Ireland / Eire / the Emerald Isle

- Dublin

- Patron saint: St Patrick

- Official languages:

English and Irish Gaelic

shamrock

Ireland

- Population: 4,6 million
- approx 40 million Irish-Americans

- Cork – 2nd largest city
- Galway, Sligo, Limerick, Waterford, Wexford

- St Patrick
- 17 March

Guinness

- Guinness was founded when Arthur Guinness bought a small brewery in Dublin in 1759. At first the brewery produced a variety of ales and beers, but in 1799 it was decided to concentrate exclusively on porter, a dark beer with a rich head. The beer, later known as stout, prospered and came to be regarded as the national beer of Ireland. Guinness died in 1803, and his son Arthur took over the family business and greatly expanded sales to Great Britain. By 1833 Guinness was the largest brewery in Ireland.

http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/248947/Guinness

Famous Irishmen

- **Oscar Wilde** (1854-1900) – playwright (The importance of being Earnest) and novelist (The picture of Dorian Grey)
- James Joyce (1882-1941) – novelist – The Ulysses
- George Bernard Shaw, William Butler Yeats, Samuel Beckett
- **Jonathan Swift** (1667-1745): Gulliver's Travels
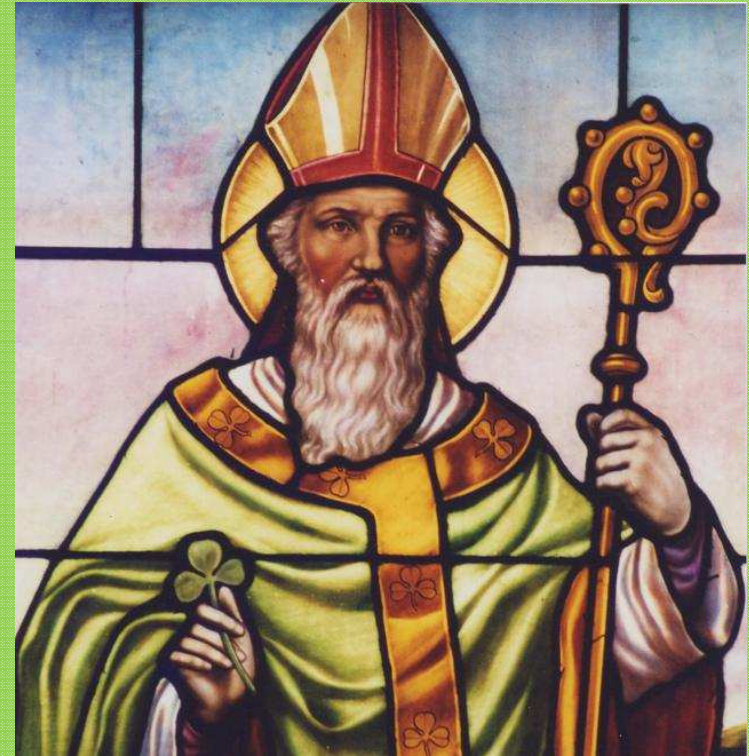
Blarney Castle

- Below the battlements on the southern wall of the castle is the Blarney Stone, reputed to confer eloquence on those who kiss it; this feat can be achieved only by hanging head downward.

BLARNEY STONE
According to legend, whoever kisses the Blarney Stone is gifted with eloquence and persuasiveness.

Saint Patrick's Day, feast day (March 17) of St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain in the late 4th century, he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but returned about 432 to **convert the Irish to Christianity**. By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established monasteries, churches, and schools. Many legends grew up around him— for example, that he drove the **snakes** out of Ireland and used the **shamrock** to explain the Holy Trinity. Ireland came to celebrate his day with religious services and feasts.

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St Patrick

St Patrick's Day

Chicago River

- It was emigrants, particularly to the United States, who transformed St. Patrick's Day into a largely secular holiday of revelry and celebration of things Irish. Cities with large numbers of Irish immigrants, who often wielded political power, staged the most extensive celebrations, which included elaborate parades. Boston held its first St. Patrick's Day parade in 1737, followed by New York City in 1762. Since 1962 Chicago has coloured its river green to mark the holiday. (Although blue was the colour traditionally associated with St. Patrick, green is now commonly connected with the day.) Irish and non-Irish alike commonly participate in the "wearing of the green"—sporting an item of green clothing or a shamrock, the Irish national plant.

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Leprechaun

- A fairy in Irish folklore in the form of a tiny old man often with a cocked hat. Solitary by nature, he is said to live in remote places and to make shoes. The sound of his hammering betrays his presence. He possesses a hidden crock of gold; if captured and threatened with bodily violence, he might reveal its hiding place. But usually the captor is tricked into glancing away, and the fairy vanishes.

A very brief history of Ireland

- **Celtic tribes reached Ireland around the 6th century BC**. The Irish language is a member of the Celtic language family, and Irish art and culture were also heavily influenced by the Celts.

- **St Patrick**, the patron saint of Ireland, introduced Christianity to Ireland in the 5th century.

- Ireland in the early Christian era was an agrarian society and, in the absence of large towns or cities, **large monasteries** played a major role in Irish social and political life. Some of these can still be seen today, such as Glendalough in County Wicklow, and Clonmacnoise in County Offaly.

- The rise of the Irish monasteries also brought with it a golden age of Irish art and crafts, most notably in metalwork and the production of illuminated manuscripts, such as the world-renowned **Book of Kells** now housed in Trinity College in Dublin.
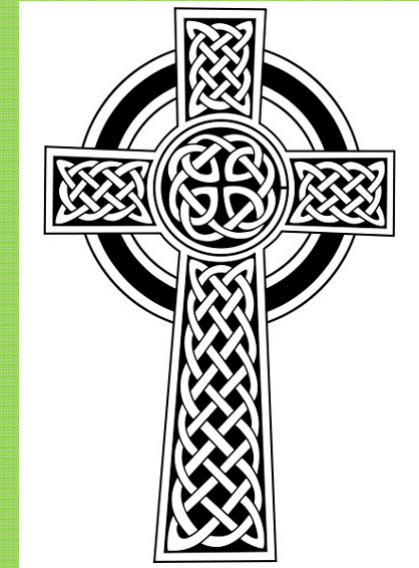
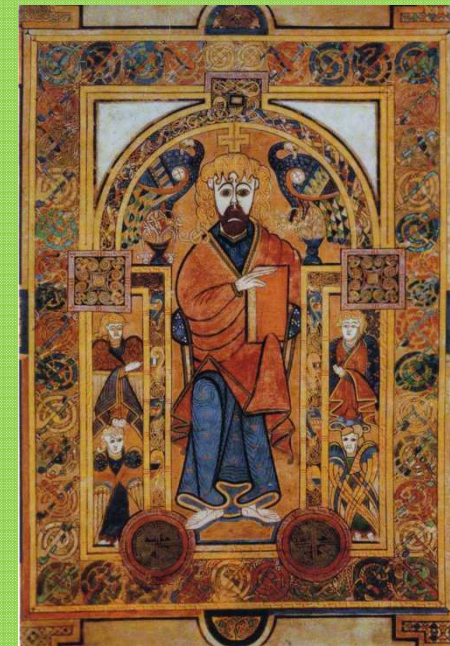http://www.eu2013.ie/ireland-and-the-presidency/about-ireland/irelandataglance/briefhistoryofireland/

A Celtic cross

Clonmacnoise

Glendalough

Book of Kells

- **The Norman Invasion**
- Norman mercenaries invaded Ireland from England in 1169 at the request of an ousted Irish king hoping to regain his territory, and were followed by an invasion by King Henry II of England in 1171 to assert control over his Norman subjects, with the King declaring himself Lord of Ireland. The Normans had a profound impact on the island, but many eventually assimilated into Irish culture, learning to speak the native language and marrying into Irish families. By the end of the 15th century English rule in Ireland was effectively limited to a small enclave around Dublin known as **the Pale**.
- **Early Modern Ireland**
- The Tudor monarchs of England sought to regain control of Ireland in the 16th century. **Henry VIII declared himself King of Ireland** and he and his successors established English settlements and fought a series of military campaigns, as well as making strenuous efforts to impose Protestantism on Catholics. The conquest of Ireland was effectively complete in 1601 following the Battle of Kinsale.
- An Irish rebellion during the English Civil War was crushed by Oliver Cromwell between 1649 and 1652 with great loss of life. Large tracts of fertile land owned by Catholics were confiscated and redistributed among Cromwell's soldiers and Scottish colonists, displacing many families, and leaving a legacy of bitterness that has endured for centuries.
- Penal laws against Catholics were introduced throughout the seventeenth century, excluding them from holding public office, entering professions, teaching, owning firearms, restricting their ownership of property and inheritance of land and outlawing Catholic clergy, while at the same time forcing Catholics to pay tithes to Protestant clergy.

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- Tension between the British rulers and the Irish population continued. Following a rebellion in **1798, the Irish Parliament was abolished**.
- **1801 – Acts of Union - The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (until 1922)**
- **The Great Famine (1845-52)** followed potato blight which destroyed the staple food of the poor. Exacerbated by the laissez-faire economic policies of the British government, it led to the death by starvation and disease of a million people and the emigration of a million more, out of a population of about eight million. The island's population fell by a quarter, and high emigration continued in succeeding decades with huge demographic effects. Use of the Irish language declined catastrophically.

- In 1914 the British Parliament passed **a Home Rule Bill** intended to grant the right to self-government to Ireland, but it was postponed due to the outbreak of the World War I. On Easter Sunday, 23rd April 1916, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army staged an armed rebellion in Dublin, and proclaimed Ireland's independence. **The Easter Rebellion was defeated** after several days of fighting. While the rebellion was initially opposed by the mass of the population, the execution of several of its leaders, including Patrick Pearse and James Connolly, alienated Irish public opinion against British rule.
- At the 1918 election the pro-independence Sinn Féin party won a landslide victory and instead of taking up their seats in British Parliament set up the first Dáil, an independent parliament in Dublin, led by Eamon de Valera (who became Taoiseach and later, President of Ireland). The subsequent **War of Independence (1919-1921) ended with the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in December 1921**, which divided the country into the independent Irish Free State (26 counties) and six counties in Ulster which remained within the United Kingdom, known as Northern Ireland.
- **A civil war (1921-23**) followed between the newgovernment and those opposed to the Treaty, who felt it did not provide full independence. The civil war shaped and determined political allegiances for decades: the two largest political parties in Ireland are descended from pro-Treaty (Fine Gael) and anti-Treaty (Fianna Fáil) parties.
- The second Irish Constitution was enacted by the people in 1937. The Irish Free State became a **Republic in 1949**, severing the final links to the British monarchy.
- Ireland was neutral during the Second World War, although large numbers of Irish citizens fought in Allied forces. Ireland joined the UN in 1955 and became a member of the now European Union in 1973.

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