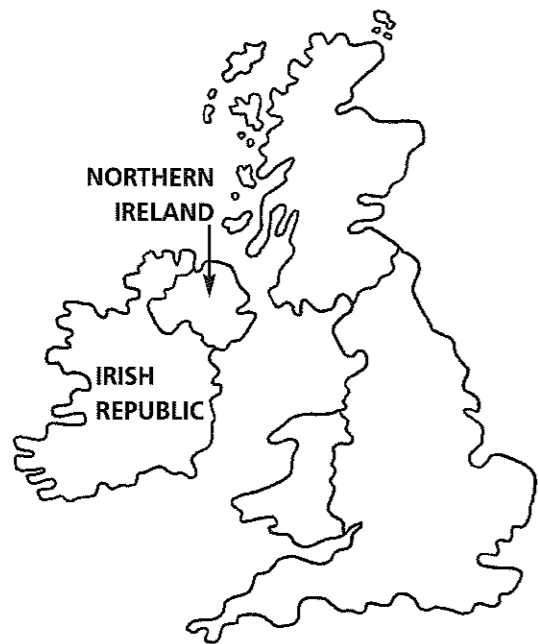


# The Irish question

1 What do you know about Ireland? Do the Ireland quiz.



## Ireland quiz

- Which saint\* is the patron\* of Ireland? When is his day?
  - Saint Andrew – Saint Andrew's day is 20th November.
  - Saint Patrick – Saint Patrick's day is 17th March.
- When was the Great Irish Potato Famine\*?
  - in the 1840s
  - in the 1940s
- What Christian Church do most people follow in the North of Ireland?
  - the Protestant Church
  - the Roman Catholic Church
- What Christian Church do most people follow in the South of Ireland?
  - the Protestant Church
  - the Roman Catholic Church
- What is 'Sinn Fein'?
  - an Irish terrorist group
  - an Irish political party
- What is 'the IRA'?
  - an Irish terrorist group
  - an Irish political party

Check your answers quickly in the text.

### Ireland

The Celts came to Ireland in 300 BC. They made pots and farmed the land. From 400 AD Christians like Saint Patrick arrived. Saint Patrick became a very special person to the Irish. He is the patron saint of Ireland.

In 1607 many important Irish lords\* in the north of Ireland left the country. James I gave their lands to Englishmen and Scotsmen. They were Protestant Christians. But Ireland was a Catholic Christian country. Soon Irish Protestants had the best jobs, good land, and money. Catholics had the worst jobs, poor land, and no money.

In 1800 Ireland became part of Great Britain. Then in the 1840s the potatoes in Irish farms went bad. There was a famine\*. Many poor Irish people got hungry and died. A lot emigrated\* to America or England, looking for a better life.

Many people in Ireland – mainly in the south – wanted to be independent. In 1918 the Irish political party Sinn Fein formed a parliament\* in Dublin. The IRA (Irish Republican Army) protected it. In 1921 Northern Ireland chose to stay part of Britain. In 1948 the South became an independent country – The Irish Republic. The problem was, there were still some Catholics in the North.

From the 1970s the IRA attacked ordinary people with guns and bombs\*. Many people died or were hurt in these terrorist attacks. The Protestants in the North fought back. Today, the terrorist attacks have stopped, but the problem hasn't gone away. The IRA wants Northern Ireland to join the Catholic Irish Republic. Protestant groups in the North want Northern Ireland to stay part of Britain. Most ordinary Irish people just want peace\*.

Potato soup - without the potatoes!



2 Match the meanings with the underlined words in the text.

- a group of people fighting on one side ..... army.....
- a country with a president, not a king .....
- someone who kills or hurts people to achieve a goal .....
- religious people who follow Christ .....
- separate and free .....

3 Read the text again and put the sentences in order.

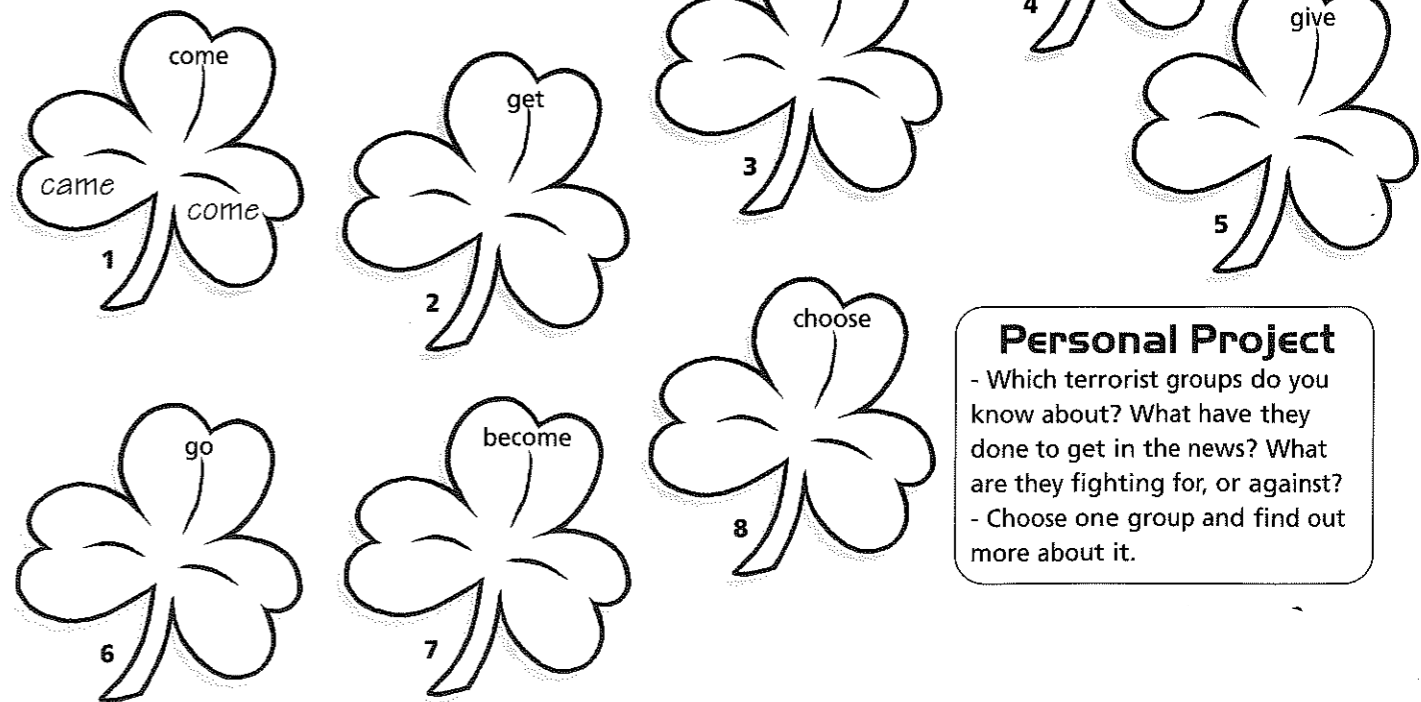
- Ireland became part of Great Britain. **A**
- The IRA attacked people with bombs. **L**
- The Irish Republic began. **S**
- St Patrick came to Ireland. **M**
- James I gave land to English and Scots people. **R**
- The Celts came to Ireland. **E** 1
- Britain hoped for an end to the terrorist attacks. **E**
- Sinn Fein formed an Irish parliament in Dublin. **D**
- Important lords in the North of Ireland left the country. **E**
- Many Irish people left for America. **L**
- Northern Ireland stayed with Britain and the South became a Free State. **I**



4 Ireland is a very green island. Put the letters in the potatoes in order to find a romantic name for it:

THE E .....

5 Complete the 'Irish shamrock' leaves with the missing parts of the verbs.



### Personal Project

- Which terrorist groups do you know about? What have they done to get in the news? What are they fighting for, or against?  
- Choose one group and find out more about it.