

3/5/23

Country Quiz

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers

Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

In this series of quizzes, posted every so often, we test your knowledge of world countries. This week, with St. Patrick's Day on its way soon, we celebrate with a quiz about **IRELAND**.

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.
2. Read the first question. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a player/team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may "buzz" in and answer.
4. Scoring: Give 10 points for each correct answer.

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Instructions: This week, we celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a quiz about IRELAND.

1. What is Ireland called in the Irish language?
2. The island of Ireland is politically divided between which two countries?
3. What is the capital of the Republic of Ireland?
4. What is the capital of Northern Ireland?
5. Ireland is the third-largest island in Europe. Can you name the other two?
6. Ireland's climate is very mild (considering its northern latitude), thanks to this ocean current.
7. According to the ancient Chronicle of Ireland, this Christian (Ireland's best known and patron saint) arrived in Ireland in 431 AD and was a key figure in bringing Christianity to Ireland.
8. Saint Patrick is also credited with ridding Ireland of this reptile scourge – though scientists argue that it wasn't St. Patrick but the Ice Age that killed them all off.
9. Ireland was partitioned in the early 1900s after a war of independence with Great Britain. Efforts to reunite the Republic of Ireland with Northern Ireland led to years of unrest. In 1998, the Good Friday Agreement finally put an end to the violence. Can you name the former US senator, appointed by President Bill Clinton as the US Special Envoy for Northern Ireland, who is credited as the architect of the Good Friday Agreement?
10. The 1840s was a watershed time in Irish history when a fungus wiped out this staple crop – the main source of food for the Irish people. During this decade, a million people died of starvation and more than a million left Ireland, mostly for the United States.
11. Can you name the 15th century castle near Cork, Ireland that contains a famous block of stone? According to legend, kissing that stone endows the kisser with "the gift of gab" – great eloquence and skill in the verbal art of flattery.

12. Today, twelve percent of the population of the United States claims Irish ancestry. Can you guess which three US states have the greatest percentage of Irish Americans?
13. One of Ireland's most visited sites is the Giant's Causeway, which was declared a World Heritage site in 1986. What is the Giant's Causeway?
14. Irish literature is famous around the world. Given their most famous works, can you name these legendary Irish authors and playwrights?
 - a. *Major Barbara, Pygmalion*
 - b. *Finnegan's Wake, Ulysses, Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
 - c. *A Modest Proposal, Gulliver's Travels*
 - d. *The Picture of Dorian Gray, The Importance of Being Earnest*
 - e. *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (The Chronicles of Narnia), The Screwtape Letters*
15. What is Irish coffee?
16. What is the name of Ireland's most famous brand of beer?
17. Today there are about 36 million Americans who claim Irish heritage — which is six times more than the current population of Ireland. Eight Irish-Americans signed the Declaration of Independence, and twenty-two American presidents are, at least in part, of Irish descent. Can you identify these Irish-Americans?
 - a. Perhaps the most well known survivor of the *Titanic* disaster, this socialite had humble beginnings as the child of poor Irish Catholic immigrants in Hannibal, Missouri.
 - b. The great-grandparents of this mega-star, who first gained fame as Dr. Doug Ross on TV's *ER*, emigrated from County Kilkenny in Ireland.
 - c. Her mother, actress Maureen O'Sullivan, was born in County Roscommon and attended a convent school in Dublin.
 - d. Although one of his most famous roles was as mafia kingpin Don Corleone, both his parents had Irish ancestry.

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ANSWERS

1. Eire
2. The Republic of Ireland, which is a sovereign country; and the much smaller Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom
3. Dublin
4. Belfast
5. Great Britain and Iceland's main island
6. The Gulf Stream
7. Saint Patrick
8. Snakes
9. George Mitchell, a Democrat from Maine
10. The potato. By the end of the 1840s, half of all immigration to the United States was from Ireland.
11. Blarney Castle (home of the Blarney Stone)
12. Delaware, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. (The most Irish American town in the United States is Scituate (SIT•choo•it), Massachusetts, with 48% of its residents claiming Irish descent.)
13. A coastal area of Ireland created by an ancient volcanic eruption, resulting in the formation of giant columns that cascade like steps from the cliff above down and into the ocean below.
14. Irish authors and playwrights:
 - a. George Bernard Shaw
 - b. James Joyce
 - c. Jonathan Swift
 - d. Oscar Wilde
 - e. C. S. Lewis
15. Coffee mixed with Irish whisky
16. Guinness
17. Irish Americans:
 - a. Molly Brown
 - b. George Clooney
 - c. Mia Farrow
 - d. Marlon Brando