

Destination – Northern Ireland

Worksheet A: GB, UK or British Isles? What's what?

Match the questions 1-5 with their answers a – e below.

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) What is 'The UK' short for?2) Which countries make up Great Britain?3) Which country is part of the UK but not part of Great Britain?4) What are the capital cities of the countries that make up the UK?5) Which countries make up the British Isles?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Wales, Scotland and England.b) The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.c) Cardiff, Edinburgh, London and Belfast.d) The United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.e) Northern Ireland
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Worksheet B

Northern Ireland – True or false?

- 1) You can drive to Northern Ireland from Scotland.
- 2) The famous ship 'Titanic' was built in Belfast.
- 3) Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland have the same currency.
- 4) Most people in Northern Ireland speak English.
- 5) The capital city of Northern Ireland is Dublin.

Worksheet C: Reading task – UK in focus**Text A – Living in Northern Ireland****Where it is**

Northern Ireland is part of the UK but is physically separated from mainland England, Wales and Scotland by the wild and sometimes treacherous Irish Sea. Northern Ireland has sea to the north and east, and borders the Republic of Ireland on the west and south, making it the only UK country with a European border.

Unsurprisingly these physical characteristics affect the mindset of its population, and it is not unusual to find some people who feel simultaneously a UK citizen, an Irish citizen and a European citizen. Alternatively, others shun their UK identity and embrace their Irishness, and many others insist on being 'British' and ignore their Irish neighbours.

In a population of 1.5 million nearly 60% are under 40, making it a country with an influential youth culture.

Question 1)

Answer 1)

Question 2)

Answer 2)

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Text B – Living in Northern Ireland**Religion and identity**

Identity tends to be polarised according to the religious divide – Protestants tend to see themselves as 'British' and part of the UK (except when the Irish rugby team is in action and allegiance conveniently switches!), and Catholics tend to embrace the Irish identity and an all-Ireland ethos. As with any such sweeping statement there are many exceptions to the rule, and Northern Ireland is home to many people of other religions and cultural identities. There are also a huge number of people from both the Protestant and Catholic communities who value each other as friends and fellow citizens, and to whom religion takes a back seat.

Language

In common with the UK, people in Northern Ireland speak English (with a distinctive, hard to mimic accent). There also exist the lesser-used languages of Irish and Ulster Scots and many associated cultural activities.

Question 1)

Answer 1)

Question 2)

Answer 2)

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Text C – Living in Northern Ireland**Political devolution**

Northern Ireland shares the Westminster government with the UK but has had its own devolved Assembly, currently suspended, with local control over various issues including education and arts. The population waits for local politicians to come to agreement so that the Assembly can be reinstated as independence from Westminster is valued.

Stereotypes

Stereotypical images of Northern Ireland often centre on its troubled and violent past: bombs, shootings, brutality, along with the more positive: building the Titanic, the Giants Causeway World Heritage Site, linen industry and musicians such as Van Morrison and Ash.

Question 1)

Answer 1)

Question 2)

Answer 2)

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Worksheet D: Local lingo

Have a look at some of these words and phrases that are specific to Northern Ireland. Then imagine you meet an Irish friend on the street. Write a short dialogue including some of the local language. Read your dialogue to the class.

Q: *How was the craic?* A: *The craic was mighty!*

Did you have a good time? Yes!

Greeting: *How are yours?*

Even the dogs on the street know it – relating to something that is common and apparently is a Belfast only expression.

I'll do it now in a minute

'bout ye? – How are you?

fundered – cold

scundered – embarrassed

yer man – that man

grand – good, OK

wee – little (also used in Scotland)

aye – yes (again, also used in Scotland)

boggin' – dirty

'mon – come on

'mere – come here

stickin' out – really good

Worksheet E: The Ulster Fry

In Northern Ireland they have a special dish known as the Ulster Fry. You can eat it for lunch, supper or breakfast. Have a look at the ingredients:

- Bacon
- Eggs
- Sausage
- Black pudding
- White pudding
- Tomatoes
- Mushrooms
- Soda bread
- Potato bread

All of the ingredients are fried, including the bread, and it is usually accompanied by cups of tea.

- Would you like to try the Ulster fry? Why / why not?
- What did you have for breakfast / lunch this morning?
- What are the typical dishes from your country?

Worksheet F: There was an Englishman, an Irishman, a Welshman and a Scotsman...

Many countries make jokes about other nationalities. Who does your country make jokes about? Do you think these types of jokes are funny?

In the UK the different countries often joke about one another. Read the jokes and see if you find them funny, then write two jokes of your own to tell the rest of the group. You can translate the jokes from your own language.

Englishman 1 – “What was the final score in the football match this afternoon?”
Englishman 2 – “ Nil-nil” (0-0)
Englishman 1 – “ Oh, and what was the score at half – time?!”

Announcement at a London airport:
“Will the passenger who has left their hearing aid at the British Airways check in desk please come and collect it?”

After the famous boat race between Oxford and Cambridge, one of the mothers of the crew was consoling her son.
“Don’t worry son, you were fantastic. You rowed faster than the others in your boat!”

Tell an Englishman a joke on Monday and he might laugh on Friday.

Write a joke here:

Write a joke here: