

## THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

### 1. Fill in the missing information.

The Republic Of Ireland is situated on the island of Ireland. It is bordered to the north-east by Northern Ireland, which is a part of the United Kingdom, and is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the ..... Sea to the east, St George's Channel to the south-east, and the ..... Sea to the south. Ireland is sometimes called the ..... island due to its green countryside.

The Republic Of Ireland is low in the middle and high on the outside, The middle part is full of lakes and rivers. Ireland's largest lake is Lough Neagh. Its longest river, the ....., goes through many small lakes and two large ones-Lough Ree and Lough Derg. The west coast of Ireland mostly consists of cliffs, hills and low mountains (the highest point being ..... at 1,038 m).

Christianity is the main religion in the Republic Of Ireland. Approximately 86.8% of the population are Roman Catholics. The patron saint of Ireland is Saint ..... . Saint ..... Day, March 17, is celebrated in Ireland and abroad as the Irish national day, with parades and other celebrations.

In Northern Ireland, which is a part of the UK, about 60% of people are protestants and 40% are Catholics. Religion has always been a conflict between Catholics and Protestants of the Northern Ireland.

The population of the Republic Of Ireland is over 4 million. Ireland has two official languages. English, which is spoken everywhere and Irish language called ..... spoken just in certain parts of Ireland. Gaelic language was originally language spoken by Celts.

Among the biggest cities are Dublin, the capital. In Dublin there is ..... College, the Ireland's oldest and most famous university, dating back to the 16th century. The library is home to the world renowned 9th century Book of ....., a Latin text of the four gospels.

Other important cities are Cork and Galway. Cork is the second largest city and you can find a castle from the 15th century there.

Ireland is a republic, with a parliamentary system of government. The Republic of Ireland is divided into ..... counties. It has a Parliament consisting of an upper house (Senate) and a lower house (House of Representatives). The head of the government is the prime minister, the head of state is the president.

Ireland is a small, modern, trade-dependent economy. There are many small farms in Ireland. Most of the farmland is used to support livestock, mainly ....., the leading source of Ireland's exports. Principal crops include barley, sugar beets, potatoes and wheat. There are also significant reserves of zinc and lead ores, natural gas, and peat. Ireland exports different products, mainly machinery, computers, chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

Tourism plays an important role in Irish economy as well.

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Ireland is known for its traditional music and songs, which goes back hundreds of years but is still played throughout the country. Among the best-known modern groups are U2, Cranberries and Westlife, and among singers are Enya and Sinéad O'Connor.

Many famous writers were born in Ireland, such as James Joyce, Oscar Wilde and Jonathan Swift.

Ireland's national sports are Gaelic football and ....., which are organized on an all-Ireland basis. Ireland's national football league is the League of Ireland but most internationals and well-known players play in the English Premier League. Among other popular sports are golf and soccer.

The national flag is the tricolour of green, white and orange. The three stripes on the Irish flag illustrate the Irish political situation: orange represents the Irish Protestants (this dates back to the protestant King William of Orange), green symbolises the Irish Catholics and their nationalism, and white symbolises the ..... between them.

The official emblem of the country is the harp. The ..... is another recognized symbol of Ireland. St Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Blessed Trinity.

### **Solution:**

Irish, Celtic, emerald, Shannon, Carrantuohill, Patrick, Patrick's, Gaelic, Trinity, Kells, 26, sheep, hurling, peace, shamrock