

Study Guide

World Music in the Schools • Living Room Learning: World Music & Dance

Ireland: Music & Culture

Teaching Artist: Máirtín de Cógáin • [Máirtín's Artist Profile](#)

Video link: <https://video.link/w/2cmkb>

Fáilte! ***Ireland: Music & Culture*** will take you on a journey of song, rhythm, and culture from Ireland. In this hands-on assembly students will sing in Irish/Gaelic, clap and tap along to infectious jig and reel rhythms, and learn the chorus to a song about Ireland's most famous goat!

Learning Objectives: Students will . . .

- Identify the native language of Ireland, and speak a basic greeting in Irish/Gaelic
- Learn about the Irish drum, the *bodhrán* (pronounced bow-rawn)
- Clap to and learn to recognize jig (6/8) and reel (4/4) rhythms
- Sing the chorus to a song in Irish/Gaelic
- Have fun!

Alignment with **California Arts Standards for Public Schools:**

- **Music:** .MU:Cn11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding

Preliminary Activities

- Geography
 - You can find an interactive map of Ireland at the link below:
<https://www.roughguides.com/maps/europe/ireland/>
 - Ireland is an island in the North Atlantic Ocean that is the most westerly part of Europe. It's the closest European Union country to the United States.
 - The Wild Atlantic Way, at 1,553 miles (2,500 km), follows the western coast of Ireland and is the longest coastal scenic drive route in the world.
 - Dublin is the capital of Ireland.
 - Ireland consists of 32 counties. Six of these are in the northeast portion of the island, and are part of the United Kingdom.

- History
 - Similar to Americans, the people of Ireland have ancestors from many lands, including from Norway, Denmark, England and France for example.
 - Follow this link for more interesting Irish history facts for kids:
<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/geography/countries/facts-about-ireland>
- Culture
 - Sport is very popular in Ireland. There are three indigenous sports: Gaelic football, handball, and hurling. Here is a link to a brief history of hurling, which is over 3,000 years old and the fastest field game in the world:
<https://theculturetrip.com/europe/ireland/articles/a-brief-history-of-hurling-in-ireland>
 - Ireland is also one of the strongest competitors in the world at rugby.
 - Surfing is very popular in Ireland. Known to surfers as a “cold paradise,” this sport was first documented on the island in 1949.
 - Music and social dancing is a part of daily Irish life.
- Language/vocabulary
 - Ireland is a bilingual nation, with both Irish/Gaelic and English spoken and used as official languages. After Brexit, it is the only remaining English-speaking country in the European Union.
 - Irish/Gaelic is one of the oldest languages in the world, and has the oldest vernacular literature of any language in Western Europe, dating back to the 5th century. Irish/Gaelic is a member of the Celtic branch of Indo-European languages.
- Tradition
 - Irish traditional music was seen as something for the poorer country folk until the mid-20th century. Today, a large percentage of Irish children study and perform traditional music.
 - Blarney Castle is one of the most popular historic monuments in the world, and is the location of the famous Blarney Stone, which dates to 1446.
 - Halloween and St. Patrick’s Day are popular holidays in the United States that originated in Ireland.

Follow-Up Activities

Ask your students to . . .

- Share with a family member or friend one thing you learned and one thing you liked.
- Look for items you can use around your house to make your own bodhrán
- Practice your new Irish/Gaelic vocabulary words with a family member or friend:
 - Fáilte Romhat (You’re welcome)
 - Slán (Goodbye)
- Sing the song *An Poc ar Buile* to someone in your home or class.
- Explain the role of music in American culture.
- Give examples of music in your life.
- Discuss the role music has in expressing your identity (family, culture, gender, hobbies, etc).
- What more would you like to learn about Ireland?