

Claw goes to Ireland

An Adventure in Five Parts

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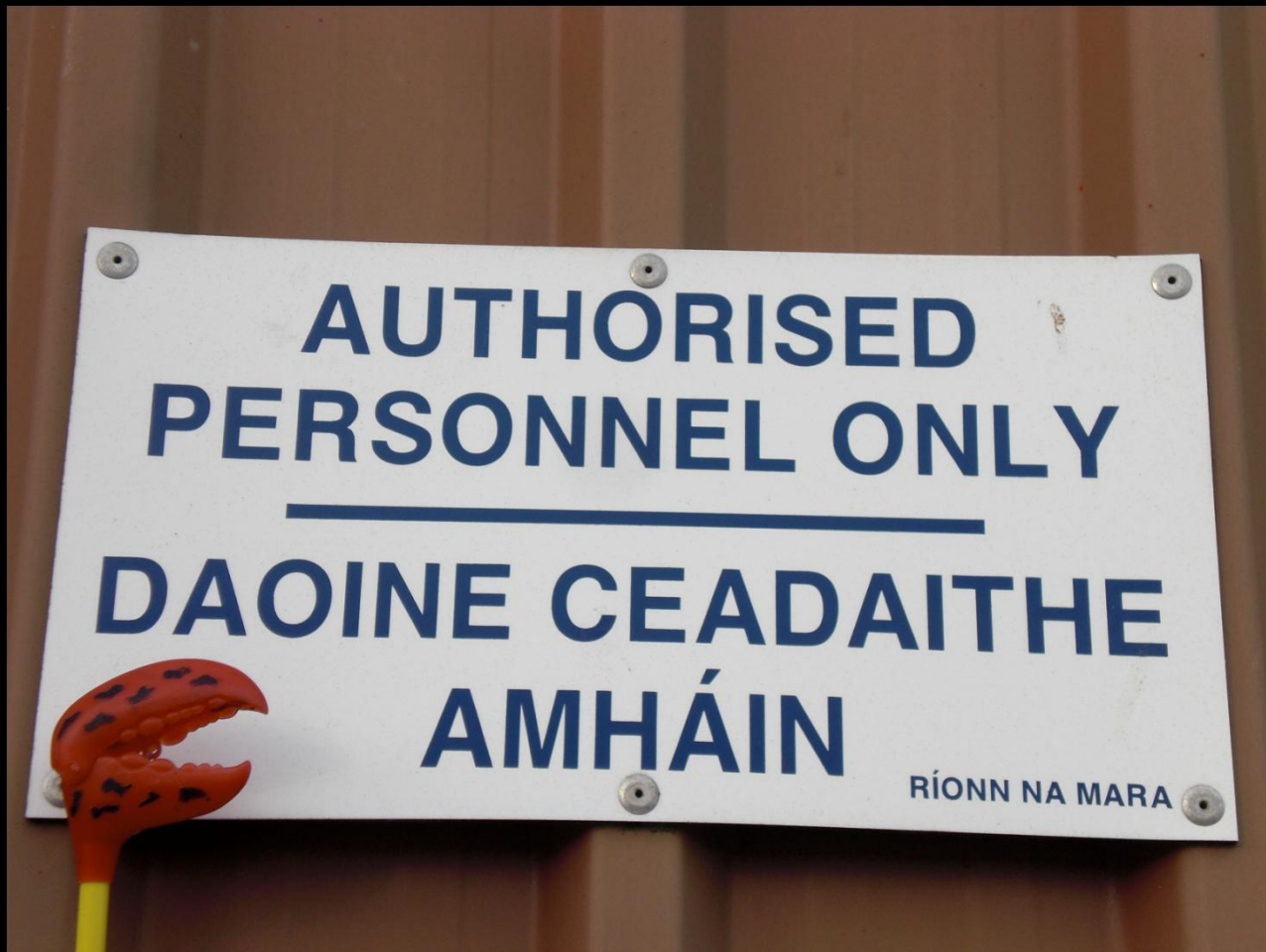
Hi. My name is Claw. I am a lobster puppet.



I went to Ireland in June 2011.



In Ireland, sometimes they speak Irish.



I will talk to you in English, though...
because the only Irish words I can say are

1. Aon (“hane”)

2. Do (“daw”)

3. Tri (“tree”)

Try it!

Ireland is called the Emerald Isle
because it is an island where many things
are as green as emeralds. Grass is green.



The moss and ivy that grows on trees is green.



The big bad weed, giant rhubarb, is green.



Moss in the drains is green.



There are other things in
Ireland that are green
that are not plants.

Can you find the green in
these pictures?











Part 1: The City of Dublin

I rode in a green bus in Dublin.
Dublin is the capital city of
the Republic of Ireland.



Dublin is divided by the River Liffey.
In America, we would say “Liffey River”
but in Ireland they say “River Liffey.”



This is the Halfpenny Bridge.
It used to cost half a penny to cross.
Now it's free.



I saw the statue of Molly Malone.
Do you know the song about her?



Molly sold seafood,
“Cockles and mussels,
Alive, alive-o.”



I'm glad she didn't sell lobsters!



I went to an art museum
and saw famous artwork.
I am an artist, too.



One part of Dublin is famous
for its colorful doors.
They're called Georgian doors.
Who was the king when they were built?
A. King Henry
B. King William
C. King George



I visited Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin.
A cathedral is a big church
whose floor is in the shape of the cross.



Saint Patrick's Cathedral is very fancy.



I wanted to learn more about Saint Patrick.
To do that, I had to learn more
about the history of Ireland.



Part 2: The History of Ireland

Long long long ago,
the island of Ireland had stones,
lots and lots of stones.



People used the stones to make tools.
It was called the Stone Age.



Long long ago, the island of Ireland had trees,
lots and lots of trees.

Stone Age people cut down or burned many of
the trees to make fields.



The first stone age people were perhaps the Fir Bolg, who were small and dark.

Then the Danu people moved in, who were taller and lighter and used magic.

Then the Milesian people moved in, and they had spears.

(It reminds me of rock, paper, scissors.)

The Danu people, who had magic,
were beaten by the Milesian people,
who had spears.
(Scissors cut paper.)



Some say the Danu moved underground
and became the fairies.

Not many people have seen fairies.
A lot of Irish stories involve things you can't see.
This is a tree that people have
decorated for the fairies.



This is not a fairy.
This is a little girl dressed like a fairy.



Help!

There is a stone age village under the ground.
A boy who once lived here studied **archaeology**
to figure out how people once lived here.
Now he has mapped the stone age houses by
poking sticks down in the earth.
This place is called **Ceide (Cay-juh) Fields**.



When stone age people died, their bones were often put in underground rooms.



Stone age people traveled for miles to get just the right stones for their underground buildings. This building is called **Newgrange**.



Stone age people sometimes decorated stones around the buildings. They liked swirls.



Sometimes stone age people didn't build underground rooms. They put the bones of their dead friends and relatives under stone roofs called **dolmens**. This is a little dolmen.



This is a bigger dolmen.



This is The Biggest Dolmen Of Them All.



Sometimes dolmens were surrounded by a circle called a **henge**. If the circle was made of wood, it was a wood henge. If the circle was made of stones, it was a stone henge. Which is this?



Later, when people called the Celts moved to Ireland, they worshipped the sun.



No, I didn't forget about Saint Patrick!



Another Part of Part 2: The Story of Saint Patrick

Around 1600 years ago, a Roman boy named **Patrick** lived with his family near the ocean. When Patrick was fifteen, he was kidnapped and taken in a boat to Ireland.



In Ireland, Patrick was sold as a slave.
The man who bought Patrick
told him to take care of sheep.



After Patrick had been
a sheep-watching slave for six years,
a voice told him that his ship was ready.
He left the sheep
and walked 200 miles to the ship.

How long do you think it took
Patrick to walk 200 miles?

- A. about one day
- B. about one month
- C. about one year

He was happy to see his family again,
but he had a dream that he was supposed to
return to Ireland to tell the people about God,
so he studied for a bit,
and then went back to Ireland.



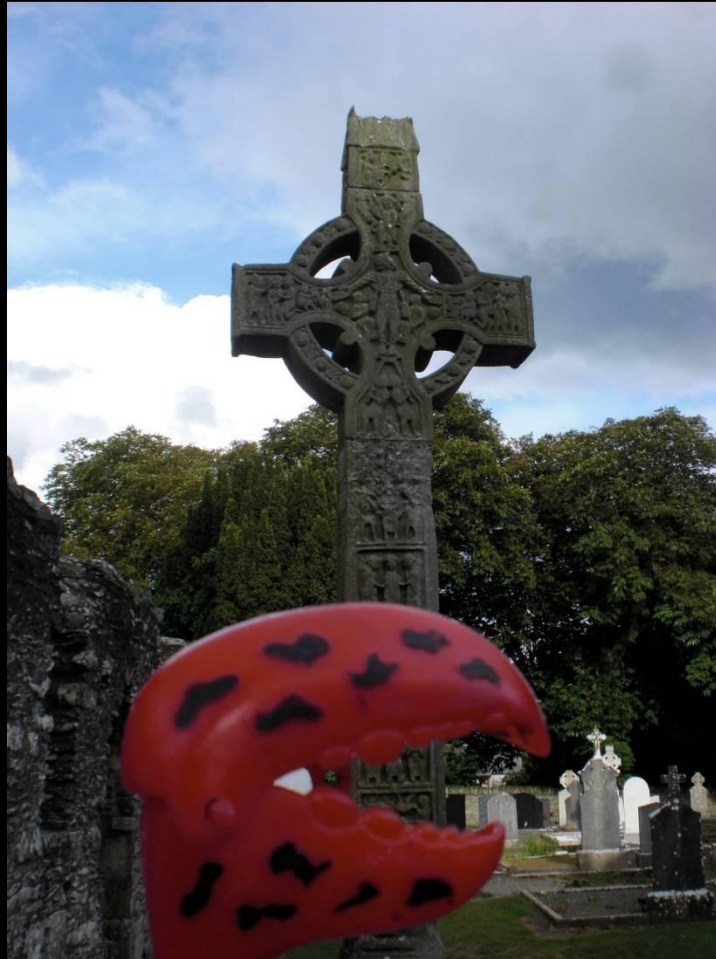
The Celts had been worshipping the sun.
When Patrick came,
he taught them about the cross
where God's son Jesus died.

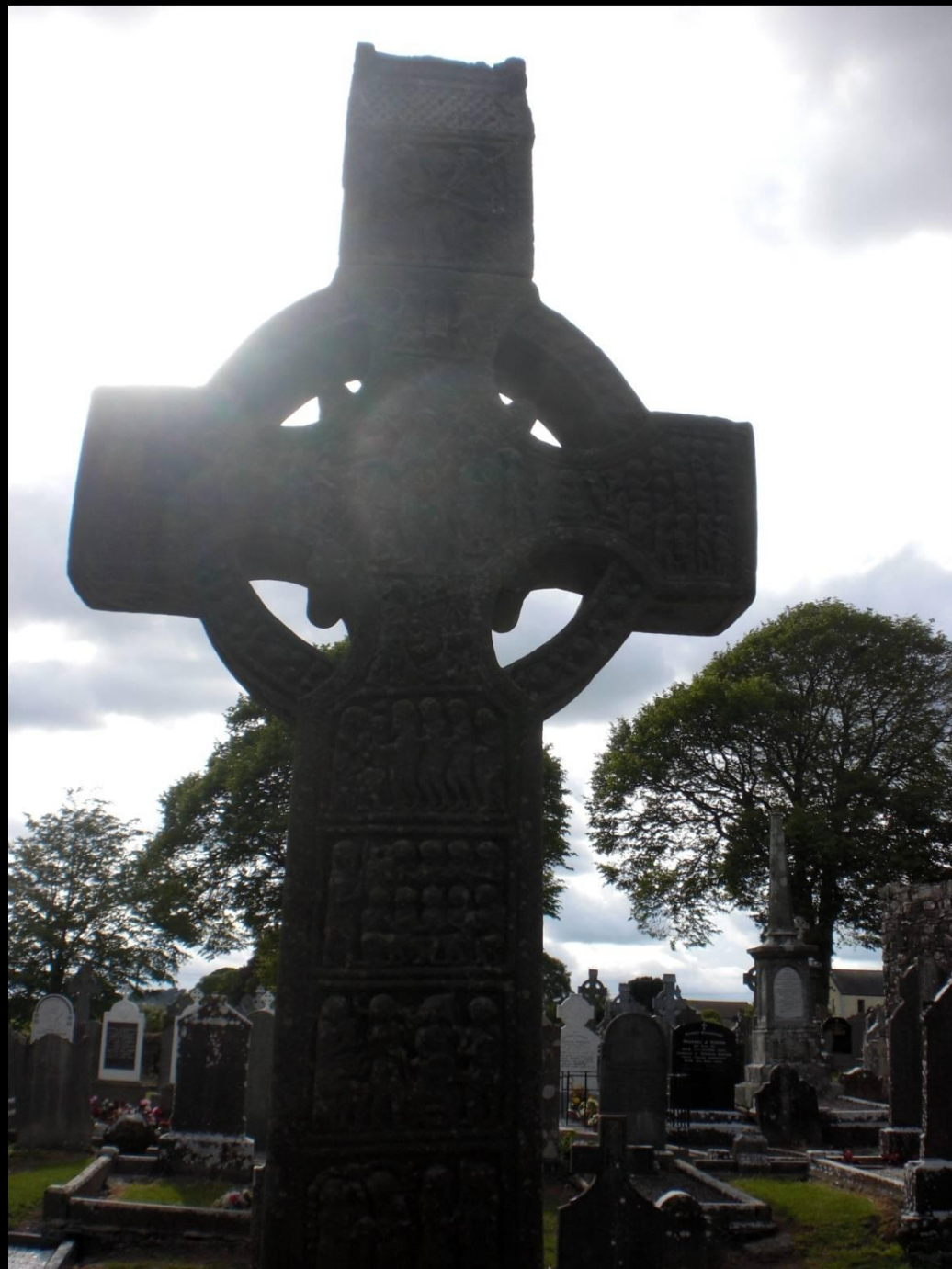


When Celts became Christians,
they combined the **sun** (a circle) and the **cross**.
When you travel in Ireland,
you often see these **Celtic crosses** in cemeteries.



Celtic crosses were often carved to illustrate stories from the Bible, since most people couldn't read.







Patrick wanted the Celts to know that God has three parts called **the Trinity**: God the **Father**, God the **Son** (Jesus), and God the **Holy Spirit**. It was hard to understand how one thing could have three parts. Patrick may have picked a **shamrock** from the ground and showed them the three leaves on one stem.



People say that Patrick
chased the snakes out of Ireland,
but that isn't true.

Ireland didn't *have* any snakes.
But in the first story in the Bible,
the devil is in a snake's body,
and Patrick fought the devil,
because the devil is God's enemy.

Patrick did all he could
to chase the devil out of Ireland.

This is not a snake.



Sometimes when Patrick wanted to be alone,
he climbed this mountain.
It's called **Croagh (Crow) Patrick**.



People climb Croagh Patrick every day,
and some people climb it in their bare feet.
Ouch!



People think that Patrick died on **March 17**,
and is buried in a town called Downpatrick.



People now call him Saint Patrick.
March 17 is now Saint Patrick's Day.



Saint Brigid and Saint Columcille
may be buried with Saint Patrick.

Many cathedrals built in Ireland and around the world are called Saint Patrick's Cathedral.



Some of the cathedrals are Catholic.



Some of the cathedrals are Protestant.



On Saint Patrick's Day,
kids come to me and they say,
“Claw, can you really dig at the end of the rainbow
for gold that belongs to leprechauns?”



The First Part of
Part 3:

Rainbows

There are lots of rainbows in Ireland,
because it rains lots of times each day,
and then the sun comes out.
That's what you need to make a rainbow,
sun and rain.



Sun...



...and rain.



Sun...



...and rain.



The Second Part of Part 3:

The Answer: GOLD

The Question:

What is one thing the Vikings wanted
to steal from the Irish churches?

There are lots of churches in Ireland.
This one is *Kylemore Abbey*.



Another church, **Moyne Abbey**, is down this road, but my friend didn't want to walk past the bull.

I wasn't afraid of him because I have an exoskeleton. I'd have chomped him!



This is Clonmacnoise Monastery.





The Celts who became Christians
built places called **monasteries**
where they could worship
and study the Bible.

Men called **monks** copied the scriptures
using a pen and ink and paints,
because all books then were made by hand.

Monks spent days and weeks
and months and years
copying and drawing to make books.

Not many people in those days knew
how to read or write,
so what the monks wrote down is important to help us
understand what happened in those years.

Some people say that the Irish saved civilization!

Monks often decorated the covers of their books with gold and jewels.



They also used gold and jewels to make bells and cups and plates for the churches.
Vikings wanted these treasures.

The monks built towers
to see the Vikings coming.



Then they would climb up in the towers
and pull up the ladders.
The doors were high to keep Vikings out.



The monks buried the valuable books and cups and bells and plates and jewelry when they saw Vikings coming. After the battle, the monks would dig up their treasures. Sometimes the monks were killed, and the treasures were lost and forgotten. Somewhere in this picture of the River Shannon there is probably buried treasure.



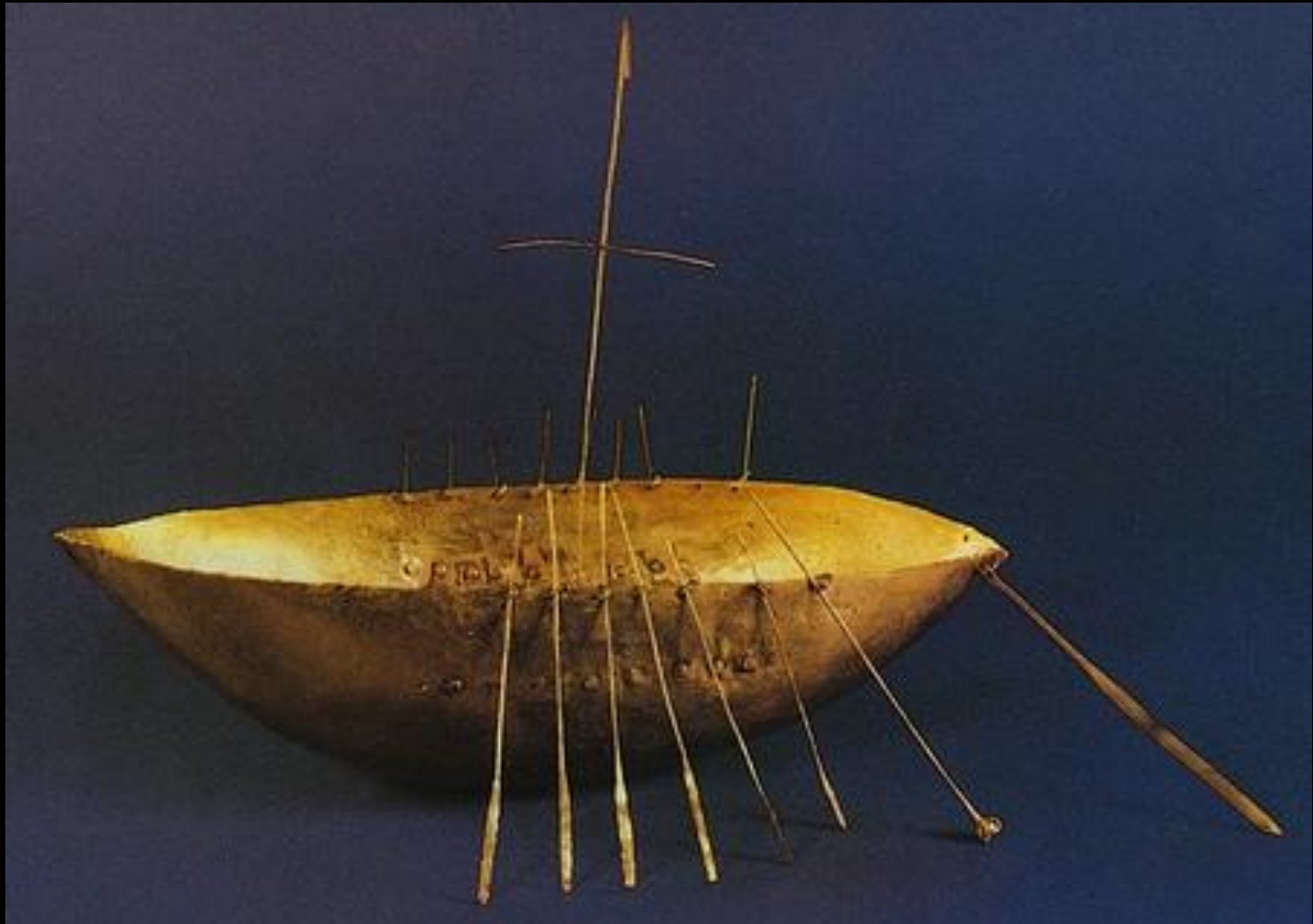
If you go to the National Museum,
you can see lots of gold that was found in Ireland.



Some of it was found when dogs were hunting for bunnies.



Some of it was found when people were plowing fields.



The treasures of Ireland
belong to the government,
and there is lots of treasure.
It is against the law to use a
metal detector to search for treasure.

If you want to build a house,
an archaeologist has to check
your building site to make sure
you won't destroy any Irish history.

The Third Part of Part 3: Leprechauns

On Saint Patrick's Day in America,
people often talk about
digging up leprechauns' gold,
but Irish gold belongs to the government,
not the leprechauns.
That probably makes the leprechauns angry.
This leprechaun is angry because someone pulled
off his arm.



Lots of people dig in Ireland, though.
They are harvesting peat.



Part 4:

Peat

and other stuff
like giants and breakfast and sheep

Long ago, when the trees were cut down, **bogs** formed over most of Ireland. Bogs are formed when plants die but don't rot up. The soil in these areas is called peat, and it can be burned as fuel. This is a bog.



This brown stuff is peat.



The big hole in the middle is where peat has been dug. On both sides is peat drying.



The man in the hat is a farmer
taking a break from harvesting peat.
I think his dog is named Pete.



This is peat in a truck.



This is peat in a fireplace.
Many houses heat with peat.
Heat. Peat. Hey! That rhymes!
Peat smoke is blue.



This is not peat.

These are huge, six-sided rocks in Northern Ireland called the **Giant's Causeway**. A giant called Fin McCool wanted to build a bridge to Scotland to see his girlfriend, and he started here. At least, that's the story.



I didn't see any giants or bridges,
but I did see a bathtub.



Just down the road is a famous rope bridge called Carrick-a-rede.



I am not afraid of high places.
If I fall, I have an exoskeleton to protect me.



At night, we stayed in B&Bs. That means Bed...



...and Breakfast! Yum!



Sheep have their breakfast the same place
they have their beds. Outside.



There were a lot of sheep in Ireland.
One sheep...



Two sheep...



Red sheep...



Blue sheep...



This one has a little car.



This one has a little star.



Say! What a lot of sheep there are!



Hey, wait a minute.

That poem was supposed to be about fish! Sorry.



The reason the sheep are different colors is because the farmer sprays them with paint so he knows which ones have had their shots.



The farmers shave the wool off the sheep to make sweaters.



I wanted to make a sweater,
but the sheep wouldn't cooperate.



I had to chase a lot of sheep to make this sweater!





People in Ireland are better
at making sweaters than I am.

Some sweaters are called
fisherman's knit sweaters.

Each fisherman made a different kind of sweater
with many different kinds of knitting patterns.

If the fisherman's boat sank,
they could tell which fisherman died
by the sweater that the body was wearing.

How many different kinds
of knitting patterns can you see?





There are so many sheep in Ireland
that they are often on the road.



In America, the sheep are in fences
and the deer are on the road,
but in Ireland, the deer are in fences
and the sheep are on the road.



The last part is Part 5:

Thumb Games

There is a cool place in Ireland called the Burren where the rocks aren't just in walls, they are all over the ground.

Interesting plants grow between the rocks.

I played hide and seek in the Burren.

Thumbs up if you see me in the picture.

















Many things are the same in Ireland
as they are in America.

Thumbs up if you think the picture looks
mostly **the same** as what you're used to;
thumbs down if it's mostly **different**.

You're lucky.
I can't play.
I don't have thumbs.















Most buildings in Ireland aren't made from wood because there aren't many trees.
(Remember what happened in the Stone Age?)
They are made from stones...



Or bricks...



Or stones *and* bricks...





Thumbs **up** if you've **seen** buildings that looked like these; thumbs **down** if you **haven't**.















Some buildings in Ireland aren't houses or businesses. They are castles.



Grace O'Malley was a pirate queen who had a lot of castles. This is one of Grace's castles.



This is another one of Grace's castles.



Castles sometimes had water all around them. The water was called a moat. Trim Castle put diseased water into their moat so their enemies wouldn't want to cross it.



This water is not diseased moat water.
In both Ireland and America, I can swim in the
Atlantic Ocean...



and play Loud Lobster on the beaches,



Both Ireland and America have great dogs that bark at the fish that swim past. I tried to teach this Irish dog to swim underwater, but he couldn't do it. He tried to teach me to wag my tail, but I couldn't do that. Oh well.



Both Ireland and America have fields.
This is what Ireland's fields look like from the
plane.



This is what America's fields look like from the plane.



This river is the Susquehanna River,
not the River Shannon.
When I saw it, I knew we were almost home.



Am I happy about that or not?

