



## *Irish Flag. Official Emblem National Symbol*



*The official emblem of Ireland is the HARP.  
Ireland is the only country in the world  
that uses a musical instrument as  
its national emblem*



*The national flag is the TRICOLOR of green white and orange:*

- 1. The green is a symbol of the ancient Irish history.*
- 2. The orange represents the new elements that joined later in their history.*
- 3. The white represents the union of all in brotherhood and common nationality*

*The Shamrock is another  
recognized symbol of Ireland.  
it is said that Saint Patrick used  
the three-leafed shamrock  
to explain  
the blessed trinity to the pagan Irish in 432 A.D.*







*Ireland is situated on the western seaboard of Europe. It is a relatively small island, just 170 miles wide by 300 miles long and has a population of less than 4 million people. Its nearest neighbour is Scotland, which is only about 20 miles across the North Channel and is visible on a clear day. Wales is about 50 miles from Ireland at its nearest points.*



IRELAND



## The four historic provinces of Ireland include:

**Connacht (5 counties) in the west - yellow.**

**Leinster (12 counties) in the east - blue**

**Munster (6 counties) in the south - green; and**

**Ulster (9 counties) in the north - pink on map.**

The Ulster province belongs to the UNITED KINGDOM. It is not part of the Republic of Ireland.

# *Instruments Used in Tradicional Irish Music*

**A**



**B**

- ◆ *Banjo*
- ◆ *Bohran*
- ◆ *Fiddle*
- ◆ *Accordian*
- ◆ *Concertina*



**C**



**D**



**E**



*Traditional Irish Music Session,  
Galway City*



*Girls dressed up for the Céili (Irish dance).*

*The girls on the left are wearing trendier, more modern dresses, used for competitions, while the ones on the right are wearing the traditional outfit.*



# NATIONAL SPORTS

## Gaelic football and HURLING



*Gaelic football* (Irish: *peil ghaelach*) is a form of football played mainly in

Ireland where it is the most popular sport. Teams of 15 players kick or punch a round ball towards goals at either end of a grass pitch.

There is no offside rule.

At first glance Gaelic Football resembles a combination of soccer and rugby with Australian rules football.

Players advance the ball up the field with a combination of carrying, kicking, and hand-passing to their team-mates

*Hurling* (in Irish, *iománaíocht* or *iomáint*) is an outdoor team sport of Celtic origin, played with sticks and a ball.

The game, is arguably the world's fastest field team sport in terms of game play.

One of Ireland's native Gaelic Games, The object of the game is for players to use a wooden axe-shaped stick called a hurley to hit a small ball between the opponents' goalposts either over the crossbar for one point, or under the crossbar into a net guarded by a goalkeeper for three points.



SOME HURLEYS





# The Banshee.



In Irish folklore, the Bean Sidhe (woman of the hills) is a spirit or fairy who presage a death by wailing. She is popularly known as the Banshee. She visits a household and by wailing she warns them that a member of their family is about to die.

When a Banshee is caught, she is obliged to tell the name of the doomed.

The Bean Sidhe has long streaming hair and is dressed in a gray cloak over a green dress. Her eyes are fiery red from the constant weeping. When multiple Banshees wail together, it will herald the death of someone very great or holy.

Very small spirits who sometimes live in farmhouses or wine cellars. They are known to aid humans and perform small labors for them. Sometimes they ask humans for supplies and furniture, for which in return they give objects which bring luck and fortune. Leprechauns are called fairy cobblers, for they make shoes for elves (but always one shoe, never a pair) According to popular belief, a leprechaun possesses a treasure (usually a pot of gold) which a human may obtain if he succeeds in capturing one, which is extremely difficult. Even after capture, a person may not take his eyes off of him for an instant, for then he will vanish

