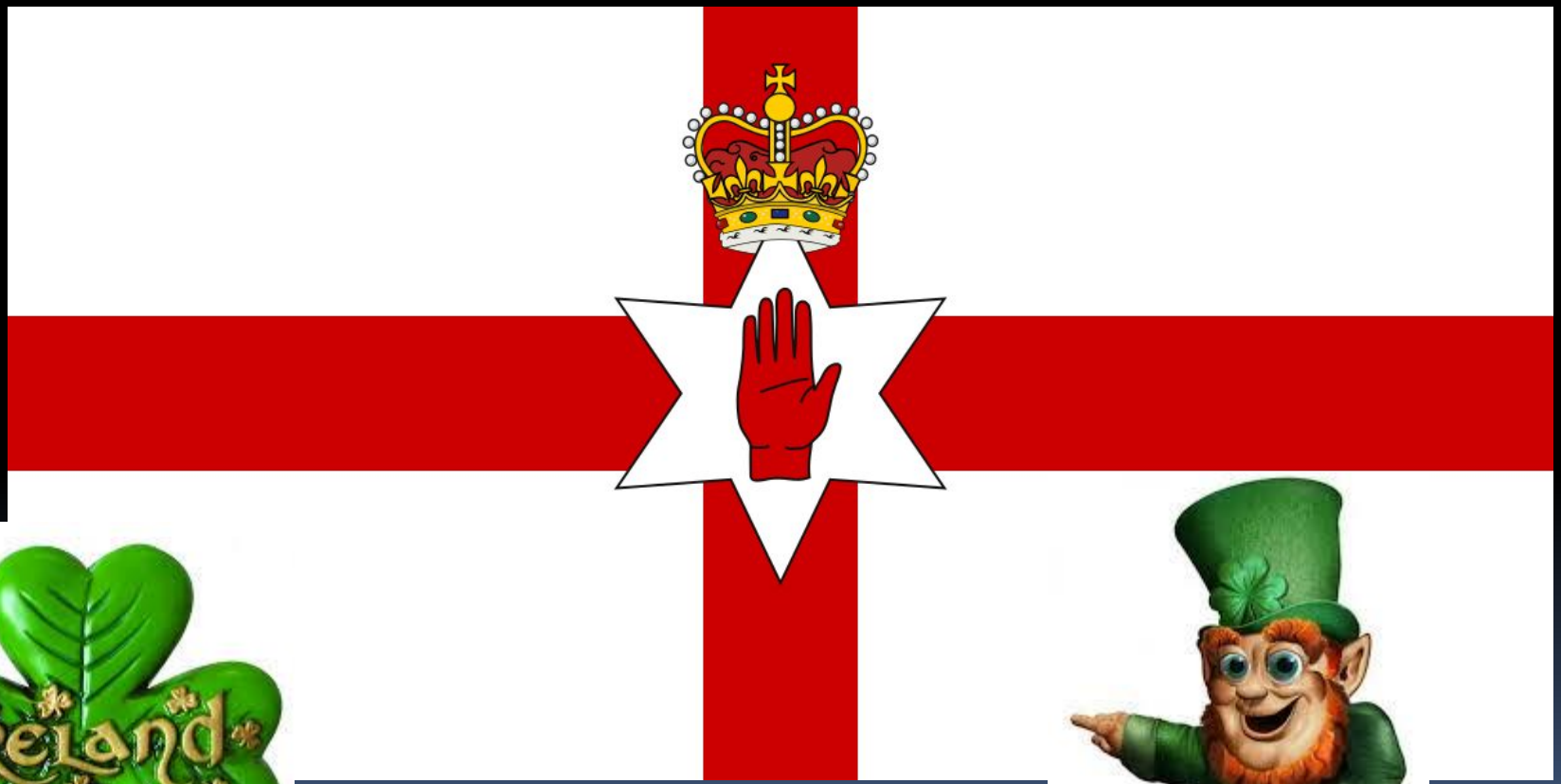
Northern Ireland



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i. Introduction

Northern Ireland is a part of the big country – The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Speaking about English-speaking countries we should take into account all the countries that have English as national language. And it's a not only England and the USA but also the countries of the UK and the countries of Commonwealth.

Northern Ireland is a very interesting country with unique culture, it's own language and interesting people. We are going to know a bit more about this part of big country – The UK.

The capital of Northern Ireland is Belfast one of the most beautiful cities of the United Kingdom.

1. Etymology

The modern Irish *Éire* evolved from the old Irish word Eriu , which was the name of a Gaelic goddess. *Eriu* is generally believed to have been the matron goddess of Ireland, a goddess of sovereignty, or simply a goddess of the land.

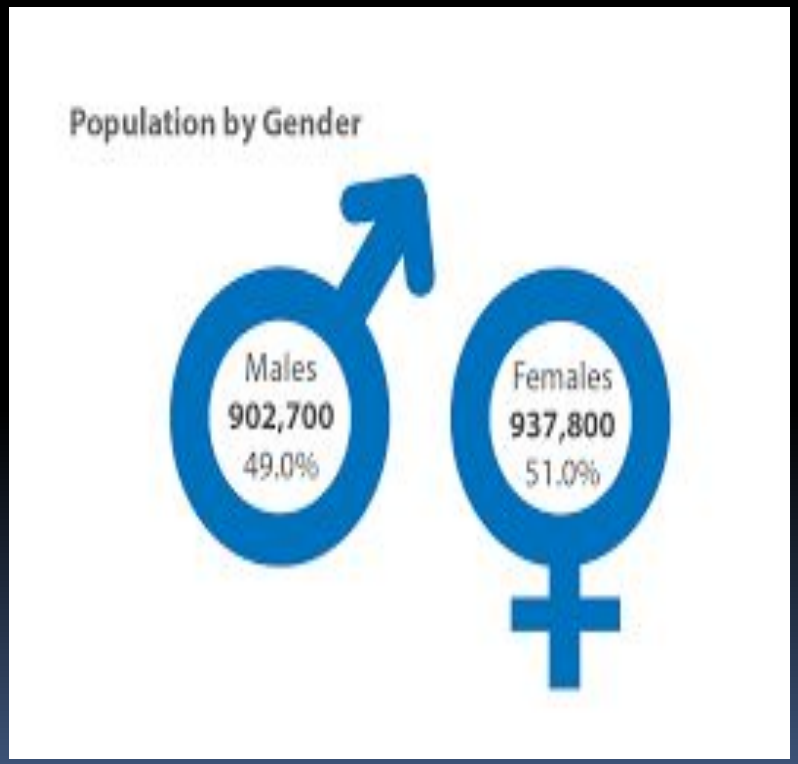
Thus According to the Constitution of Ireland it is the name of state.

2. Location

Northern Ireland is a constituent unit of the United Kingdom in the northeast of Ireland and the largest outside of Great Britain. It is variously described as a country, province, region, or "part" of the United Kingdom, amongst other terms. Northern Ireland shares a border to the south and west with the Republic of Ireland.

3.Population

- Northern Ireland is very populous, with a population of over 1.8 million. This is about 30% of Ireland's total population and approximately 3% of the total population of the United Kingdom.
- The population of Northern Ireland has grown each year since the late 1970s. When the census was taken in 2011, the population rose 7.5% since the previous census taken in 2001. Based on these trends, it is expected that Northern Ireland will continue to see steady growth well into the future.



4. Language

English is the most spoken language in Northern Ireland. There are also two recognized regional languages in Northern Ireland: the Irish language and the local variety of Scots known as Ulster Scots. Nothern Ireland Sign language and Irish Sign language have been recognized since 29 March 2004

II.National symbols

Northern Ireland as other parts of GB has its own culture and national Symbols

1. Anthem

Due to the complicated politics of Northern Ireland, an area governed by the United Kingdom on the island of Ireland (and populated by people of Irish and Scottish descent), anthems of both of those countries are used by their respective communities to indicate allegiance. For several sporting events, particularly when Northern Ireland players compete on the same team as players from the Republic of Ireland, neutral songs such as Phillip Coulter's "Ireland's Call" is used. For other events where Northern Ireland competes individually, such as the Commonwealth Games, the local song "A Londonderry Air" is used as its anthem.

The melody of "A Londonderry Air" is considered traditional. It was first published by Jane Ross of County Londonderry (known as County Derry by Catholics) in what is now Northern Ireland, which may explain the name. Various words have been given to it, most famously the song "Danny Boy". The tune was first called "Londonderry Air" in 1894 when Katherine Tynan Hinkson set the words of her "Irish Love Song" poem to the tune.

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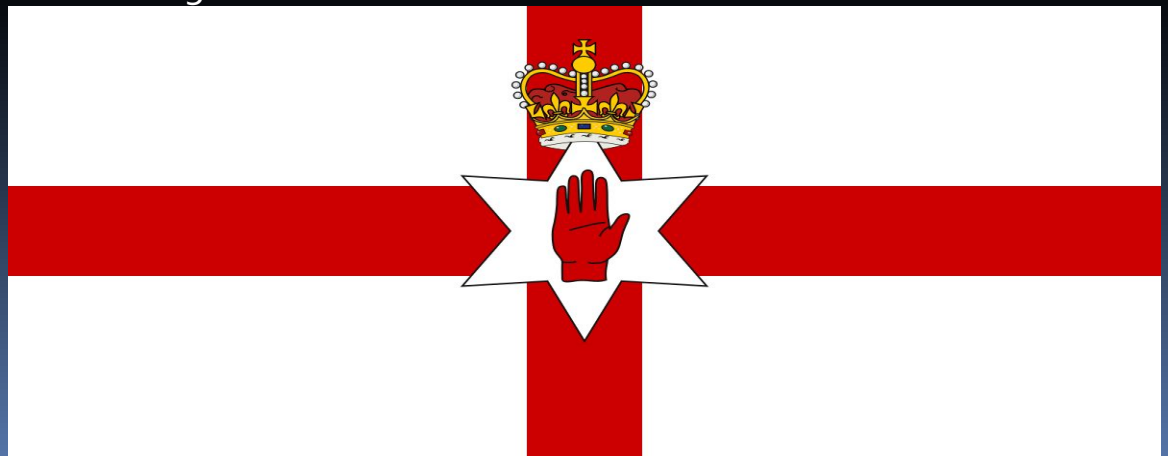
Special thanks to: Reinhard Popp for informing me of this anthem and providing the music file.

2. Flag

Northern Ireland has not had its own unique, government sanctioned flag since its government was prorogued in 1972, and abolished in 1973 under the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973. During official events, the British government uses the Union Flag which is the official flag of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and is the only flag used by the government in Northern Ireland.

The Ulster Banner remains in use by Unionists, a number of sporting organisations in Northern Ireland and some local government authorities under Unionist control.

The "Ulster Banner" is the official name[citation needed] that was given to the flag, which can be referred to as "the flag of Northern Ireland", the "Northern Ireland flag", the "Red Hand Flag" or as the "Ulster Flag" (not to be confused with the provincial Flag of Ulster). The Ulster Banner was the official flag that was used to represent the Government of Northern Ireland from 1953 to 1973. In common with other British flags, any civic status of the flag was not defined in a de jure manner.



4. Floral Symbol. Shamrock

The shamrock is a small clover which is now the national symbol of Ireland was an important symbol to Druids as a plant naturally displaying the triad with its three heart-shaped leaves.

The Celts believed that all important things came in threes: the three dominions of earth, sky and sea, three phases of the moon, three ages of man etc.

So the plant with three leaves would have been held of high regard.

Irish wear shamrocks on their national Day – St. Patrick's Day.

St. Patrick's day

- *St Patrick's Day is a global celebration of Irish culture on or around March 17. It particularly remembers St Patrick, one of Ireland's patron saints, who ministered Christianity in Ireland during the fifth century.*
- St Patrick's Day is celebrated in many parts of the world, especially by Irish communities and organizations. Many people wear an item of green clothing on the day. Parties featuring Irish food and drinks that are dyed in green food color are part of this celebration. It is a time when children can indulge in sweets and adults can enjoy a "pint" of beer at a local pub. Many restaurants and pubs offer Irish food or drink.

5.Costume

- Surprisingly, traditional Irish clothing is a bit of a mystery. Few historical accounts of clothing styles survive and the garments themselves were not typically preserved for study. All we can say for certain is that garments were primarily made of wool and linen (and leather, less frequently) and that historians and archaeologists believe that most Irish people wore simple, tunic-style garments, heavy wool mantles, and linen shirts.[1]
- However, contrary to popular belief, it is fairly certain that the Irish did **not** wear kilts like the Scottish. In fact, most historians and scholars agree that neither the kilt nor the tartan pattern originated in Ireland, and that the kilt was never a part of the Irish wardrobe at any point in history.[2] That's right, ladies and gentleman. There is *no such thing* as an Irish kilt

III. Conclusion

As we see Northern Ireland is a very interesting part od the UK. IT has really interesting and even tragic history. But people who live there are kind and hospitable. And on the 17th of March every person in the world can become Irish just putting on something green.

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