THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
You’re going to read an article about a couple of places in Ireland. Along the way, you’ll learn a bit more about the country and its history.

QUICK QUIZ
Before you begin reading, try this short quiz about Ireland. When you’ve finished, you can check your own answers by looking at the Republic of Ireland Fact File in the magazine article. But don’t read the article yet!

1 The population of the Republic of Ireland is around 5 million □ 8 million □ 12 million □.
2 The Republic occupies around 70% □ 80 □ 90% □ of the island of Ireland, while the other part is in the UK.
3 Around 1 in 4 □ 8 □ 12 □ people in Ireland live in the capital city, Dublin.
4 The European country closest in size to the Republic of Ireland is Belgium (30,000 km²) □ Slovakia (50,000 km²) □ Lithuania (65,000 km²) □.
5 Ireland uses the Pound Sterling □ Euro □ Irish pound □.

SENTENCE MATCHING
The article you’re going to read is about two places in Ireland: the country’s second-biggest city, Cork, and Clare Island off the west coast. Before you begin reading, try to join the first and last parts of each of the sentences below. Then decide which place each sentence is about.

1 The city has many local traditions in food, including crubeens (pig feet that are boiled and then fried in batter) □ and you could well share the journey with seals or dolphins.
2 It is famous as the home of the pirate queen Gráinne Ní Mháille, referring to the district as “Rebel County” and to themselves as “the Rebels”.
3 Try not to get sick between Wednesday afternoon and Tuesday night because each of its clocks frequently tells a different time due to the effects of the winds.
4 The church tower housing the Shandon Bells is known as “the four-faced liar” but secondary school students go to school on the mainland and only come home at weekends.
5 Some people from this town view themselves as different from the rest of Ireland, both of which are unique to Ireland.
6 It’s a fairly short boat ride to the island, and tripe (animal stomach).
7 There is a primary school on the island, with about 20 students and 2 teachers, known in English as Grace O’Malley.
8 The most popular sports are hurling and Gaelic football, as the doctor only visits the island one morning a week.

DID YOU KNOW?
“Ireland” is the name of the island as well as the name of the country. “Ireland” is not incorrect as the name of the country, but it is not clear either. To make it clear that you are speaking about the country, use “The Republic of Ireland” or “Eire”.

TEST YOUR VOCABULARY

Now read the article, then try to find words for each of these definitions:

In the part on Cork:

1. Relaxed: _______________________
2. A place where boats and ships can tie up next to land: _______________________
3. A long journey, especially by sea: _______________________
4. Small and comfortable: _______________________
5. A person who plays music in the street for money: _______________________
6. Amazing to look at: _______________________

In the part on Clare Island:

1. Often affected by bad weather: _______________________
2. Boat regularly transporting people along a specific short route: _______________________
3. A natural vertical rock face: _______________________
4. Lots, more than enough: _______________________
5. A tall building: _______________________
6. A place where monks or nuns live under the rule of an abbot or abbess: _______________________

REVERSE QUIZ

Write questions for each of these answers about the text, using the question word given and the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. How ________________________ (to live) 400,000.
2. What ________________________ (to found) The world's oldest yacht [jɒt] club.
3. What ________________________ (to be) It sounds almost like singing.
4. When ________________________ (to suffer) In the 1840s.
5. Who ________________________ (to give) The Choctaw.
6. How ________________________ (to get) By ferry.
7. Where ________________________ (to catch) Roonagh Quay on the Irish mainland.
8. How ________________________ (to take) About 25 minutes.
9. Why ________________________ (to swim) Because they are rocky with huge waves.
10. Whose ________________________ (to visit) Grace O'Malley's.

TIPS

- Before doing the reverse quiz, think about how questions are formed in English. Keep in mind the different structure when asking about the subject of a verb. (Compare Who came yesterday? for asking about the subject, and When did they come?)
- On its own, the word how is used to ask about method. It can also be used with adjectives and adverbs to make many different questions, such as How old is your brother? and How much does the bag cost? Think about whether you need to add a word and what word you might need to add.
- In some cases, you might need to use a modal verb (can, could, should, might, must etc.), as in the question What can and can't you do on Clare Island?
- Sometimes you might need to express the idea from the article in different words. For example, the article says, One of the best ways to see the island is to hire a bike. This might be the answer to the question What is the best way to get around the island?
THE GLOBAL IRISH

Do you remember how many people live in Ireland? (If not, go back and check.) There are more people with Irish ancestry (= roots) outside Ireland than in it. Before you read more, think about what you know and take a guess: which of these numbers is closest to the real number of people who claim Irish ancestry?

20 million  30 million  50 million  50 million  60 million  70 million

Why do you think there are so many people with Irish roots all over the world?

UNDERSTANDING THE CAUSES OF IRISH MIGRATION

Match the captions to the pictures and put them in historical order of events.

1. Most poor Irish lived on potatoes, and when a mysterious disease killed the potato crop in the mid-1840s, at least one million people died from starvation (= hunger) and another million emigrated.

2. Poverty in Ireland was so bad (due largely to English landowners) that in 1729 Jonathan Swift, the author of *Gulliver’s Travels*, wrote a satire suggesting that the children of the Irish poor should be used as a source of meat for the English.

3. St. Patrick’s Day parades began in North America, becoming very large and popular events by the second half of the 19th century (when Irish immigration was at its highest).

4. Close to Cork there is a statue of Irishwoman Annie Moore, who in 1892 became the first immigrant to the United States to pass through Ellis Island station (the most famous entry point for migrants to America) in New York Harbor.

5. Oliver Cromwell, who led England during the short period when it was a republic (1649 to 1660), invaded Ireland. He took Irish Catholics’ land and gave it to English landowners. About 40% of the Irish population died in the fighting or from disease. Thousands more were sent to work on plantations (= sugar farms) in the Caribbean.

6. Beginning in the mid-1700s, hundreds of thousands of Irish workers joined the “navvies” — the huge teams of workers who built Britain’s canals and railways (and, later, the London Underground).
LISTENING: THE EMERALD OF THE CARIBBEAN

Let’s practice your listening skills and learn about one historically Irish population that most people don’t know about.

Scan the QR code or go to www.bridge-online.cz/casopis-bridge/bridge-march-2020/ and play Track 3. The listening is divided into three parts. Answer the questions.

PART I
Which of these is NOT something said in the article?
A Montserrat is a British territory in the Caribbean.
B There are many Irish expats on the island of Montserrat.
C St Patrick’s Day is a national holiday in only two countries in the world.
D There was Irish culture on Montserrat before the formation of the United Kingdom.

PART II
Which of these is NOT something said in the article?
A Britain used to be a republic.
B The king of Ireland was Catholic.
C Cromwell’s army killed many thousands of Irish people.
D Cromwell’s invasion of Ireland was, at least partly, motivated by religion.

PART III
Which of these is NOT something said in the article?
A The Irish in the Caribbean were slaves.
B Most of the people on Montserrat were Irish in 1678.
C The Irish sent to Montserrat by Cromwell worked together with African slaves.
D The “Black Irish” of Montserrat are descended from Irish deportees and African slaves.

POPULATION OF IRISH HERITAGE BY COUNTRY

Look at the following map to see what countries outside of Ireland have the most people with Irish ancestry and the highest percentages (%) of people with Irish ancestry.

It will give you the answer to the question, “How many people claim Irish ancestry worldwide?”

A Irish population
B % of total population

NOTE: As with all such data, different sources may have different numbers.
Cork City

Cork City, in the beautiful south-west region of the Republic of Ireland, is a port city on the Celtic Sea (part of the Atlantic Ocean). With a population of 400,000, it’s Ireland’s second-largest city, after Dublin. It is smaller, friendlier and the pace is more leisurely.

The City on the Water

Visitors can walk along the harbour or river, enjoying the smell of the sea and watching the many boats. The centre of the city is on an island in the Lee river, and at its eastern end, docks along the river lead out to Cork Harbour. This is one of the largest natural harbours in the world, and it was the last place that the Titanic stopped before its first – and final – voyage. The oldest yacht club in the world was founded here in 1720, and boating and sailing are popular to this day.

You can also walk through the city’s many parks. Narrow streets have interesting shops, cafes and cosy pubs, while the covered 1788 English Market is famous for its delicious local produce*. Cork people are very friendly, and sellers happily offer customers samples of their food and have a chat.

Music in the Air

Music can be heard from the pubs, even during the day. There are lots of buskers on the streets playing all kinds of music and there are even dancers. Tens of thousands of music fans come to the Cork Jazz Festival each year, and that’s far from being the city’s only music festival. With all that music it’s very difficult to be in a bad mood in Cork City!

Great food and genuine smiles: Cork is famously friendly.

There’s music everywhere you go in Cork City.

Have you ever rung church bells? You can in Cork if you visit the Shandon Bells. On the first floor, visitors can view the workings of the clocks and are allowed to ring the eight bells (the largest weighs 1.5 tons). They can then climb the 132 steps to see the bells themselves and to look out over the spectacular views of the city.

An American Connection

In the 1840s, Ireland suffered a terrible famine* and over a million people died. Somehow – and no one knows how – news of this disaster reached a Native American tribe, the Choctaw. The Choctaw raised money and sent US$170 (worth thousands of dollars today) to the people of Cork. Each year members of the tribe come to visit, and a beautiful steel sculpture of six-metre-high feathers honours the gift.

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Glossary*

off the beaten track – not very well known, not much visited
famine – a time where there is not enough food
abbey – a building where monks or nuns live

Language Point*

The verb to produce [prəˈdjuːs] is roughly synonymous with make or create. The noun for the action is production [prəˈdʌkʃən], and the thing that is made is a product [ˈprɒdʌkt]. The noun produce [ˈprədjuːs] refers specifically to agricultural products as opposed to manufactured goods.
Clare Island

Clare Island, in the stormy seas of the Atlantic Ocean, is 5.5 kilometres off the coast of County Mayo in the west of Ireland. It’s only 8 kilometres long and 3 kilometres wide and is definitely off the beaten track for tourists, though you can be sure of a warm welcome.

**Cliffs and Beaches**

You can reach Clare Island by ferry from Roonagh Quay on the mainland. The crossing takes about 25 minutes and, if you’re lucky, you might see the dolphins which often follow the boat.

Clare Island is mountainous, with 450-metre high sea cliffs, which are some of the most spectacular in Europe. There aren’t any guard rails, so it’s better not to go to the pub before heading for the cliffs. There are also many beaches. Some aren’t suitable for swimming as they are rocky with huge waves crashing in (which are great to watch), but there’s a super swimming beach right by the harbour.

Nobody seems to mind that the Atlantic water is quite cold (averaging 12°C).

**Small Place, Big Fun**

Only about 150 people live on the island, but there’s plenty to do. It’s famous for music and there are lots of intimate but welcoming music festivals throughout the year. There’s a film festival too.

Since the island is so small and there’s no traffic to worry about (there are only a few cars), one of the best ways to see the island is to hire a bike to visit the cliffs, beaches and lighthouse. For some history, there is a Napoleonic tower, a 12th-century abbey* and Granuaile’s Castle, which was the home of Ireland’s famous 16th-century female pirate, Grace O’Malley. There are also boat trips, kayaking and yoga classes – something for just about everyone.

**Island Patience**

Everyone on the island relies on the ferry for supplies and sometimes they run out of things. If you order food at the island’s two pubs and they have run out of what you want, they will look out the window to see how close the ferry is and tell you how long you will have to wait. Or if you are staying in one of the island’s guesthouses you can even fish and catch your own dinner, which the owner will happily cook for you.

You can finish the day off by watching the island’s famously spectacular sunset over the Atlantic Ocean.

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**FACT FILE**

Clare Island lighthouse is now the island’s most unique guesthouse.

**The Republic of Ireland**

*Note: The Republic of Ireland, or Éire, occupies 83% of the island of Ireland. Northern Ireland, which has a population of 1.9 million, is a different country and a part of the UK.*

- **Population:** 4.9 million
- **Land area:** 70,273 km² (from the island’s total of 84,421 km²)
- **Currency:** Euro
- **Political system:** Parliamentary republic with a president as the ceremonial head of state and a prime minister (the Taoiseach [ˈtʃiːʃəx]) as the head of the government
- **Capital city:** Dublin (1.2 million)
- **Top five languages:** English, Irish (official languages), Polish, French and Lithuanian
- **Physical geography:** Low central plains. Coastal mountains, of which the tallest is Carrauntoohil (Irish: Corrán Tuathail; 1,041 m). The Western coastline has many islands, peninsulas and bays. The longest river is the Shannon (360.5 km). Very wet (up to 3 metres of rain per year in the mountains).