



Top 10 Facts

Oh Danny boy...



1. Ireland is called Éire in Irish and is also known as the Republic of Ireland.
2. Ireland covers five-sixths of the island of the same name, the remaining one-sixth of the island is Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom.
3. Irish, or Irish Gaelic is the country's first official language, however the second official language English is more commonly spoken.
4. The Irish capital, Dublin is home to over one quarter of the total population.
5. Irish novelists have made major contributions to world literature. Famous writers include Jonathan Swift - Gulliver's Travels, Bram Stoker - Dracula and James Joyce - Ulysses.
6. Ireland has won the Eurovision Song Contest a record seven times.
7. Saint Patrick's Day is Irelands official national holiday. The 17th of March holiday is celebrated in Ireland and also embraced by many other countries around the world.
8. Gaelic football and hurling are traditional sports of Ireland and remain the most popular sports in the country.
9. In 2002 Ireland was the first country in the world to have an environmental tax for plastic shopping bags and in 2004 it was the first to introduce a public smoking ban.
10. Shamrock (type of clover) is the national symbol of Ireland and along with the harp it is a registered trademark of the country.