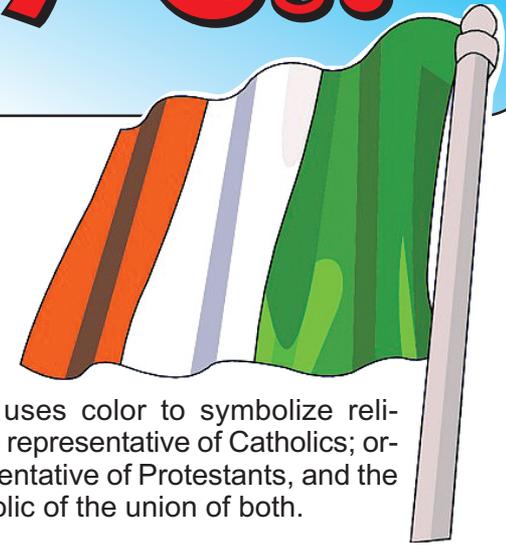




## Republic of Ireland

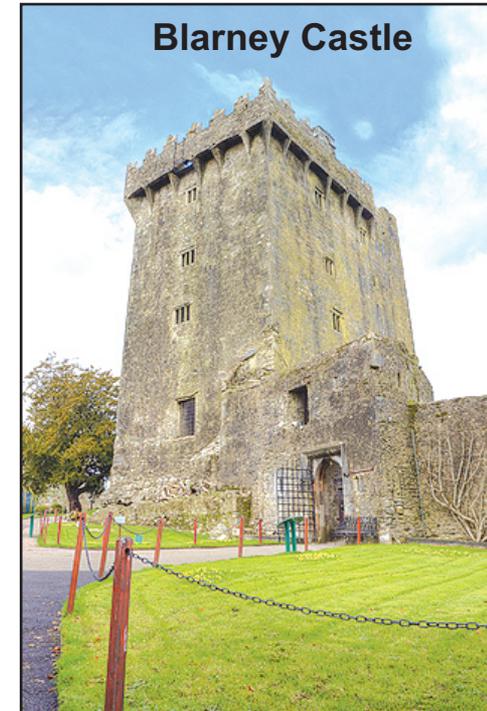


Ireland's flag uses color to symbolize religions; green is representative of Catholics; orange is representative of Protestants, and the white is symbolic of the union of both.

- Ireland is a island nation on the western edge of Europe. Aside from Great Britain, is the second largest island on the continent.
- The capital is Dublin. It is also the largest city and is home to over a quarter of Ireland's population!
- Ireland only takes up 80% of island, the other 20% is Northern Ireland which is a part of The United Kingdom.
- The population is about 5 million people!
- The currency is the Euro.
- There are four seasons in Ireland. Throughout Spring and Summer the climate stays around 40 degrees to 70 degrees Fahrenheit. In the Winter and Fall the climate stays around 46 degrees Fahrenheit.
- The traditional and most popular sports in Ireland are Gaelic football and hurling. But, at the Olympics, boxing was Ireland's most successful sport.
- The languages spoken in Ireland are English and Irish Gaelic. Irish Gaelic is the country's first official language. However the second official language, English, is more commonly spoken in present day.
- The government is a Constitutional Democracy. It consists of an elected parliament that makes laws and a president, who is head of state.
- Ireland is known for not having any snakes. The only reptiles within Ireland are lizards.
- The Ireland-United Kingdom border is also referred to as the Irish border. The border runs a total of 499km from Lough Foyle on the north of the island to Carlingford Lough on the northeast of the Irish sea.
- A type of clover called the Shamrock is the national symbol for Ireland. Along with the harp, it is a registered trademark of the Country.
- On March 17th every year, St. Patricks day is celebrated. The holiday began as a religious feast for the patron saint of Ireland. Now it has become an international festival celebrating the Irish culture. It is com-

monly celebrated with dancing, parades, foods, and of course a whole lot of green.

- The Celtic harp has been used on the Coat of Arms of Ireland since Medieval Times. Today it is still used as the symbol of the Irish State. Ireland is the world's only country with a musical instrument as it's national symbol.
- "Gulliver's Travels" writer Jonathan Swift, is buried in St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin.
- Kilkenny-born architect James Hoban designed the original White House in Washington after winning a competition sponsored by President George Washington and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson in 1792.
- The tune of the "Star Spangled Banner" was composed by the great, blind harpist Turlough O'Carolan, who died about 35 years before the American Revolution.
- One of the longest names of a place in Ireland is a townland called Muckanaghederdauhaulia, in County Galway.



*The Blarney Castle is one of Ireland's most popular landmarks. There, you can visit the legendary Blarney Stone. It is believed that if you kiss the Blarney Stone, you will gain the gift of eloquence and never be at a loss for words.*