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Luck of the Irish

On Saint Patrick's Day people in almost every city in the world will celebrate the Irish by attending parades and wearing green on the day. For a small country, Ireland and its people have over the years made their mark in all corners of the world. In fact, American President Donald Trump has made the month of March "Irish American Heritage Month", to celebrate the huge role played by Irish men and women in America over hundreds of years. From politics and sport to music and film Irish people have always taken part at the highest levels. So, it comes as no surprise that today we have many young Irish people who are making a name for themselves on the world stage.

31-year-old boxer, Katie Taylor from Bray in Wicklow is taking the boxing world by storm. Boxing since she was 12 she is now said to be the most successful boxer ever in the history of Women's boxing. She holds five World



Championship Gold medals and in 2012 she won a gold medal, when women's boxing was for the first time included as an Olympic sport.

Last year Katie took the big step of becoming a professional boxer

and in October won her first World Title. She went on to defend her title in December beating the American champion. She is now the Women's Lightweight Champion of the World and is only the second woman ever to hold a boxing world title. Her last fight is said to have earned her a 6-figure sum.

However now she has become the person everyone wants to beat. So, in April this year she will once again defend her World title. It will be a night to look forward to for boxing fans all over the world but especially for her thousands of fans here in Ireland who have admired Katie and watched her career over the years. We wish her lots of luck.

Carlow girl and actor Saoirse Ronan at aged 23, has already had more success than most actors will ever have. She has starred in 5 successful films for which she has a Golden Globes award and 2 Oscar nominations.

Saoirse's parents who are both from Dublin, emigrated to New York in the 1980's where her father worked as a builder and a barman before becoming an actor. Her mother worked as a nanny. Saoirse was born there but when she was



3 the family moved back to Ireland and lived in Carlow where she attended the local school for a few years. She began acting when she was just 9.

Singer and former member of the boy band, One Direction, Niall Horan, 24, from Mullingar in Westmeath is now following a hugely successful solo career. He is already performing to sell out concerts all over the world and his recent album,



all the songs of which he himself wrote, has reached number 1 in the music charts in many countries.

Niall first became famous when he took part in the BBC singing competition "The X Factor" in 2010. He was not picked as a solo singer, but the judges asked him to form a band with 4 other singers. The band, One Direction went on to become one of the most successful bands ever and were said to be among the highest earning musicians in the world, before they split in 2016.



34-year-old Norah Patten from Ballina in Mayo is one of only 12 people chosen from all over the world to take part in an astronaut training course in Florida. Norah has always been interested in air and space

travel even designing a rocket from a washing up liquid bottle when she was 15. She studied aircraft engineering in college and has taken part in many space experiments over the years. If her training is successful, Norah may well fulfil her dream by becoming the first Irish person to travel to space.



More compound words

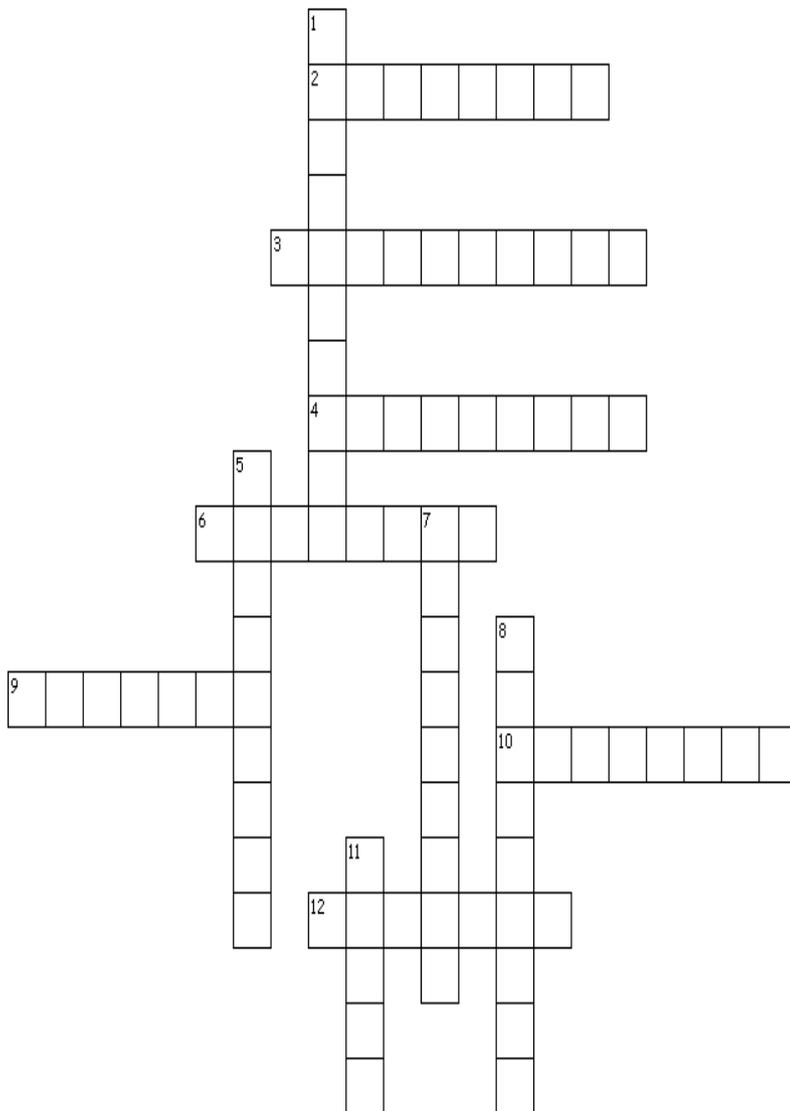


afternoon	bathroom	driveway	football	homesick	lifeguard	playground
anyone	beforehand	earring	forever	jackpot	maybe	sometimes
anyway	doorbell	eyebrow	haircut	leftovers	outside	wheelchair

Pick a word from each list to make a new compound word (The first one is done for you)

- Some * lash somebody
- Eye * cake _____
- Any *room _____
- Bed *stairs _____
- Boy *body _____
- Pan *shell _____
- My * friend _____
- Sea *self _____
- Snow *one _____
- Up *fall _____

The answers to the clues are all from the **word list**



Numbers quiz

1. How many?

- a. goals in a hat trick? _____
- b. eggs in 3 dozen? _____
- c. days in a leap year? _____
- d. years in a century? _____
- e. hours in a week? _____
- f. minutes in 3 hours? _____
- g. letters in the alphabet _____
- h. colours in the rainbow? _____
- i. sides in a cube? _____

2. From what age can you vote?
3. From what age can you drive a car?
4. What are the *two* phone numbers used in an emergency in Ireland?
5. How much does it cost to post a letter in Ireland?

answers

Answers Q1, a) 3 b) 36 c) 366 d) 100 e) 168
 f) 180 g) 26 h) 7 i) 6
 Q2 18 Q3 17 Q4 999, 112 Q5 €1

Across

2. When you are missing home (8)
3. A place with swings and slides (10)
4. After midday (9)
6. Ring this to get in (8)
9. A large cash prize (7)
10. Used in a game of soccer (8)
12. You can get this at the Barber shop (7)

Down

1. Used by someone who can't walk (10)
5. From time to time (9)
7. Food not eaten (9)
8. This person saves you if you are drowning (9)
11. Another word for perhaps (5)