1. THE STONE AGE

Early inhabitants

The first inhabitants of Ireland arrived about eight thousand years ago. They probably came from Scotland. These were middle stone age (mesolithic) people and were hunters. At this time the country was covered in forests and swamps, and these early hunters lived on river banks and lake shores.

The next people were late stone age (or neolithic) and were farmers. They made stone axes and with these they could cut trees. Then they were able to cultivate the land and raise cattle. They had places for religious meetings – circles of stones, and they built dolmens as graves for important people (a dolmen is a big stone with space underneath for dead people). They also built passage graves (see below).

Many of these structures show an interest in astronomy.

Circle of stones in Drombeg, Cork.
Two stones in the centre point to the setting sun on 21st December (winter solstice).

This is the main dolmen in Carrowmore, Sligo, the largest megalithic cemetery in Ireland.
It is 700 years older than Newgrange.

Passage graves

There are over 300 passage graves in Ireland. The most famous are Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth in the Boyne Valley, also Loughcrew nearby. Each consists of a mound of stones or earth with a passage leading to a central chamber. Many of the stones are carved. The carvings are mostly circular/spiral but there are also some diamonds, zig-zags and lozenges. Most of the stones were transported from the Mourne Mountains, some from the Wicklow Mountains.

[Write in 'Newgrange' and 'Mourne Mts.' on the map on pages 64-65.]

diamond: zig-zag: lozenge:

Newgrange burial mound

Passage in Newgrange

In Newgrange, once a year on 21 December the rising sun shines down the passage into the chamber for 17 minutes. Knowth contains two tombs back-to-back, with two passages, east and west. It also contains more carvings than Newgrange, in fact it is the largest gallery of megalithic art in Europe. Dowth also contains two tombs, but with one passage. The average diameter of these megalithic graves where the burnt bodies of great leaders were left is 85 metres. They are about 5,000 years old – older than the pyramids in Egypt!

For some people the mention of Egypt is not surprising: they say there is a connection with similar graves in Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Brittany (in north-west France).

Fields

The Céide Fields **[map]*** in Mayo, about 5,500 years old, are the oldest known field systems in the world. They extend over an area of 12 square kilometers. The fields and walls are preserved under peat (bogland), so you can't see them! Archeologists drew the map of the walls of the fields and houses by feeling them with a long iron bar! If you go there you too can feel the walls; the guide will let you stick an iron bar (over two metres long!) into the ground. The ground is soft because it is peat.

A bog is formed when the land becomes too wet to recycle the dead plants (this can be caused by cutting down too many trees). The plants in a bog die and fall into the water. In the following year the next plants do the same, building up the bog. Many people use 'turf' for their fires during the winter. Turf is cut out of the bog and dried in the summer.

*When you see **[map]** please write in that place on the map on pages 64-65.

Tasks (ch 1)

1. *Unscramble the letters in these two words to find what was under dolmens and in passage graves:* NESOB and SAESH.

2. *Fill in the blanks with the words below the text:*

More stone, then metal

A much later stone (a) _____ is Dún Aengus on Inishmore (the largest of the Aran Islands). It is a circular fort built on the edge of a (b) _____. It was (c) _____ defended with sharp stones all around it. There are similar (d) _____ at Grianán of Aileach near Derry and Caherdaniel in Kerry, although these do not have many stones outside.

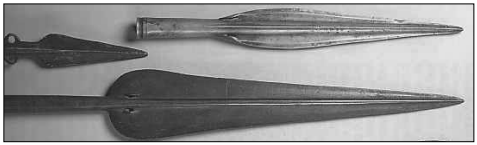
From around 2000 BC copper and gold were (e) _____ and jewellery and implements were made. Bronze was also made from a mixture of copper and (f) _____. The tin was (g) _____ from Cornwall in England.

You (h) _____ see axe-heads and spear-heads made from bronze in the National Museum in Dublin and the Ulster Museum in Belfast.

forts structure imported can cliff tin well mined

Dún Aengus

Grianán of Aileach



Bronze spear-heads in the National Museum of Ireland

2. THE CELTS

Origin

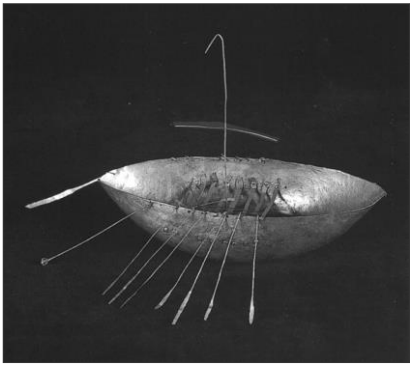
The Celts arrived in Ireland around the 6th century BC. They came from central Europe, where they often fought against the Romans. Once, in 390 BC to be exact, they almost captured Rome. To Ireland they brought with them the skills of iron-making. Iron weapons are much stronger than bronze ones so the Celts easily defeated the local people. However, there is no proof of a large invasion.

The Celts were fierce warriors. They scared their enemies by sounding trumpets and shrieking. They often fought naked, and they didn't wear helmets because they wanted to show off their hair. Many of them made their hair spiky with sticky mud. Hair gel is not a new invention!

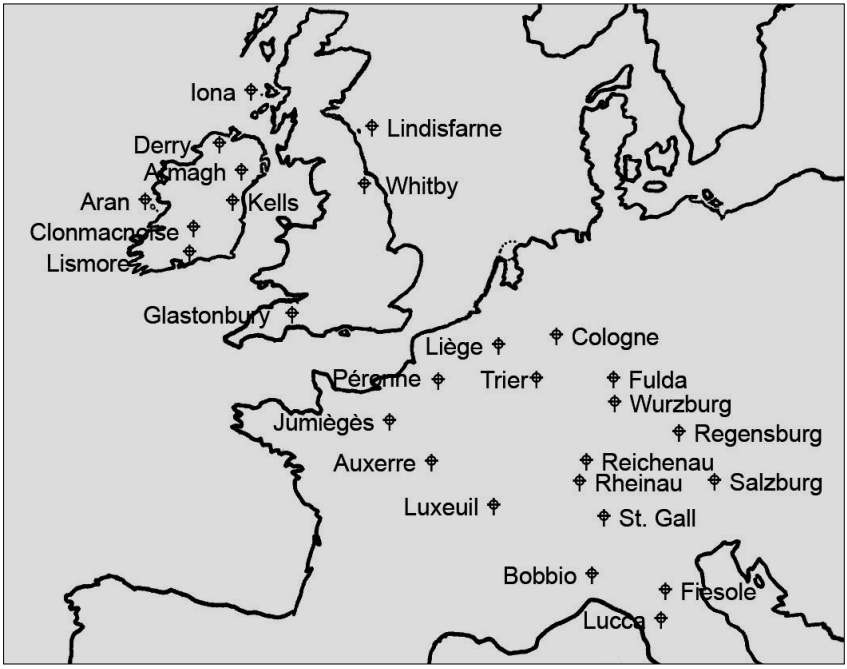
Artwork by Wayne Reynolds, from the book *WAR30, Celtic Warrior 300BC-100AD*. © Osprey Publishing Ltd. www.ospreypublishing.com

In everyday life the Celts took pride in their appearance. They wore brightly coloured clothes and were fond of jewellery. In the National Museum in Dublin you can see some of the gold bracelets, collars and brooches that they wore. Even before the Celts there were many goldsmiths making beautiful objects in Ireland, including ornaments like the gold boat with oars that you can see in the museum.

Gold collar found in Co. Derry in 1896. It dates from the 7th century B.C.



Ornamental gold boat, also found in Co. Derry in 1896. It dates from the 1st Century.



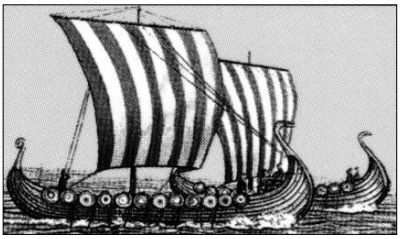
Irish Christian centres in Europe, 6th – 8th century

Tasks (ch 3)

1. Match the numbers with the letters:

1. Young Patrick looked after these.	a) a slave
2. This plant is similar to, but larger than shamrock.	b) preach
3. The female equivalent of a monk.	c) sheep and pigs
4. He works hard but gets no pay.	d) snakes
5. A change of faith.	e) a conversion
6. A monk's (and a prisoner's) room.	f) a nun
7. Home for the bee.	g) pagans
8. Sun-worshippers, for example.	h) clover
9. In Ireland, you'll only see these at the zoo.	i) a hive
10. To spread the word.	j) a cell

4. THE VIKINGS



The Vikings came from Norway, Sweden and Denmark. They were farmers and fishermen, but life for them was difficult when the land was hard and the sea was rough. In the 8th century they began to leave their own lands and travel in search of new places to trade with, to plunder and to live in. By this time many of the Irish monasteries had become wealthy centres of farming, trade and manufacture, besides education and prayer.

In 795 and again in 802 and 806 the Vikings attacked the monastery of Iona. The survivors fled to Ireland, where they built a new monastery in Kells **[map]**. All round the Irish coast monasteries were plundered: gold was stolen and valuable books damaged or destroyed (the Vikings were pagans and illiterate so they were not interested in the books themselves, just the decorated covers).

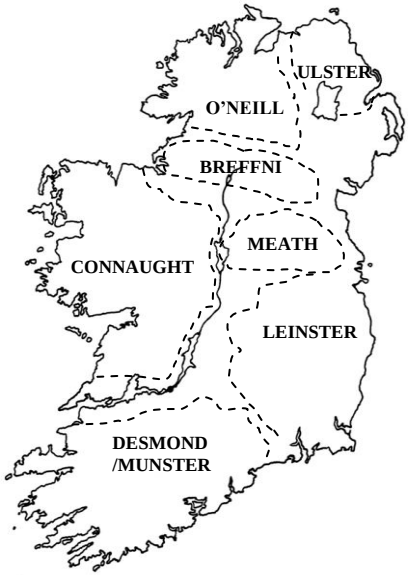
The Vikings were expert sailors, and their boats could not only sail around the coast but also up rivers, enabling them to reach the monasteries. Many monasteries had a round tower, which acted as a lookout tower or belfry or place of refuge. The door was built high so that it could only be reached by ladder. When the Vikings came some of the monks would take their valuables to the tower.

Round tower in Ireland Peace Park, Belgium

The Vikings did some good for Ireland. In 841 they built a town at the mouth of the river Liffey, at a part called Duib-linn, which means 'black pool' (you can see the dark water under Dublin Castle). Other towns like Cork **[map]**, Limerick **[map]**, Waterford **[map]** and Wexford **[map]** were also founded by Vikings and these ports became centres of trade and power.

Battle of Clontarf

The Vikings were successful in Ireland because the Irish leaders were always fighting among themselves. It was only when Brian Boru became High King in 1002 that a strong army was gathered. In 1014, at the Battle of Clontarf **[map]**, he drove out the warring Vikings. He also



The main 'kingdoms' in Ireland, c. 1100

Trim Castle, Co. Meath, was built by the Norman lord Hugh de Lacy, who had married the daughter of Rory O'Connor. King Henry needn't have worried about this connection to the rebel, for de Lacy was decapitated by one of his advisors during the building of the castle.

Henry II, 'Lord of Ireland'

King Henry II, afraid that the Normans might become independent, came to Ireland (with 400 ships) in October 1171. He made himself 'Lord of Ireland' with the approval of Pope Adrian IV, the only English pope. Most of the Irish leaders submitted to him. Only the High King, Rory O'Connor, and the northern kings refused to submit. Henry gave a lot of Irish land to his barons.

Before returning to England, Henry received communion in Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin, his first communion since the murder of Thomas à Beckett in the previous December.

For some time the English kings were too busy fighting in France or Britain to pay much attention to Ireland, and they allowed Anglo-Norman leaders to rule as governers. These included the famous Fitzgeralds in Kildare and Butlers in Kilkenny **[map]**, most of whom were speaking Irish (or Latin) and following Irish customs.

In a parliament meeting in Kilkenny in 1366 the *Statutes of Kilkenny* were agreed: settlers were forbidden to speak Irish, marry Irish people or adopt Irish customs. But it was too late: most of the native Irish and the Norman settlers were united in their opposition to English influence in Ireland. The only place where English rule was obeyed was in an area about 50km^2 around Dublin, called 'The Pale'.

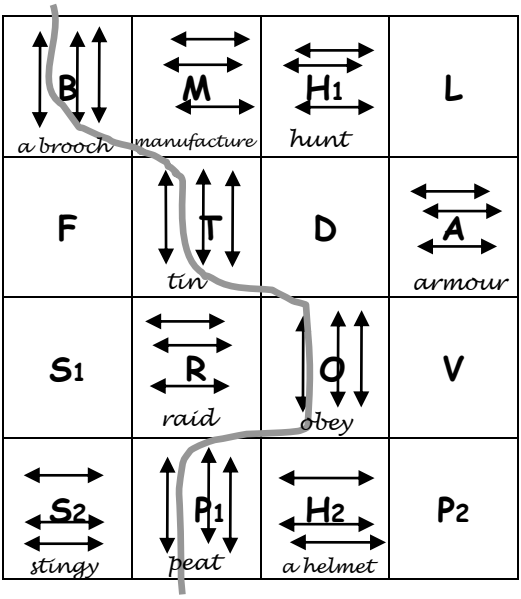
VOCABULARY REVIEW, CHAPTERS 1–5 (blockbusters game)

If you are reading this on your own just go to the next page and see how many questions you can answer. If you can organise a quizmaster (e.g. teacher) and two teams (or two players) here are the instructions for the quizmaster:

Teacher puts the diagram below (without arrowed lines or words) on the board. One team tries to connect the squares across, the other vertically. Connections can be diagonal or zig-zag or straight. Toss a coin to see who will call out the first letter (any letter). The quizmaster will read out the question for that letter (questions on next page). Whoever, from either team, puts their hand up first (to avoid shouting) gives the answer. (Alternatively one team can be allowed time to answer before passing the question over to the opposing team.)

If the answer is correct the square is marked with horizontal or vertical lines as appropriate and the person who answered correctly chooses the next letter. All are eligible again. If the answer is wrong the opposing team gets the opportunity to answer. If nobody has the answer, clues should be given (the next letter in the word, the page number). In the example below, the up-down team has won.

Example:



(After a player gives the right word the teacher writes it under the letter for consolidation. After a team has won, the leftover questions can be called and the answerers' initials put on the won squares.)

QUESTIONS FOR VOCABULARY REVIEW, CHAPTERS 1-5

The number after each question refers to the page on which the word first appears. The word may occasionally have a different form.

B What B is a piece of jewellery that you pin onto your clothes? 10
M What M means to make something, usually as an industry? 18
H1 What H means to try to catch or kill a wild animal? 7
L This L is the time when Christians fast before Easter. 17

F What F is a building for defence? 9
T Many food containers are made from this metal. 9
D You use this D to change the colour of clothes or hair. 16
A This A was seldom worn by the Celts. What is it? 11

S1 What S means wet land? 7
R If you do this R you attack a place and steal things. 13
O This O means to do what someone tells you. 21
V What V is the opposite of defeat? 11

S2 If you are this you don't like spending money. 23
P1 This P means bog material, sometimes called 'turf'. 8
H2 This H is worn to protect your head. What is it? 10
P2 This P believes in many gods, as the Romans did. 13

6. HENRY VIII

Henry Tudor came to the throne in 1509. He was married to Catherine of Aragon but wanted a divorce. The Pope did not allow it so in 1531 Henry established himself as leader of the (Protestant) Church of England and got a divorce. In 1533 he married Anne Boleyn and they had a daughter, Elizabeth. Anne was accused of adultery and was beheaded in 1536. Henry's other wives were: Jane Seymour (died 1537), Anne of Cleeves (married and divorced 1537), Catherine Howard (beheaded 1542) and Catherine Parr (survived Henry).

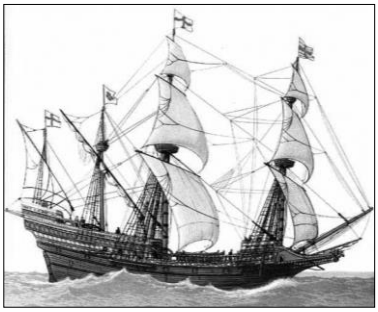
For Henry, loyalty to Rome was disloyalty to England. He demanded that his subjects convert to the Anglican Church. He took land and monasteries from Catholic bishops and priests. Many were executed.

The end of the Fitzgeralds

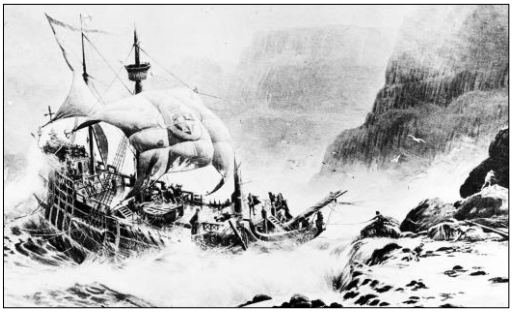
At this time in Ireland Garret Óg Fitzgerald was the strongest Anglo-Norman leader and did not pay much respect to England. In 1534 Henry summoned him to England and had him put in the Tower of London. Garret's Son, Silken Thomas, then organized a rebellion against the King. The King's new deputy, Sir William Skeffington, with 2,300 men put down the rebellion. When everyone in the Fitzgerald Castle in Kildare surrendered they were all executed. The next time the Irish Parliament met, all the members voted to obey Henry and recognize him as head of the state church. Also, from this time the Viceroy (king's deputy) would always be an Englishman and there would always be English soldiers based in Dublin (until 1922).

In 1541 Henry was declared King of Ireland by the Irish parliament. Henry demanded that everyone in Ireland should become Protestant and follow English laws and customs. The Irish resisted change and they associated the executions and harsh treatment with the King's religion and English rule.

Henry gave land to Protestants, and the original Catholic owners had to rent it from their new landlords. From now on Protestants would have the upper hand in Ireland.



English 'race' ship introduced at the time of the Armada



The wrecking of a Spanish Galleon off Port na Spanaigh, Antrim. John Carey. © Mrs. Jane M. Carey 2008.

Task (ch 7) *Fill in the blanks, using the words below.*

A recipe for disaster – why the Armada failed

1. King Philip was not a (a) _____ expert, yet he gave many orders from his palace and didn't ask his commanders for advice.
2. The Duke of Parma, the leader of the Spanish forces in the Netherlands, was jealous of Medina Sidonia and didn't (b) _____ with him.
3. The Spanish Galleons were wide, and (c) _____ in the water, making them difficult to manoeuvre. The British ships were smaller, faster and more manoeuvrable, especially the new 'race' ships, 25 of (d) _____ were used.
4. Many Spanish ships were carrying (e) _____ canons and ammunition for when they landed, making them (f) _____ heavier.
5. Spanish ships had sea captains and army captains. This complicated the commands. English ships (g) _____ had sea captains.
6. The iron in the Spanish canon balls was brittle, with the result that many of the balls broke on impact, so they did (h) _____ damage than the English canon balls.

extra which military cooperate high just even less

Bronze and iron swivel gun from La Trinidad Valencera (Ulster Museum, Belfast).
It was called 'the murderer' by the men using it because it would swivel back and injure them.

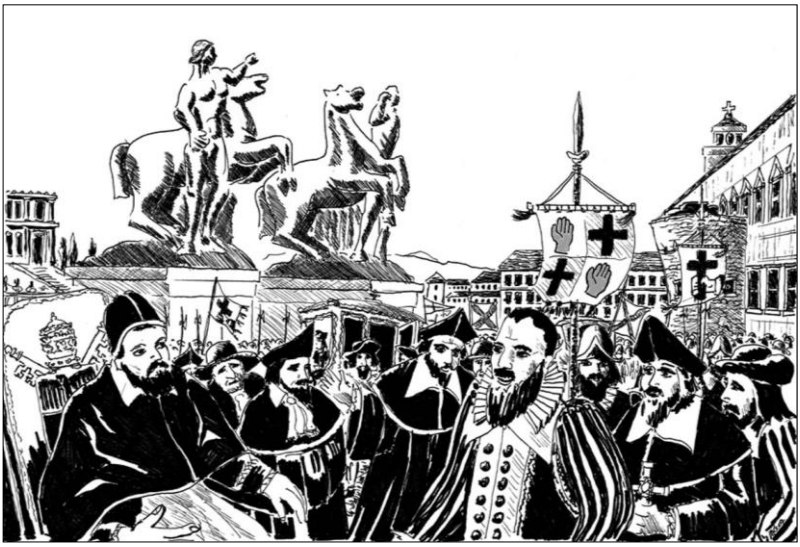
The rebels were defeated. 1,200 Irish were killed, English losses numbered 12. Most of the Spaniards were allowed to return home. Some of the rebels were allowed to go to Spain with them.

Hugh O'Neill returned to Ulster. Hugh O'Donnell went to Spain to ask for more help, but he died there a year later. Some historians say he was poisoned by an English spy. He was given a state funeral, his hearse passing by the King's palace in Valladolid.

The Flight of the Earls

It was expensive for Elizabeth to have a large army fighting in Ireland, so she allowed Hugh O'Neill to keep his land in Ulster, but he had to sign a treaty in 1603 with Lord Mountjoy. According to this treaty he would obey and enforce English law and encourage his people to observe English customs, wear English dress, etc.

O'Neill knew, however, that the government in Dublin did not trust him. Most of the English and Anglo-Irish were angry that he had not been punished, and they wanted to take his land. Year by year the pressure built up. In 1607, fearing an assassination or attack from Dublin, Hugh O'Neill, Rory O'Donnell and other leaders sailed to Europe with their families in a French ship. This is known as the 'Flight of the Earls', and marks the end of Gaelic independence in Ireland.



Pope Paul V greets O'Neill at the Quirinale Palace in Rome

9. PLANTATION

The only way that England could keep control of Ireland was to 'plant' the land with English farmers and landlords. This was first done in Munster in the 1550s. Over 120,000 hectares of land was given to Englishmen who were loyal to the crown. One of these was Sir Walter Raleigh, a favourite of Queen Elizabeth. He was the first man in Ireland to smoke tobacco, and the first to plant potatoes (do you know why it was he?). He developed the timber industry, exporting wood to France and Spain, mainly for making barrels. As more and more wood was exported for making barrels and ships, within a century Ireland became one of the most treeless countries in Europe.

Sir Walter Raleigh & son

The Irish who were thrown off their land fought back with some success, but after the 'Flight of the Earls' there were no chieftains to lead them.

The Plantation of Ulster (1609 - 1650)

In the north, the lands of the O'Neills and the O'Donnells and anyone who had helped them were confiscated and distributed among Scottish and English settlers. Most of the Scottish planters were Presbyterians. Presbyterians do not agree with the Church of England system (they elect their leaders democratically and don't have bishops), but these were generally loyal to England and built good farms and villages.

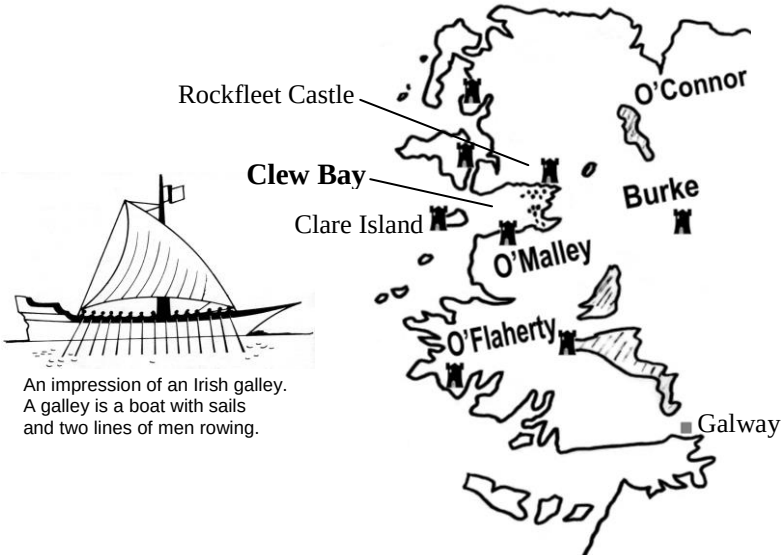
Rebellion and Cromwell

In 1641 there was a rebellion. Many of the planters and their families were killed by Catholics who had been removed from their land. Many others, fearing for their safety, emigrated to America. There was an attempt to unite the 'Old English' (Catholics from the Norman times) with the native Irish but this failed.

Cromwell, an English military man who had defeated the English King Charles I to get control of the parliament in London, came to Ireland in 1649 to restore order. His Irish enemies included royalist supporters because Charles I was tolerant of Catholics. Cromwell first headed for Drogheda, **[map]** which refused to surrender. As an example to other towns and 'as a righteous judgement of God' he massacred all

10. The Pirate Queen

An impression of an Irish galley.
A galley is a boat with sails
and two lines of men rowing.



Clew Bay, clans and some castles

Grace O'Malley is her name in English, but most people know her as *Granuaile*, pronounced Grawñe Wale. She came to be leader of the O'Malley clan, who controlled the seas around Clew Bay, and owned a lot of the land there too. No other Irish clan controlled the seas like the O'Malleys. Clew Bay was easy to defend, with over 100 islands (365 at low tide). The O'Malleys' main castle was on Clare Island.

Grace was born in 1530, and by this time the O'Malley clan, and the neighbouring O'Flaherty clan, had been strong for 300 years. During the Norman expansion both clans sided with the Normans and did not help other Connaught clans such as the O'Connors who were fighting against the Normans. Remember that in these times it was almost 'every clan for itself'; there was little concept of a unified nation, even a unified province. Galway had a sign over one of its gates which expressed the fears of its citizens: *"Good Lord, deliver us from the ferocious O'Flahertys"*. Galway followed the English laws and demanded taxes for exporting goods. The O'Malleys ignored these laws.

The O'Malley chiefs made money by collecting taxes from fishing boats, mainly English, French and Spanish, that fished off the O'Malley coasts. And like other clans the O'Malleys would have carried out raids, stealing cattle etc. Unlike other clans though, they would have carried

The Orange Society and 'The Twelfth'

The Orange Order was founded in Co. Armagh in 1795 for people who supported British rule and Protestantism. The members are called 'Orangemen'. They celebrate the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne every year on 12 July (a national holiday in Northern Ireland). They march/parade through the streets with banners and flags to the sounds of bands with lambeg drums. They then usually finish with a picnic and speeches about following the Bible rather than the Pope, and loyalty to the Crown. At night bonfires are lit, some with the tricolour on top.

About 2,000 Orange parades take place throughout summer in Northern Ireland. There are Orange parades also in Glasgow, Toronto and Adelaide.

Orangemen marching, playing the fife and lambeg drum. The drum is very loud and very big. Its diameter is 0.9 metres, its depth/width is 0.65 metres, and its weight is 16.7 kilos.
The wearing of a bowler hat in the parades is an old tradition.

Tasks (ch 11 contd.)

3. Match the numbers with the letters:

1. an organization of religious people	a) convert
2. disagreement, fighting	b) commemorate
3. change your religion	c) tolerate
4. make it as it was before	d) an order
5. when witches were burnt	e) a trip
6. a learner of a trade (e.g. carpentry)	f) conflict
7. a journey to a place, and return	g) the Inquisition
8. put up with	h) restore
9. remember in a special way	i) supplies
10. usually delivered by truck	j) an apprentice

13. The French in Ireland

In 1789 the Bastille (royal prison in Paris) was stormed by a crowd of French people. All over Europe there was a lot of interest in the struggle of the French for 'liberty, equality and fraternity'. Theobald Wolfe Tone, a young Protestant lawyer from Dublin, wanted to unite all Irishmen to fight for an independent Irish Parliament. Presbyterians did not have full religious and political freedom. They agreed with Wolfe Tone and joined together in Belfast to form the Society of United Irishmen. There were thus two groups of people opposing the British government: the Ulster Presbyterians and the southern Catholics.

Attempted invasion at Bantry Bay

Wolfe Tone went to France for help. The French were at war with Britain and were keen to export their revolutionary ideas. In 1796 15,000 French troops under General Hoche sailed from Brest for Ireland. Due to bad weather only half of the fleet reached Bantry Bay **[map]**. These still could not land there and turned back. The British and Irish governments were alarmed. A search for arms was ordered, houses were burned and suspects were flogged, mainly by Irish militia.

The Wexford rebellion

In 1798 there was a rebellion in Co. Wexford which was successful for some time. Shamefully, a mob of Catholics got out of control and killed a large number of innocent Protestants. Reinforcements soon arrived from England. The rebels, armed with pikes and farm tools, and led by a priest, Father Murphy, were defeated at Vinegar Hill **[map]**. Many of the rebels were executed; others were transported to Australia.

Battle in Wexford. The rebels use pikes against the cavalry.

Fr. Murphy statue in Tullow

Napoleon at Waterloo. He became Prime Minister of Britain and Ireland in 1828. Fearing insurrection in Ireland, he persuaded King George IV to sign the Catholic Relief Act. The King hated doing so, and the Duke's conservative party was weakened by divisions within.

Task (ch 14)

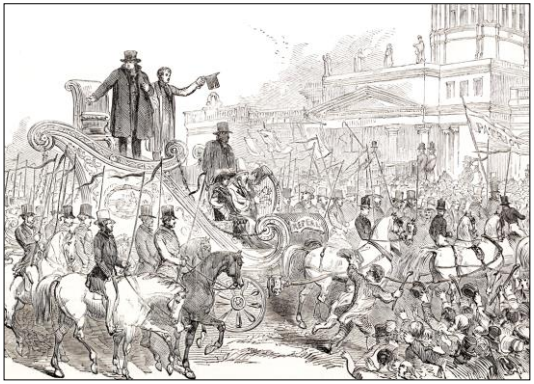
Fill in the blanks with the phrasal verbs below.

The decline of O'Connell

After his success in winning emancipation, O'Connell (a) _____ ____ to break the Act of Union, which did not allow a parliament for Ireland. He organized 'monster meetings' at which hundreds of thousands of people would (b) _____ ____. The most famous of these was at Tara, the ancient meeting place of chieftains. O'Connell believed that the English government would again (c) _____ ____ when they saw such support, but things didn't (d) _____ ____ that way. The government banned a meeting planned in 1843 to be held at the site of the Battle of Clontarf. O'Connell, not wanting bloodshed, obeyed the ban and (e) _____ ____ the meeting. Even so, he was jailed for three months. From then on he became politically weaker, and others had to (f) _____ ____ the fight, such as Thomas Davis, a Protestant lawyer.

O'Connell became ill and died in Genoa in 1847 on his way to Rome. His heart was sent to Rome and his corpse to Dublin, as he had asked. A round tower was (g) _____ ___ over his tomb in Glasnevin cemetery.

give in - turn out - set out - turn up - called off - put up - carry on



Crowds cheer O'Connell on his release from prison

Statue in O'Connell St., Dublin

Even in the workhouses 2,000 people were dying every week. There was no blight in 1847, but most of the seed potatoes had been eaten, so crops were few and small. While grain was still being exported, Indian corn was being imported for the workhouses. Every week, hundreds of ships from America, England, Spain, Italy and France were delivering food into Cork and Westport. British and Irish Quakers helped fishermen to buy back their nets and farmers to sow different crops.

Eviction & emigration

Tenants who could not pay their rent were evicted and their houses destroyed. Between 1849 and 1854, 49,000 families were evicted. In Clare in 1848 1,000 families were evicted in six months. Not all landlords were cruel – some were kind, and some also became bankrupt as no rent was being collected.

To escape from the nightmare many people had to emigrate, mainly to Liverpool and America. Thousands never arrived at their destination as they were so weak and ill, and the ships were overcrowded and filthy.

About a million people died in the Great Famine. And something else started dying too – the Irish language, for the emigrants and their families saw the value in learning English to get a job abroad.

Emigration continued for many years, even up to the 1990s, because Ireland was a poor country. Ireland's most famous emigrant was Annie Moore, the first person to pass through the Ellis Island Immigration Station in New York, on 1st January 1892.

The number of people in the world who claim to have Irish ancestry is 80 million.

Emigrants waiting to board a ship. In 1847 about 20,000 Irish arrived in Liverpool every month.

Statue of Annie Moore and her brothers in Cobh, Cork

2. Change the sentences from Active to Passive, following the example. It is not necessary to write the 'by…' part (the agent).

Example:

A: The landlords evicted the tenants.

P: The tenants *were evicted (by the landlords)*.

1. A: The government imported Indian corn.

   P: Indian corn ……..……..…… .

2. A: The government set up soup kitchens.

   P: Soup kitchens ……..…..… .

3. A: The government had built workhouses.

   P: ……..……..… .

4. A: People also grew grain.

   P: ……..……..… .

5. A: People were still exporting the cash crop.

   P: …….……...…….……..... .

6. A: People could say it.

   P: It ……..…….…….. .

7. A: The people had eaten most of the seed potatoes.

   P: ……..……..…….…..…….. .

8. A: Some landlords were not collecting any rent.

   P: No rent …….……. .

9. A: The government has erected many Famine memorials.

   P: ……..……...… .

Attitudes towards immigrants

Immigration into the US was made difficult by law, so most ships landed in Canada. Hospitals immediately became overcrowded; sheds were used to hold the thousands more who were sick and dying. John Mills, Mayor of Montreal, was kind, but he, like some priests and doctors, caught the disease and died.

Many moved to the US, avoiding border guards who tried to stop them. Complaints about immigrants bringing disease and cheap labour led to rioting against Irish Catholics in Boston and Philadelphia, where houses and a church were burned, and 13 people were killed. In spite of that, many Americans donated generously to the poor in Ireland.

One emigrant who made it to Detroit was John Ford, from Cork, whose wife died in Canada. His grandson was Henry Ford, founder of the modern automobile industry.

16. THE FENIANS

Thomas Davis advocated the use of force to gain independence

Fenian banner

People like Thomas Davis became impatient with Daniel O'Connell's peaceful methods and formed the Young Ireland movement in the 1840's. Davis launched a new newspaper, *The Nation*, which encouraged people to think of being Irish and not just Protestant or Catholic or rich or poor. He wrote the popular ballad "A Nation Once Again". He died of a fever at the age of 31.

After the famine the Young Irelanders became more militant but their rebellions failed because of bad organization, spies and the poverty of the people. The leaders were transported to Australia or escaped to France and America. In America they set up the Fenian Brotherhood in 1858 (named after the *Fianna*, a legendary Irish warrior tribe). They then helped to set up a corresponding movement in Ireland called the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB), headed by James Stephens. The name Fenian became used for both groups. The aim of the movement was to ignore parliament and use force to make England grant independence to Ireland.

Experience in the American Civil War

By the 1860's many Irishmen had got experience fighting in the American Civil War. They had heard reports of the famine and some had personal experiences of the hard times. They blamed the famine on England and they came back to Ireland to fight in a rebellion. Irish soldiers in the English army were also recruited by Fenians. Important leaders included John Devoy, who had fought in the French Foreign Legion, and others who had fought in the Mexican-American war. The

19. THE 1916 RISING

Military organisations

In 1913 James Connolly formed the Irish Citizen Army in Dublin to protect men on strike from police brutality and to work towards a socialist republic.

Part of Connolly's army outside Liberty Hall

In the same year another nationalist force, the Irish Volunteers, was formed in Dublin in response to the Ulster Volunteers, who were against Home Rule. Many members of the IRB (Irish Republican Brotherhood, also called Fenians) joined the Irish Volunteers. Britain tolerated the formation of these armies, perhaps hoping they would never really fight, or at least that they would be ready to fight for England.

In 1914 World War 1 began. The British Government decided to postpone Home Rule for Ireland. The Irish Parliamentary Party encouraged Irishmen to join the British army and 200,000 did so, especially because many were poor and they would appreciate a soldier's pay. However, militant republicans were angry about the postponement of Home Rule and they decided it was time to fight for an independent Ireland. They said, "Britain's misfortune is our opportunity," and, "Burn everything British except their coal."

Arms in short supply

Many of the Irish Volunteers trained with hurleys due to the lack of guns. Eventually 1,500 rifles (old Mausers bought in Germany) were brought into Howth and Wicklow on sailing boats. Another attempt to import arms failed: a German ship, the Aud, loaded with rifles and machine guns was captured off the coast of Kerry and her captain scuttled her.

Guns delivered at Howth in the *Asgard*, with Molly Childers, wife of the boat's owner, and friend

Tasks (ch 19)

1. Fill in the blanks with the words below the text:

Sir Roger Casement

Roger Casement was born in Dublin and worked as a diplomat for the British government. He was knighted for his (a) _____ after he retired due to ill health. From the start of World War 1 he spent a lot of time in Germany (b) _____ to organize help for the Rising.

Captain Karl Spindler sailed the Aud, which was (c) _____ as a Norwegian trading ship, to Kerry, arriving on April 20, 1916. Casement (d) _____ in a u-boat. There was to be a pilot boat in Tralee Bay ready to guide the Aud and to offload the weapons, but it didn't (e) _____, as the date for the Rising had been changed. A British naval vessel stopped the Aud, and her captain searched her but found nothing – Spindler's friendly chatter and whiskey (f) _____ him. Meanwhile Casement got out of the u-boat and (g) _____ land in a rowboat. However, he was soon captured. The next day another British ship arrived and this time Spindler could not (h) _____ her captain. Before the Aud was brought into port Spindler got his men (i) _____, then exploded the ammunition and the ship sank.

Casement was tried in London. Evidence against him included his diary, in which he had written notes about his homosexual relationships. He was hanged in London (j) _____ August. Spindler spent some years in prison (k) _____ emigrating to the US.

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appear followed fool

Roger Casement (hatless) with some of the crew on the German submarine U-19.

Casement was a British Consul in the Congo. There he inquired into the cruel treatment of the natives by representatives of the King of Belgium. His report caused the King to give up his personal ownership of the territory. He next worked in Brazil, where he reported on the exploitation of the Amazonian Indians. His report earned him a knighthood and forced the British rubber company to close their business.

The wedding of Grace Gifford and Joseph Plunkett

Grace Gifford and Joseph Plunkett, one of the leaders of the Rising, became engaged to be married in December 1915, naming Easter Sunday as their wedding day. Of course, that day became impossible for their wedding. During the Rising Joseph fought in the GPO while Grace was a messenger for the rebels.

Before Plunkett was sentenced to death he told Grace that they would marry in prison. On 3 May Grace went to Grafton Street and bought a wedding ring. Joseph got permission to marry, and Grace was called to Kilmainham Gaol at 6 p.m. She was kept waiting until 11.30 p.m., then brought to the prison chapel where she and Joseph were married. The only other people in the chapel besides the priest were two soldiers, one holding a candle (the gaslights weren't working in the prison). After the wedding Joseph was handcuffed and taken back to his cell.

Grace was allowed see Joe again at 2 a.m. for ten minutes, but there were soldiers with them in his cell. At 3.30 a.m. the execution took place.

Grace had come from a unionist family in Dublin but became interested in the nationalist cause while still a young girl. After meeting Joseph she became a Catholic. Her parents did not approve of her republican sympathies and were unaware of her marriage.

Joseph Plunkett was a writer and friend of Patrick Pearse. He suffered from tuberculosis, and in the GPO gave instructions from his sickbed (as did James Connolly after he was injured). He organised the evacuation from the burning GPO – Pearse was unable to concentrate as a result of six days with little sleep.

Grace remained a member of Sinn Féin until her death in 1955.

An artist's impression of the wedding in Kilmainham Gaol. The gaol and chapel have been restored and are open to the public.

Ireland's attitude to Word War One (WW1) veterans

During WW1 200,000 Irishmen served in the (British) army. They were encouraged to do so by John Redmond, the leader of the Irish Parliamentary party (in Westminster), because he believed this would ensure Home Rule and encourage unionists and nationalists to live in harmony. His brother Willie, aged 56, died in action in France. John became dispirited, especially at the rise of Sinn Féin. "The life of… an Irish politician is a long series of postponements, compromises, disappointments and disillusions…". He died in 1918. Some believe his parliamentary approach would have won results sooner and more peacefully than the violent approach used by the IRA.

Many Irish soldiers won bravery awards in WW1. However, on their return to nationalist Ireland they found that they were regarded as having fought for the enemy of Ireland. Some joined the IRA and the new Irish Free State army. Many found it hard to get a job. This negative attitude towards such men lasted for a long time, ending only in 1998 when Queen Elizabeth and President Mary McAleese unveiled the Irish Tower (see p18) at the Messines battle site in Belgium. Relationships were further restored with the visit of the Queen to Ireland in 2011 – the first visit by a British monarch in 100 years.

Queen Elizabeth praises President McAleese for her work in restoring relationships

Tom Crean

Tom Crean was one of those Irishmen who served in the Royal forces but got little recognition back home for his bravery. Some years after joining the Royal Navy he was recruited by Robert Scott in 1911 and later Ernest Shackleton for their Antarctic expeditions. Once, he walked 56km alone in the snow and ice to get help for his team. For this and other feats he was awarded polar medals by King George V in Buckingham Palace.

Tom with pups born on the *Endurance.* Photo by Frank Hurley, the ship's photographer.

On his return home to Cork he opened up a pub, 'The South Pole Inn', but never spoke about his time in the Navy; he knew that some people just didn't want to know. His brother, a policeman, was killed in an IRA ambush in 1920. Tom died of a burst appendix in 1938.

23. NORTHERN IRELAND

Unionism

At the turn of the 20th century most Protestants in the north of Ireland were in favour of continuing the connection with Britain. Every time Home Rule was debated in London the northern unionists reacted strongly against it. The Conservative Party supported them. Winston Churchill's father said, "Ulster will fight, Ulster will be right."

Carson, centre, attends a 'No Home Rule' rally in Derry in 1912

Edward Carson, a Protestant lawyer from Dublin but now working in London decided to support the unionists. In 1912 he and James Craig arranged that people in Belfast could sign a document declaring their willingness to fight against Home Rule (they said Home Rule would mean 'Rome Rule'). Almost a million people signed.

Carson and James Craig then formed the Ulster Volunteers – a resistance force of 100,000 men – and imported 35,000 rifles from Germany without any interference from the police. The government in Westminster was embarrassed and feared civil war. After WW1 six northern counties were given their own parliament, opened in 1921 by King George V. Divisions remained deep – most Catholics were republicans/nationalists and most Protestants were unionists – and violence continued. In 1922 alone 232 people were killed in riots.

King George V arrives to open the Northern Ireland Parliament

The unionists were determined to hold on to power. The voting system was arranged so that unionists would always be in the majority. The religious breakdown was 820,000 Protestants and 430,000 Catholics, yet unionists won 40 of the 52 seats. Craig declared in 1934, "We are a Protestant Parliament and a Protestant State." Many institutions of the new state (e.g. housing, education, police) were biased in favour of unionists, and with unemployment rising to 25% the Protestant-owned companies such as Harland and

decommission (destroy) their weapons immediately, but they refused. Eventually, with persuasion from US President Bill Clinton, most unionists agreed to attend talks.

When Tony Blair's Labour Party got into government he was eager to solve the conflict. In October 1997 formal peace talks began, chaired by US Senator George Mitchell.

The Good Friday Agreement

On Good Friday (the Friday before Easter) in 1998 the main political parties signed an agreement to form an **Assembly** to govern Northern Ireland. This would be composed of nationalist and unionist parties. Included in the agreement was an amnesty for imprisoned terrorists who would give up violence. In the Republic, the people voted to drop the constitutional claim to the 'whole of Ireland'.

John Hume, leader of the SDLP, and David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mistrust continued, however, and only in 2005 when independent inspectors confirmed that the IRA had decommissioned their weapons did Ian Paisley agree to join the Assembly. In 2006 when Sinn Féin agreed to support the PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland – formerly called the Royal Ulster Constabulary) Paisley's DUP entered into shared government with them and other parties.

The Northern Ireland Assembly continues, although its work is hindered by disagreements between unionists and nationalists. However, progress is being made, however slowly, and tourism has grown well.

One tourist attraction is the 'Peace Walls' which were built to prevent clashes between Catholic and Protestant neighbourhoods, even after the Good Friday agreement. A small number have been dismantled, but many residents still express anxiety about the dismantling of any more.

Lyra McKee, a popular journalist, shot dead in a 'New IRA' riot in Derry in 2019

Tourists at a 'Peace Wall' in Belfast. Some peace walls have been dismantled, but up to 40 still remain. Many have colourful artwork.

and many of the borrowers could not pay back the loans. The Irish bank regulations and controls turned out to be very weak. In fact, there were some scandals; for example, one bank lent money to investors to buy shares – in the same bank! It also took a deposit of €7bn from another large bank to make it look strong – for one day!

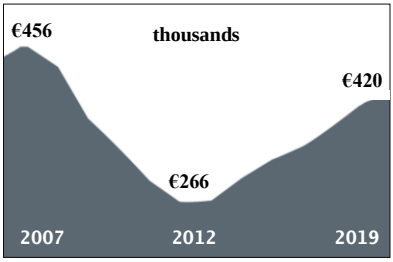
As with Greece, Spain and Portugal, Ireland had to accept a 'bailout' (loan) from the 'Troika' – the European Commission (EC), the European Central Bank (ECB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). For Ireland, this was in 2010, for €67.5bn, used mainly to save the banks. The main condition was that government spending had to be reduced drastically. Consequently, taxes were increased and cuts were made in social welfare benefits and public services, e.g. the police, health, education, etc. Many homeowners could not afford to pay their mortgages and faced eviction.

Br. Kevin Crowley at his Friary in Dublin, where 700 meals are distributed each day and 1,500 food parcels each week

... to boom 2?

After three years Ireland had fulfilled the conditions of the Troika and needed less supervision. Confidence soon returned to the financial markets and by 2018 Ireland's GDP was the highest in Europe (4% annual growth). More multinationals set up or expanded in Ireland, e.g. Facebook, Google, Pfizer. Indigenous companies also grew, causing the unemployment rate to return to a low of 4.8%.

However, the fresh demand for houses was not met, and consequently prices rose rapidly, again almost mirroring the 'Celtic Tiger' days. People on low incomes were unable to purchase a house or pay the rising rents. From 2012 to 2019 homelessness (adults and children in emergency accommodation) increased from 3,300 to 10,000.



Average house prices in Dublin, 2007-2019

Besides homelessness, another contradiction to Ireland's economic recovery is its growing national debt, the highest in the EU in 2019, when every man, woman and child in the Republic owed €42,800.

Drugs

As cocaine and guns have become cheaper, crime gangs have grown in number and viciousness. Drug-related criminality is constantly growing, and this situation is not helped by the reduction in Garda overtime, in effect since the recession. The Garda is an unarmed police force. Ireland's cocaine usage is third after the US and Spain (EMCDDA 2019).

On the bright side...

Ireland's film industry remains healthy, with studios in Wicklow and Belfast.

Ireland's food products are highly regarded; Ireland is the largest exporter in Europe of infant formula (milk powder).

Many software entrepreneurs have set up their own successful businesses.

Famous names: Saoirse Ronan and Rory McIlroy

The Irish are 'the happiest people in Europe' according to regular surveys. They also spend the most on Valentine's Day.

Religion

There has been a fall-off in church attendances for the main Christian religions, although there is still a preference for church baptisms, weddings and funerals. About 85% of elementary schools are of Catholic patronage. Islam is the fastest growing religion in Ireland. The number of atheists and agnostics also continues to grow.

Irish missionaries and charity workers contribute greatly to developing nations. Examples include Fr. Shay Cullen, who has helped children and human trafficking victims in the Philippines, Niall Mellon, whose trust has built 25,000 houses and 16 schools in South Africa, and Sr. Orla Treacy, who is helping families and combating forced marriages of young girls in South Sudan.

Orla Treacy, a Loreto nun from Bray, receives the International Women of Courage Award from US First Lady Melania Trump

Two referenda reflect the weakening of Catholic influence on Irish life: 1) in 2015 Ireland introduced same-sex marriage; 2) in 2018 abortion became no longer illegal. This is in contrast to Northern Ireland, where at time of publication attitudes remain more conservative, especially among unionists.