

INTRIGUING IRELAND

CD Tracks 12-17

Listen to information about several Irish landmarks and fill in the missing words (1-2 words) or numbers.

GPO

The General Post Office (GPO) on O'Connell Street, Dublin's **1** _____ street, is a famous historic landmark. It was the headquarters of the 1916 Easter Rising, also called the Easter **2** _____. Pádraig Pearse, one of the leaders, stood on the steps and read aloud the document which said that Ireland was an **3** _____ country. Sadly for Pearse, the British army stopped the attempted revolution, and he and 14 other leaders were executed a **4** _____ later. Bullet holes from the Easter Rising can still be seen in the building.

English Market

The English Market is located in Cork City and dates back to **1** _____. It offers a huge selection of delicacies, from traditional Irish food to international foods. Many of the **2** _____ at the market are family-run and have been passed down through the generations. Traditional food available includes *battlebord* (a dried salted **3** _____), *drisheen* (a blood **4** _____) and *crubeens* (pig feet).

Aran Islands

Located a two-hour ferry ride from Galway City, the Aran Islands, a group of **1** _____ small islands with a population of 250, are a step back in time. The islands are dotted with tiny **2** _____ and criss-crossed with stone walls and very narrow roads. The locals speak Irish, the native language. A World Heritage prehistoric fort, Dun Aengus, is located on top of a **3** _____-metre high cliff on the main island of Inishmore. The famous Aran **4** _____ originated here. Women knitted them for their fishermen husbands, with each family having its own pattern.

Titanic Quarter

The Titanic Quarter is in the heart of Belfast, where the real-life *Titanic* was built by the Harland & Wolff shipbuilding company. Titanic Belfast is a state-of-the-art (= very modern and well-equipped) **1** _____ focused on the famous ship, and there are also film studios, education facilities, apartments and a riverside entertainment district. Two gigantic **2** _____ cranes, each 140 metres

wide, tower over what was once the world's biggest shipyard (= ship manufacturing site). They are known as *Samson* (**3** _____ metres high) and *Goliath* (**4** _____ metres high), and they can be seen from almost anywhere in the city.

Leap Castle

The 12th-century Leap Castle, located roughly halfway between **1** _____ and Limerick City, is known as Ireland's most haunted castle. In the 1500s, it was occupied by the O'Carroll family and was the scene of terrible **2** _____. In a fight for leadership of the family, one of the O'Carroll brothers, who was a priest, was killed by another brother in front of the **3** _____ while he was saying mass. The church is now called "**4** _____ Church". The castle also has an oubliette, a kind of **5** _____ where people could be left to die; workmen uncovered it by accident in the 20th century, and found it contained several human **6** _____.

St Patrick's Purgatory

St Patrick's Purgatory is an **1** _____ pilgrimage site on Station Island in Lough (= lake) Derg in County Donegal. The name comes from a story that Jesus showed **2** _____ a cave on the island that led to Purgatory, where the souls of the dead go to be made clean. Pilgrims have been visiting for around 1,500 years, although the cave itself has been buried for **3** _____ and now they visit a church on the island. The traditional pilgrimage lasts **4** _____. It starts with a night of fasting (= not eating) and prayer. Pilgrims then take a boat to the island and pray all day as they walk around the island **5** _____. The first night on the island they must stay in the church all night and pray. On the second night they are allowed to sleep in a shared bedroom. They are only allowed **6** _____ a day - coffee and dry toast. After returning on the third day, they must fast again until **7** _____.

NOTE These texts (with different tasks) are also available as an online quiz. See the magazine for details.