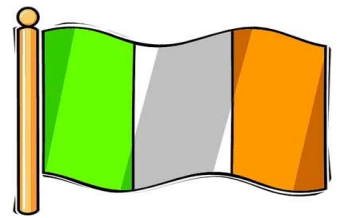


Ireland

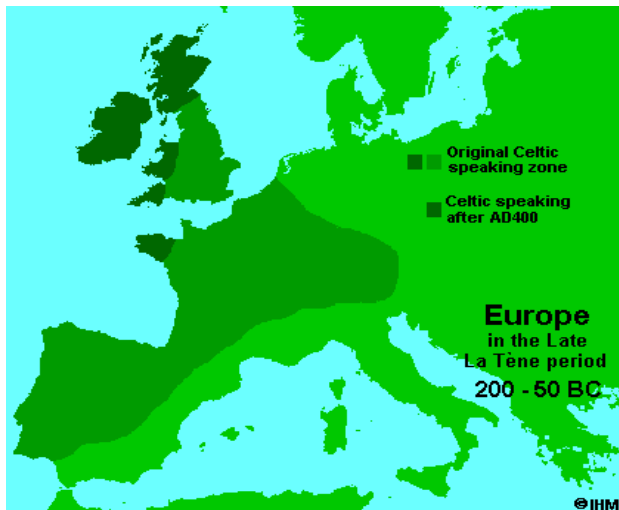


<http://thierry.raguier.free.fr/3Irl1.htm>

<http://thierry.raguier.free.fr/Didapages/3Ireland/index.html>

I/ An ancient country

If you go to Ireland, you will perhaps visit the ancient prehistoric site of Newgrange (photo). People have been living on the isle for ages. There are age-old monuments all over Ireland.



The Celts originated in Central Europe about 500 years before Christ (see map). They settled most western Europe. When the Romans invaded the British Isles, the Celts took refuge in Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Brittany (France).

Today, Celtic languages are spoken in these parts of Europe. The Republic of Ireland (or: Eire) is officially a bilingual country (Irish Gaelic and English). Irish is compulsory for young Irish pupils for a few years (but many drop it later). People speak it every day in the west of Ireland (the « Gaeltacht areas »).



If you to Ireland today, you hear (or see) Irish Gaelic. This language c..... to Ireland with the f..... settlers: the Celts. They w..... not h..... a....., if the Romans h..... n..... i..... Britain ! The Roman invasion d..... (= p.....) the Celts to Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Brittany (in France). Today, the ancient language (one of the o..... in Europe !) is t..... to young Irish pupils. People speak it every day in special areas (the « G..... »)

II/ A country with fantastic landscapes...



The prehistoric fortress of Dun Aengus (on a small island, west of Ireland) has been facing the strong Atlantic winds for about 5000 years !

Ireland has great beaches for surfing, but the water is cold !



The « Ring of Kerry » has wonderful sceneries.



Irish people love playing, listening to music (any sort !) or dancing. They meet in pubs to spend a friendly moment.

Of course, they drink the national drink !



1/ L'Irlande est célèbre pour ses paysages magnifiques.

2/ Tu aimes écouter de la musique ? Vas au pub en Irlande, où les gens se rassemblent tous les soirs pour en écouter ou en jouer.

3/ Quelle est la boisson la plus célèbre en Irlande ? La Guinness bien entendu !

III/ History: the 19 th century famine / terrorism in the 1960's.



The English settled Ireland in 1169. They took the lands and ruled this new colony.

In the 19 th century, during 3 winters, between 1845 and 1848, potatoes rotted in Ireland (because it rained much). The English landlords took the little food there existed and exported it (it brought them more money). Irish people had nothing to eat and starved to death. Irish population shrank: about 1 million died and 1 more million emigrated to the USA, Canada or Australia. Today, the « Great Famine » is not forgotten in Ireland.

In 1921, after centuries of occupation, England decided to leave Ireland, but the English kept one part (= the « partition »): Northern Ireland (or: Ulster). Today, Ulster is part of the United Kingdom.

In the 1960's, Catholics in Ulster began to protest to demand equality in jobs and a united Ireland (with Dublin for capital). The majority of people (Protestants) rejected this demand.

The « troubles » began: hardliners and terrorists planted bombs. Killings and bombings became common in Ulster.



This situation has been going on for about 50 years now, but bombings and killings have diminished. Everywhere in Northern Ireland, you can see « murals »: people paint on houses to show if they are Catholic or Protestant.



1/ How long ago did the famine take place in Ireland ?

2/ What was the impact of this famine ?

3/ How long has Ireland been divided ?

4/ The « troubles »:

What ?

When ?

Who ?

Why ?

IV/ Other Irish features (=characteristics):

If you go to the west of Ireland , you will probably see thatched cottages: they are the traditional Irish houses. Irish people now rent them out to family and friends in America or to tourists !



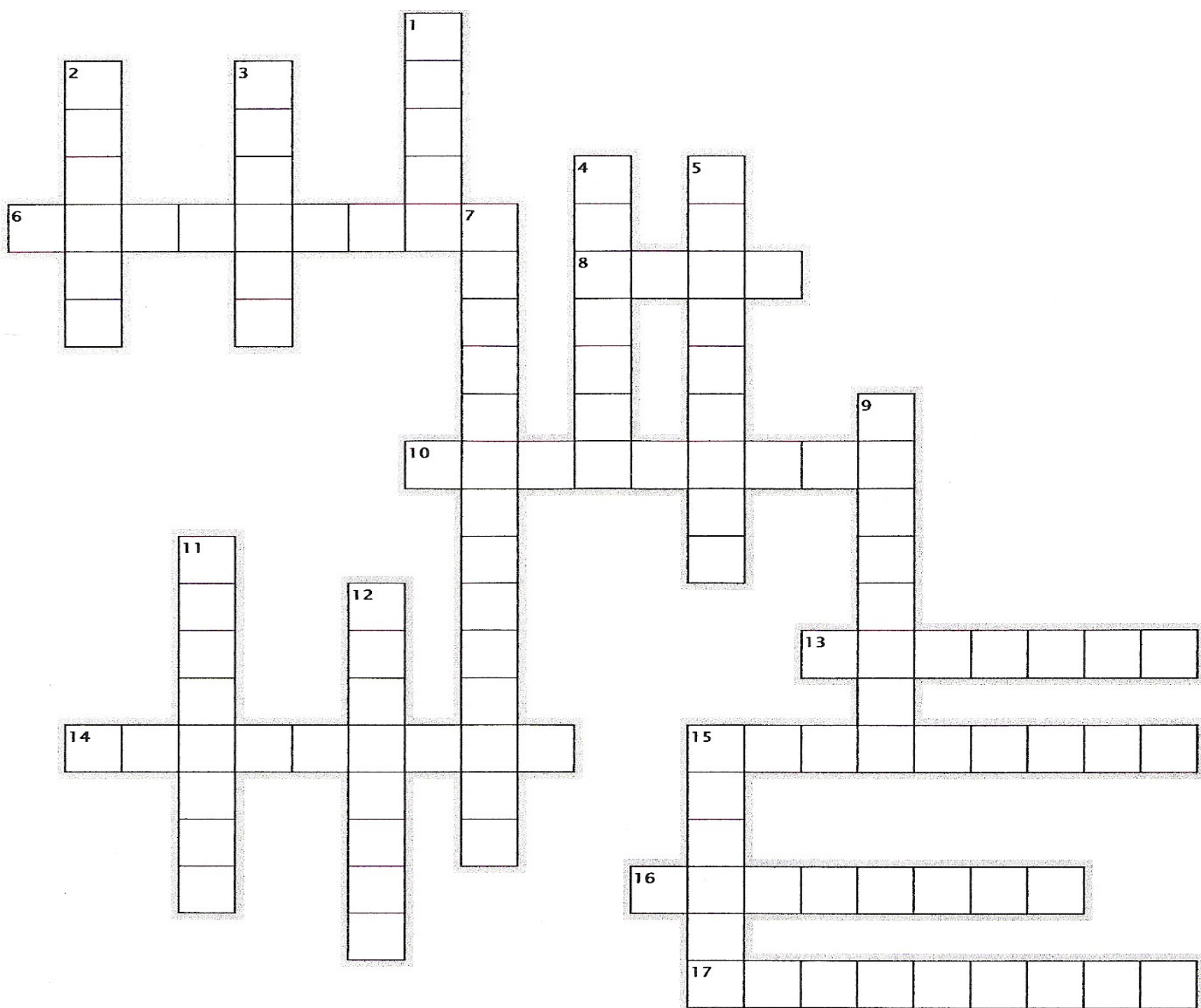
Irish people stand apart in the English-speaking world for their « gab », their « blarney ». It means, the Irish people love talking and chatting !

If you go to the castle of Blarney (in the south of the Republic of Ireland), you will perhaps kiss the « Blarney stone »: you will « have some blarney » (= you will have the « gift of the gab »)

With a strong tradition of people who love talking, Ireland has given Europe very famous politicians, writers or poets.

Ireland has Europe's most important number of Noble Prize people (4) !





Across

- 6. the area of Ireland where only Gaelic is spoken. (9)
- 8. = the Republic of Ireland (4)
- 10. = extremist (9)
- 13. People in Ireland have some (= they love talking) (7)
- 14. with two languages (9)
- 15. = to die because you have no food (9)
- 16. amical, sympathique, aimable (8)
- 17. = to diminish (9)

Down

- 1. from Ireland (5)
- 2. paintings on walls in Northern Ireland (6)
- 3. the languages are the oldest in Europe. (6)
- 4. very ancient (7)
- 5. 1921: the of Ireland (9)
- 7. se tenir à part, être une exception (14)
- 9. they have been going on / continuing since the 1960s in Northern Ireland: the (8)
- 11. poser (une bombe) (8)
- 12. = to continue (8)
- 15. pourrir (6)