

From Ireland with Love

Every year on March 17th the world turns green. Countries all over the globe celebrate St Patrick's Day and Irish culture with parties, parades, and more parties. But Ireland has given the world much more than just leprechauns* and shamrocks¹. Here are some of the best things and people to come out of the Emerald Isle*.

LIAM PEACH (UK)

Irish Inventions

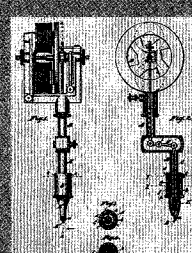
FLAVOURED² CRISPS



These days crisps come in all kinds of crazy flavours. Some real creations include chilli and chocolate, seaweed³, lobster⁴ and even kiwi. Well, none of this would be possible without the Irishman Joseph "Spud"⁵ Murphy. In 1954 he introduced the first flavoured crisp – the much more normal cheese and onion flavour – and people loved them. By the 1960s Joseph was a very rich man and crisps would never be the same again.

THE TATTOO MACHINE

Getting a tattoo is pretty painful⁶, but in the past it was even worse. It took many hours, even for a small tattoo, and the tattooist would simply push ink into your skin with needles by hand. It hurt so much that mostly only sailors and criminals could stand it⁶. But in 1891 an Irish American tattooist living in New York, Samuel O'Reilly, came up with a better way. He took Thomas Edison's electric pen (used for copying documents) and adapted⁷ it so he could use it for tattooing his clients. The result was that tattoos became much quicker to do, much more precise⁸ and far less painful. These days everyone from footballers to pop stars have tattoos everywhere – sometimes it's harder to find someone who isn't covered in ink.



GUINNESS

Guinness is one of the best known alcoholic drinks all over the world. A key part of St Patrick's Day celebrations, "the black stuff" is one of Ireland's most successful exports. And its inventor, Arthur Guinness, obviously⁹ knew how successful it would be. When he first rented a brewery¹⁰ in Dublin in 1759, the lease¹¹ was for 9,000 years – that means Guinness can still be made there until the year 10759. Maybe aliens and robots will then join in the St. Patrick's Day fun.



An Irishman's Best Friend: An Irish Wolfhound

Big Names from Ireland

NIALL HORAN



One man stands far above all the others in terms of Irish people on Instagram. With over 38 million followers, Niall [nial] Horan is clearly Ireland's favourite celebrity. This 24-year-old from County Westmeath found fame as part of the group One Direction. Although the band decided to take a break in 2016, this didn't stop Niall from making music, and he **released**¹² his first solo album, called *Flicker*, in October last year. The album went to number one in America, Canada and Ireland and made the top three in Australia and the UK. With a world tour starting this month, 2018 looks like it will be his biggest year yet.

Saoirse ['sɔ:riʃə] is a young woman with the world at her feet. She was actually born in the Bronx in New York to Irish parents, but moved to Dublin when she was three years old. Both her parents worked as actors. Saoirse first appeared on TV when she was just nine years old, but her first big film role was in *Atonement* in 2007 when she was 13. Her acting was so good that she was nominated for an Academy Award for **Best Supporting Actress**¹³. Since then, she has played an **assassin**¹⁴, a chef and even a vampire. She was again nominated for an Academy Award, this time for Best Actress for her work in the film *Brooklyn*, and this year she won the Golden Globe for Best Actress for the film *Lady Bird*. With the Academy Awards coming up again this month, will it be third time lucky for this talented Irishwoman?



SAOIRSE RONAN

CONOR MCGREGOR



In the world of **martial arts**¹⁵, there is no one bigger than Dublin's Conor McGregor. He is the UFC's* **lightweight*** champion and before that he was **featherweight*** champion. About 1.65 million people paid to watch his fight with Nate Diaz on TV, the most ever for an MMA (mixed martial arts) fight. And all that wasn't enough for McGregor. In 2017 he decided to try boxing too, getting into the ring with Floyd Mayweather Jr. Although he lost, 4.3 million people paid to see the fight, which is the second most in the history of boxing.

*Glossary

- leprechaun** – a little magical man who plays tricks on people and has a pot of gold
- the Emerald Isle** – a romantic nickname for Ireland because it's so green
- spud** [spʌd] – a slang word for a potato
- UFC** – The Ultimate Fighting Championship – the largest mixed martial arts organisation in the world
- lightweight** – a category for contestants who weigh 66–70 kg
- featherweight** – a category for contestants who weigh 61–66 kg

Task

Read the article and answer the questions.

- 1 Whose invention did O'Reilly use to make a tattoo machine?
- 2 What colour is Guinness?
- 3 What flavour did the first flavoured crisps have?
- 4 For which film did Saoirse Ronan win the Golden Globe?
- 5 Who used to get tattoos more often in the past?
- 6 Who is the most famous Irish person? Why?
- 7 What lasts 9,000 years?
- 8 Whom did Conor McGregor meet in the boxing ring?

Vocabulary

- ¹ **shamrock** ['ʃæmrɒk] – trojlistek
- ² **flavoured** ['fleivəd] – ochucený
- ³ **seaweed** ['si:wi:d] – mořská řasa
- ⁴ **lobster** ['lɒbstə(r)] – humr
- ⁵ **painful** ['peɪnfl] – bolestivý
- ⁶ **to stand sth** [stænd] – vydržet něco
- ⁷ **to adapt** [ə'dæpt] – uzpůsobit
- ⁸ **precise** [pri'saɪs] – přesný
- ⁹ **obviously** ['ɒbvɪəslɪ] – zřejmě
- ¹⁰ **brewery** ['bru:əri] – pivovar
- ¹¹ **lease** [li:s] – nájemní smlouva
- ¹² **to release** [ri'li:s] – vydat
- ¹³ **best supporting actress** [sə'pɔ:rtɪŋ 'æktɹəs] – herečka ve vedlejší roli
- ¹⁴ **assassin** [ə'sæsn] – atentátnice
- ¹⁵ **martial arts** ['mɑ:ʃlɑ:ts] – bojová umění