

# IRISH CULTURE AND HISTORY TRIVIA

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- 1> In what year did the Easter Rising take place?
- 2> Who was the first President of Ireland?
- 3> In what year did the Civil War end?
- 4> Who attacked Drogheda in 1649?
- 5> Which famous saint is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland?
- 6> Who was the first hunger-striker to die in 1981?
- 7> The Irish Brigade (Ireland) fought in which 20th century civil war?
- 8> Brian Boru was the first man to hold what title?
- 9> What Body of Water separates Ireland and England?
- 10> What are the "selkies" of Celtic legend?

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## Answers:

1> 1916 - An insurrection staged in Ireland during Easter Week, 1916 with the aim of forming a Republic of Ireland. It was the most significant uprising in Ireland since the rebellion of 1798.

2> Eamon de Valera - One of the dominant political figures in twentieth-century Ireland, de Valera's political career spanned from 1917 to 1973. He served multiple terms as head of government and head of state.

3> 1923 - The conflict was waged between two opposing groups of Irish nationalists. The forces of the 'Pro-treaty' that supported two nations in Ireland and 'anti-treaty' that supported a United Ireland.

4> Oliver Cromwell - An Irish town in Eastern Ireland was attacked by Oliver Cromwell on the outset of the Cromwellian Conquest of Ireland during the War of the Three Kingdoms, consequently raising Irish Nationalism.

5> St. Patrick - A Romano-British Christian missionary that is said in Irish lore to have banished all snakes after he was attacked during a 40-day fast. Evidence suggests no snakes existed in Post-glacial Ireland.

6> Bobby Sands - An Irish volunteer of the Provisional Irish Republican Army and member of the British Parliament. He was the leader of the 1981 hunger strike, which resulted in a surge of IRA recruitment and activity.

7> The Spanish Civil War - Despite the declaration by the Irish government that participation in the war was unwelcome and ill-advised, 700 of O'Duffy's followers went to Spain. They saw their primary role in Spain as fighting for the Roman Catholic Church, some of whose priests and nuns had been attacked.

8> High King of Ireland - The descendants of Brian were known as the Ui Briain (O'Brien) clan, hence the surnames A' Briain, O'Brien, O'Brian etc. 'O' was originally A' which in turn came from Ua, which means 'grandson', or 'descendant' (of a named person)

9> The Irish Sea - The sea is of significant economic importance to regional trade, shipping and transport, fishing, and power generation in the form of wind power and nuclear plants.

10> Seals that transform into Humans - One folklorist theory of the origin of the belief is that the selkies were actually fur-clad Finns, traveling by kayak. Another is that shipwrecked Spaniards washed ashore and their jet black hair resembled seals.