom. The population of Ireland is 6.4 million. 4.6 million of these live in the Republic of Ireland and 1.8 million live in Northern Ireland.

Before 1919, the two parts of Ireland were still one united nation and the whole Island was part of the UK. However, one part of the Irish population wanted to leave the United Kingdom, and the nation was split into two; The northern part stayed part of the United Kingdom whereas the southern part left and formed the Republic of Ireland.

The largest city in Northern Ireland is Belfast, which is also the capital. The capital of the Republic of Ireland is Dublin.

Climate

The climate in Ireland is very mild and wet and there is a lot of beautiful nature to explore. A lot of tourists go to Ireland to see the mountains, the old castles, the waterfalls or the many lakes.

The coasts can be very rough and rocky, especially in the west and in the north, home of the famous Giant's Causeway. A popular tourist attraction, the Causeway is a unique area of mostly hexagonal stone columns up to 12 metres high. Legend has it that it was built by a giant named Finn McCool so that he could cross the water to Scotland to fight another giant. In reality, the columns are made of hardened lava from an ancient volcanic eruption.

Ireland is also called the Emerald Isle because of all the green grass. Green is also considered the national colour, and the green three-leaf clover, called the "shamrock", is the symbol of Ireland.



Choose the correct answers for the questions below.

1. Which two parts make up Ireland?

- England and the Republic of Ireland
- The Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland
- Great Britain and Northern Ireland

2. What is the name of the capital of the Republic of Ireland?

- Dublin
- Belfast
- Cork

3. Why do tourists visit Ireland?

- Because of the history of the civil war
- Because of their beaches
- Because of the mountains, the old castles, the waterfalls and lakes

4. Which plant is associated with Ireland?

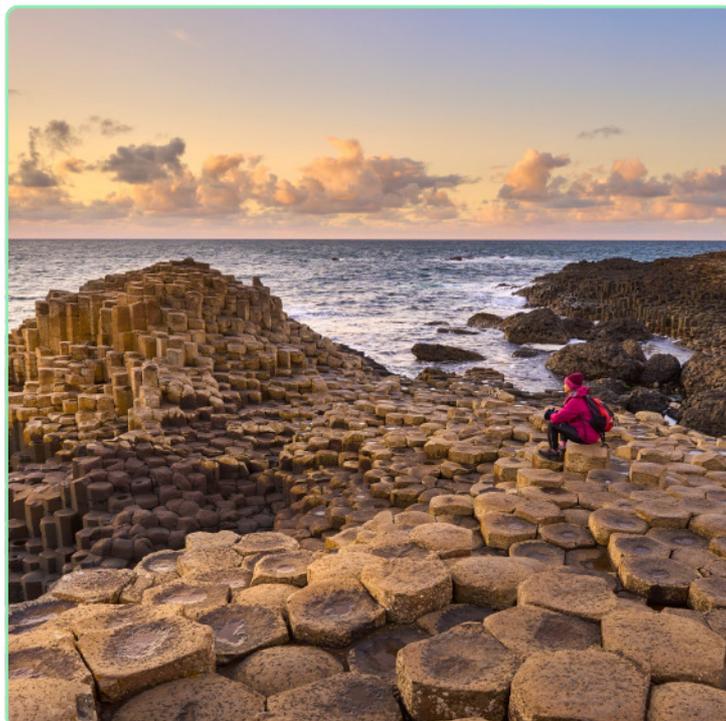
- The rose
- The clover
- The daffodil

5. The island of Ireland is divided into:

- the Republic of Ireland and Éire
- the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland
- the United Kingdom and Éire

6. How was the Giant's Causeway made?

- By volcanic eruption
- By the giant Finn McCool
- By the original people of Ireland



Irish culture and society (1,53 ns)

Music

Ireland is well known for its culture, especially its music. Many world famous bands and artists have come from Ireland over the years, including U2, Van Morrison, the Dubliners, Enya, Thin Lizzy, Westlife, Sinéad O'Connor, the Corrs and the Cranberries. Riverdance is also a large part of Irish culture.

Traditional music is very important to the Irish, and going to the pub for a pint of Guinness and singing along to a live band playing traditional Irish music is popular with both the old and the young. The friendly atmosphere of the Irish pub is very popular outside Ireland, too, and today you can find Irish-style pubs all over the world.

The Irish national anthem is '*Amhrán na bhFiann*', which is Irish for 'The Soldier's Song'.

Language

The official languages in Ireland are Irish, or Irish Gaelic, and English. Most Irish people have English as their first language, but a lot of Irish people also understand Irish, especially in the Republic of Ireland. However, most TV programmes and newspapers are in English.

The traditional language, Gaelic, has been spoken in Ireland for thousands of years. The language almost died out during the centuries of British rule. But now everybody learns Gaelic at school in the Republic of Ireland, and it is an official language alongside English. '*Éire*' is Gaelic for 'Ireland'.

Sports

The Irish also love sports. They play football, tennis, etc., like the rest of the world, and golf is extremely popular. But the Irish also have their own unique sports; Gaelic football and hurling. Gaelic football looks like rugby, and hurling is a very rough game, where two teams compete at trying to hit a small ball ('*sliotar*') with special sticks. The game has similarities to hockey, but the ball is rarely touching the ground. It is considered the world's fastest field sport.

Education

Education in Ireland is split into three levels, much like in Denmark. However, unlike Denmark where only education is mandatory, attending school is mandatory for children between the ages six and fifteen years, and it is compulsory for children up to the age of eighteen to complete the first three years of secondary school and pass one Junior Certificate examination.

Health care

The Republic of Ireland has one of the most developed systems of health care in the world and it is provided by both public and private providers. Doctors and nurses are extremely professional and skilled in their field.



Choose the correct answers for the questions below.

1. What are the official languages in Ireland?

- English
- English and Irish
- Irish

2. What is hurling?

- a way to drink beer
- a sport
- a nickname for the war between Ireland and the United Kingdom

3. 'Éire', 'shamrock' and 'sliotar' are:

- words in the ancient Irish language, Gaelic
- names for places in the Republic of Ireland
- popular traditional Irish sports

4. These sports were invented in Ireland:

- Golf and rugby
- Gaelic football and rugby
- Gaelic football and hurling

5. How is education different in Ireland?

- They don't have schools
- All girls and boys go to different schools
- You cannot be home-schooled

6. Traditional Irish music is:

- only popular with old people
- not popular with anyone anymore
- popular with both old and young people





Try to find the 20 hidden Gaelic words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden left to right and down only.

N R Z L L S D M G Z M S H Q U U
 C N F F Y N R B L O C H B F V A
 I M A D R A P F F E A R S L N H
 P D R I N C E O I R P E P R E W
 J H R J I O L N T A A B Z E G Y
 G C A I S L E A N S L I A B H X
 W R I O M H A I R E L A V A R K
 T U G Y C V B H F A D H M A I D
 X X E V I T H E K M G K B E A N
 G D G E A L A C H A D A O N N A
 B E P R F S R T O I U B D X Z C
 I K J T Y Q Q C A R R W O W O J

adhmaid (træ)	bean (kvinde)	bia (mad)	caislean (slot)
capall (hast)	carr (bil)	daonna (menneske)	farraige (hav)
fear (mand)	fon (telefon)	gealach (måne)	ghrian (sol)
ithe (spiser)	leabhar (bog)	loch (sø)	madra (hund)
rincoir (danser)	riomhaire (computer)	seamair (kløver)	sliabh (bjerg)



Read the following text and answer the questions.

Saint Patrick's Day (0,74 ns)

On 17 March, Irish people celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. It is a religious holiday and the Irish national day. Since 1903 it has been an official bank holiday, meaning that you have the day off from work or school.

Saint Patrick was a Catholic bishop who lived in the 5th century. He is famous for converting the Irish to Christianity, and today he is seen as the patron and protector of Ireland.

On Saint Patrick's Day, Irish people wear green clothes, hats, scarves and jewellery because of the green colour in the Irish flag. They also traditionally wear shamrocks, as a symbol of Saint Patrick. Irish people spend Saint Patrick's Day going to parades and festivals, and listening to traditional music, dancing, and drinking. In 1916, the first Saint Patrick's parade took place, and in 1996, the first Saint Patrick's Festival was held.

Saint Patrick's Day is not only celebrated in Ireland but also in America, some parts of Great Britain, Russia and Asia. Some people think that Saint Patrick's Day should only be celebrated in Ireland because it is their national day and their patron. But many people disagree because they want to celebrate, have fun and wear green clothes.

1. When is Saint Patrick's Day?

- 17 April
- 17 December
- 17 March

2. Do children in Ireland go to school on this day?

- Yes
- No
- Yes, but only until 12 o'clock

3. Who was Saint Patrick?

- A Catholic bishop
- A famous singer
- A popular king

4. What do people do on this day?

- Eat a lot of cake
- Go to church
- Dress in green clothes and party



Read the text about Christmas in Ireland thoroughly. Then answer the following questions.

Christmas in Ireland is a season rich in traditions and festive cheer. The holiday officially begins on December 8th with the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This is when decorations are put up, featuring Christmas trees, fairy lights, and holly wreaths, which are a nod to a time when holly was one of the most abundant plants in Ireland.

A unique Irish custom is the Christmas morning swim when daring swimmers brave icy waters

at spots like the Forty Foot in Dublin.

Christmas markets, such as Belfast's, Waterford's Winterval, and Galway's, create a magical atmosphere, while musicians busk to raise money for charities.

Christmas Eve often includes Midnight Mass and people place candles in their windows to welcome strangers in and remember people far away. Festivities continue with horse races on

St. Stephen's Day and the less popular tradition of Wren's Day, now mostly celebrated with carolling.

Food is central to the celebrations: roast turkey, potatoes, smoked salmon, mince pies, pudding, Irish coffee and Cork's spiced beef are favourites. Ham sandwiches are usually served after dinner as a sign of Irish hospitality. The season ends on January 6th with Women's Christmas, when the women of the house traditionally rest.

From lively pub gatherings to heartwarming family traditions, Christmas in Ireland blends history, food, and fun into a truly special holiday season.

1. Christmas begins on December 1st in Ireland.

- True
- False

2. Some Irishmen do a Christmas morning swim at the Forty Foot in Dublin.

- True
- False

3. Irishmen usually eat ham sandwiches after Christmas dinner as a sign of Irish hospitality.

- True
- False

4. People place candles in the window in remembrance of World War II.

- True
- False



Connect the terms about Christmas in Ireland to the corresponding pictures.

Christmas market

candle

live music

horse racing

holly wreath

Christmas carols

Midnight mass

Christmas morning swim





Read the sentence and fill in the missing word from the list of test words.

Test words:

spiced beef - mistletoe - Santa Claus - Midnight Mass - horse races

1. Irish children can meet _____, also known as 'Santy', at his workshop in the woods at Mourne Mountains.
2. _____ was believed to have healing powers, so people used to decorate with holly instead.
3. Irish people participate in a number of different activities during the holidays, like _____, Christmas markets, and the Christmas morning swim.
4. In Cork, they eat _____ on Christmas. It is boiled in Guinness and roasted with spices, including allspice, cloves, and peppercorn.
5. _____ on Christmas Eve is now both a religious event and a social gathering. It doesn't always happen at midnight anymore.



Ireland - The Great Famine (1,53 ns)

'*An Gorta Mór*' is the Irish term for a period of mass starvation, which in English is commonly referred to as the Great Famine or the Irish Potato Famine. It happened in Ireland in 1845-1852 and the direct cause for the starvation was the spreading of a plant disease, potato blight, which attacks potato plants, making them inedible. Approximately 1 million people died and another million emigrated during the famine, which caused the population of Ireland to drop by 20-25%.

However, it seems that many of the deaths could have been prevented. Although the potato blight attacked the crop, the country was still producing plenty of grain to feed the population. Records show that the British government was exporting thirty to fifty shiploads per day and as a result of the vast exports, the Irish population was starving and contracting diseases due to starvation. This is why some historians view the Great Famine as a form of – direct or indirect – genocide.

Although 1 million people are estimated to have died during the famine, the exact number is unknown. Most of the people died from disease which is a common side effect of starvation. When the body does not receive nutrition it has a hard time fighting off bacteria and infections. Eyewitness accounts from the English Quaker William Bennet illustrate this. He wrote descriptions of the effects of starvation like the following from a home where he had found *'three children huddled together, lying there because they were too weak to rise, pale and ghastly, their little limbs ... perfectly emaciated, eyes sunk, voice gone, and evidently in the last stages of actual starvation.'*

Even after the end of the famine, the potato remained a staple crop in Ireland. There have been later famines, which are generally forgotten since the impact on the population wasn't as substantial. By the census of 1911, the population of the entire island of Ireland had dropped to 4.4 million people, which was only half of its population at peak. In comparison, the population of England and Wales had more than doubled between 1841 and 1901, going from 16 million people to 32.5 million.

There are many memorials all over Ireland to commemorate the Great Famine. Especially the regions that suffered the greatest losses have many memorials. At the Custom House Quay in Dublin artist Rowan Gillespie made a memorial depicting thin figures walking towards the emigration ships.





Choose the correct answers for the questions below.

1. Approximately how many died during the Great Famine?

- 0.5 million
- 1 million
- 2 million

2. What does 'inedible' mean?

- Not fit for eating
- Venomous
- Having a horrible smell

3. What does 'genocide' mean?

- Insect poison
- The killing of a large group of people
- A grain much like rye

4. What can be found on the Custom House Quay in Dublin?

- A memorial
- A potato field
- Starving people

5. What does 'staple' mean?

- A main item of food
- The most imported item of food
- The least eaten item of food

6. Why is it sometimes called the Irish Potato Famine?

- Because the dead had eaten poisonous potatoes
- Because a failure in the potato crop caused the famine
- Because the potatoes died out

7. What is Ireland's current staple crop?

- Rice
- Barley
- Potatoes

8. How much grain was Ireland exporting during the famine?

- None
- 20-40 shiploads a day
- 30-50 shiploads a day

9. What was the population in England and Wales in 1901?

- 4.4 million
- 16 million
- 32.5 million

10. What was the population in Ireland in 1911?

- 1 million
- 4.4 million
- 8.8 million

Irish history and religion (1,19 ns)

The history of Ireland is characterised by many wars between Ireland and England. Ireland was ruled and dominated by the British from the 16th century. Some Irish noblemen tried to rebel, but were ultimately unsuccessful.

In 1641 Catholics rebelled against the British rule and their treatment of the Irish Catholics. Ireland had a minority of Protestants and they were given preferential treatment by the British. The Roman Catholics of Ireland were deprived of many civil rights, such as the right to own property inherited from their family. This was part of a deliberate effort to make the Protestants richer and the Catholics poorer.

In the following years, both Catholics and Protestants were prosecuted by changing British royals and many Protestants fled to England during the religious unrest.



From 1801 until 1922 the entire island of Ireland was part of the United Kingdom (formally called 'The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland'), and continued to be so until the Irish War of Independence in the early 20th century. After a peace treaty with the United Kingdom, Ireland gained its independence in 1922. Ireland was then split into the Republic of Ireland ('Éire'), which is still independent, and Northern Ireland, which still is a part of the United Kingdom.

From the late 1960s until the 1990s there was much civil unrest in Northern Ireland, also known as the Troubles, between Protestants who were loyal to the United Kingdom and Catholics who wanted all of Ireland to be united under the Republic of Ireland. In 1998 a political agreement followed, and today the fighting between the two sides has almost ended. Christianity is now the predominant religion in Ireland. 84% of the population of the Republic of Ireland identify as Roman Catholic, whereas in Northern Ireland approximately half are Catholics and half are Protestants.



Choose the correct answers for the questions below.

1. The island of Ireland is divided into:

- the Republic of Ireland and *Éire*
- the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland
- the United Kingdom and *Éire*

2. For 319 years Ireland was:

- in control of the United Kingdom
- controlled by the United Kingdom
- independent of the United Kingdom

3. Ireland got its independence in:

- 1801
- 1922
- 1998

4. Who were The Irish fighting for many years?

- The Scots
- The Welsh
- The British

5. Which religions are most prevalent in Northern Ireland?

- Protestantism and Catholicism
- Protestantism and Islam
- Catholicism and Buddhism

6. How were the Irish Protestants treated by the English?

- They were prosecuted
- They were given preferential treatment
- They were treated neutrally

7. What weren't the Irish Catholics allowed to do in the 1600s?

- Buy their own property
- Own inherited property
- Move to England

8. Where did *the Troubles* occur?

- In Ireland
- In Northern Ireland
- In England



The Troubles in Northern Ireland (1,15 ns)

The Troubles were a violent conflict in Northern Ireland that lasted from the late 1960s to 1998. The conflict was mainly political and nationalistic, but it also had strong religious elements. It was fought between two main groups: Protestant unionists (or loyalists), who wanted Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom, and Catholic nationalists (or republicans), who wanted Northern Ireland to join a united Ireland.

The roots of the conflict go back centuries, but tensions rose sharply in the 20th century due to discrimination against Catholics in areas such as housing, jobs, and voting. In the 1960s, the civil rights movement in Northern Ireland began protesting these unfair conditions. However, peaceful marches were often met with violence, which led to more anger and unrest.

In 1969, British troops were sent to Northern Ireland to restore order, but their presence often made things worse. Over the next three decades, bombings, shootings, and riots became common. Paramilitary groups such as the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and loyalist groups like the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) were heavily involved in the violence.

One of the darkest days of the conflict was Bloody Sunday in 1972, when British soldiers shot and killed 14 unarmed Catholic protesters in Derry. This event led to even more violence and mistrust.

The conflict finally began to ease in the 1990s. After years of secret talks and negotiations, the Good Friday Agreement was signed in 1998. This peace deal created a power-sharing government and helped end most of the violence.

Although the Troubles officially ended in 1998, the legacy of the conflict still affects Northern Ireland today. Communities are still divided in many places, but the peace process has made great advancements overall.



Approximately, how many years did The Troubles in Northern Ireland last?



In your own words, how did the conflict begin, and why did it escalate in the 1960s?



In the text, the IRA and UVF are referred to as 'paramilitary groups'. Explain what that is. Look the word up in a dictionary if you need to.



What is the Good Friday Agreement?
