



Northern Ireland

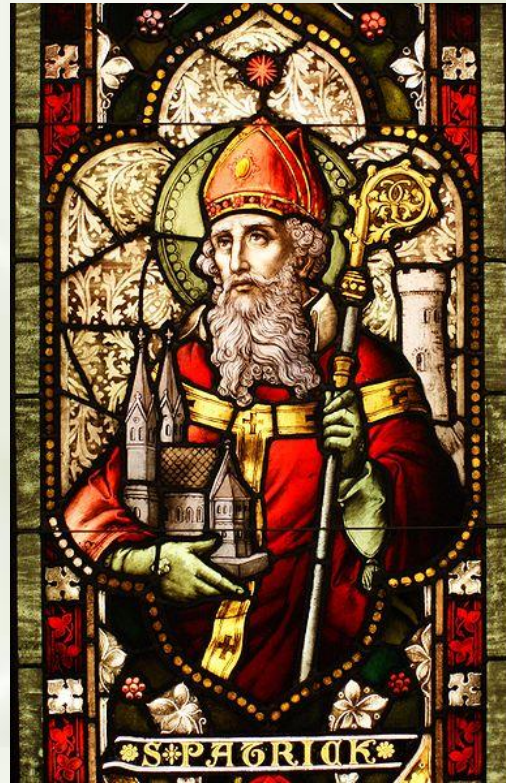
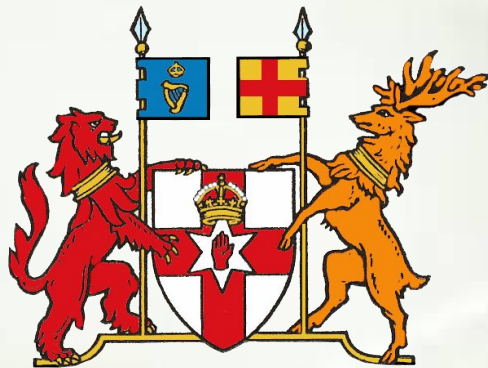
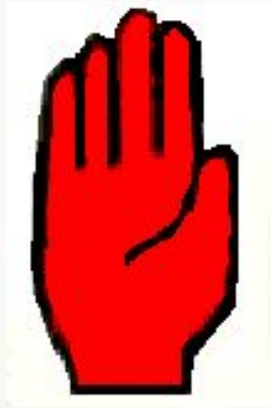
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Geographic location



- one of the four countries of the UK
- in the north-east of the island of Ireland
- shares a border with the Republic of Ireland to the south and west.

Symbols

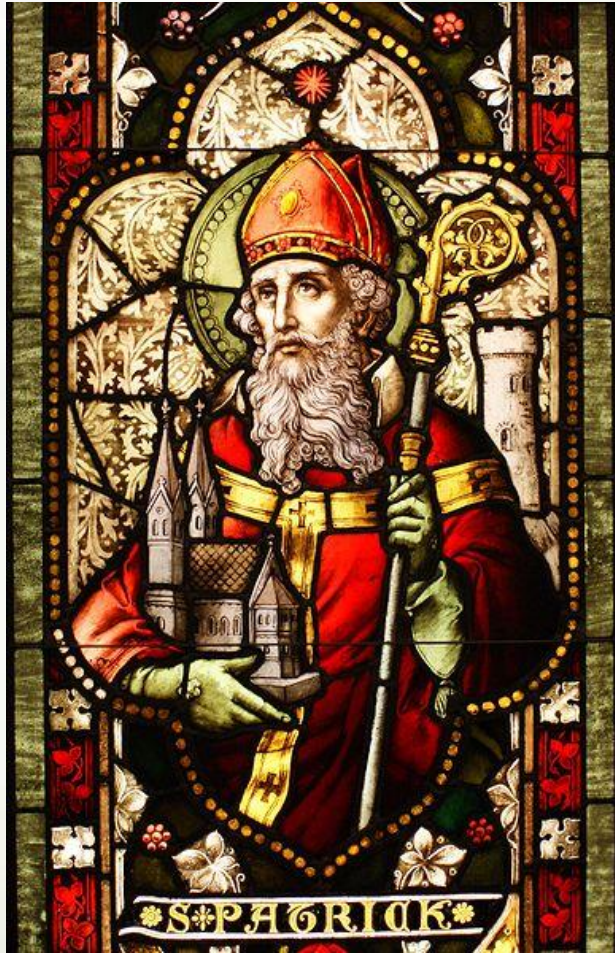


Shamrock



- a three-leafed old white clover
- According to a legend, the plant was used by Saint Patrick to illustrate the doctrine of the Trinity

St. Patrick



- the most generally recognized patron saint of Ireland
- Patrick's Day (17 March), supposedly the day of his death, is celebrated both in and outside of Ireland



Red Hand of Ulster



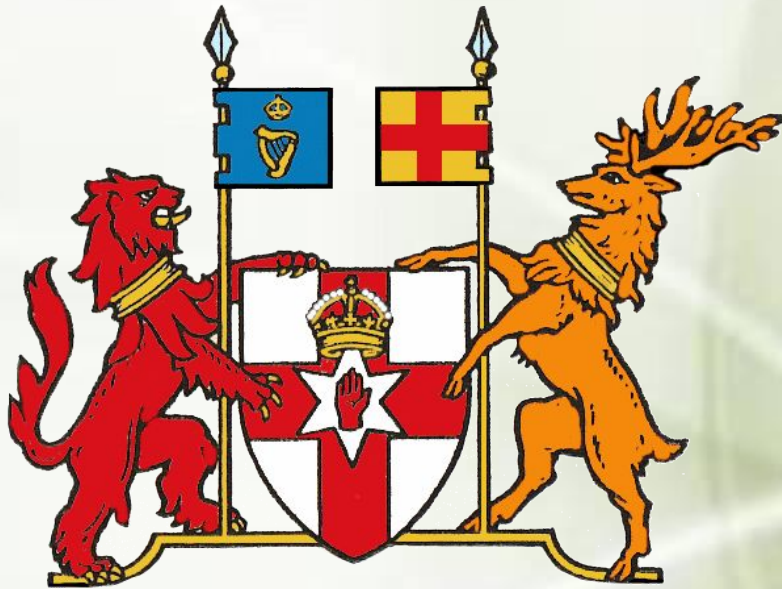
- A legend tells of a time when Ulster was without a king. A boat race was arranged.
- The one whose hand would be the first to touch the shore of Ulster would win the crown.
- One contestant determined to be the next king. Seeing that he was losing the race, he cut off his hand and threw it to shore thus winning the race and crown.

the Ulster Banner



- was used officially by the Government of Northern Ireland between 1953 and 1972
- since 1972 has had no official status
- still used to represent Northern Ireland in some sporting events

the Coat of Arms



- was granted to the Government of Northern Ireland in 1924
- in 1972 the arms went out of official use

Belfast



- the capital of and the largest city in Northern Ireland and the second largest city in Ireland
- the capital of Northern Ireland since 1921
- situated on Northern Ireland's eastern coast
- a centre for industry, as well as the arts, higher education and business

Londonderry



- the second-biggest city in Northern Ireland
- on the west of northern Ireland and near the border with Ireland
- an old 6th century walled city
- more usually known as simply *Derry*
- several museums including Tower Museum
- St Columb's Cathedral built in 1633

Cities and towns



Castles



- Northern Ireland has some of the finest castles on the island.
- The earliest are from Norman times, but fortified homes continued to be built well into the 17th century

Places of Natural Beauty



The Giant's Causeway



Silent Valley



Glenariff Forest Park



The Mourne Mountains



The Marble Arch Caves



The Glens of Antrim



Lacada Point

Traditions

- a strong cultural tradition: songs, dances, literature and festivals
- welcoming hospitality
- sports (especially golf and fishing)
- traditional food



- www.my-secret-northern-ireland.com/
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