



Year 4 Northern Ireland Reading Booklet

Lesson Series:

1. An Introduction to Northern Ireland
2. Visiting Northern Ireland
3. Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and the partition
4. The Giant's Causeway
5. The Marble Arch Caves
6. Assessment

Name: _____

Class: _____

Lesson 1

Northern Ireland:

The northern area of Ireland is called Northern Ireland and is part of the United Kingdom. It is geographically joined to, but politically separate from the Republic of Ireland. There are six counties in Northern Ireland: Fermanagh, Tyrone, Londonderry, Armagh, Antrim and Down. Belfast is the capital, the largest city and the most industrialised part of Northern Ireland.

It was the birthplace of the RMS Titanic, which famously struck an iceberg and sank in 1912.

This legacy is recalled in the renovated dockyards' Titanic Quarter, which includes the Titanic Belfast, an aluminium-clad museum reminiscent of a ship's hull, as well as shipbuilder Harland & Wolff Drawing Offices and the Titanic Slipways, which now host open-air concerts.



Lesson 2

Tourism:

Northern Ireland is famous for the building of the Titanic in Belfast, whiskey making, its beautiful landscape and towns filled with old fashioned shops and cafes. The Giant's Causeway is one of the most popular attractions, along with other beautiful areas along the coast. Tourism is a big part of Ireland's industry. Its capital, Dublin, is the birthplace of writers like Oscar Wilde, and home of Guinness beer.



Lesson 3

Northern and The Republic of Ireland:

Ireland has had an interesting history where many people have moved to settle there. Religion has been a big part of the battles over who ruled Ireland, whose people were mainly catholic until the British sent protestants over to settle in Northern Ireland, in the 1600's. With British people taking control of the Northern parts of Ireland by the end of the 1600's and keeping this land and influence, Ireland became part of the United Kingdom in 1801. Not all Irish were happy about this however, and after battles and much violence, Britain agreed that the southern part of Ireland would be free from British rule. There were still some groups within Northern Ireland who disagreed with Britain control and they used violence to try and take control from the British. This went on until 2005, when they finally agreed to end the violence and allow the protestant and catholic political parties to join and create a stable government.



Lesson 4

The Giant's Causeway

The Giant's Causeway formed just under 60 million years ago, and at that time Ireland was still attached to North America. Europe was starting to rip away from North America, and as it did so it created huge rifts in the earth's surface. Those rifts produced cracks, and up through those cracks came lots of molten rock and lava. As the bottom cooled slowly it cracked in even patterns. Glaciers then scraped away the top layers of rock. As things warmed up and the sea level rose, waves began to wear away and further expose the rock so that the patterns can be seen more clearly.



Lesson 5

The Marble Arch Caves

The Marble Arch Caves are a series of natural limestone caves formed over 340 million years ago and are located near the village of Florencecourt in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland.

The caves are named after the nearby Marble Arch, a natural limestone arch at the upstream end of Cladagh Glen under which the Cladagh River flows. The caves are formed from three rivers draining off the northern slopes of Cuilcagh mountain, which combine underground to form the Cladagh. On the surface, the river emerges from the largest karst resurgence in Ireland, and one of the largest in the United Kingdom. At 7.1 miles long, the Marble Arch Caves form the longest known cave system in Northern Ireland.

