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/](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.

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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?