

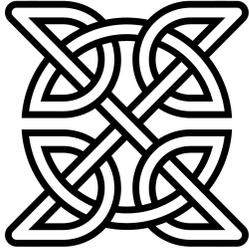


Celtic Stories & Songs...plus Social Studies

Celts were nomadic tribes with their own kings and rulers as opposed to having one empire or country (covering areas of Western Asia, Middle East, and much of Europe) and the Celts had such a reputation that even Romans paid 1,000 pounds of gold to the Celts to leave Rome alone.

Each tribe had its own Bard/Storyteller and the oral tradition preserved all information due to evidence pointing to this being a non-literate society.

Saying that a story is Celtic is as broad as saying that a story came from Africa as if treating the continent as a country or that a story is Native American without any hint to the tribe.

Celtic Story Games	
<p>Caber Toss <i>Traditional Game</i></p>	<p>Normally a caber is 18 feet long, weighs about 150 pounds, and with the narrow end being 5 inches wide while the other end is 9 inches wide. The pole is held at the narrow end farthest from the thrower. To adapt for youth, find a long piece of wood at least 20 pounds. Larger and heavier versions would be needed for any adults who wish to play. The story is that this game came from people tossing trees over rivers and then using the wood for items.</p> <p><i>Caber Toss was a strength and training contest in predominantly Scottish culture.</i></p>
<p>Celtic Knots <i>Inspired by Celtic art</i></p>	<p>Celtic artwork often shows intricate interlacing, spirals, and links. Find an intricate or simple Celtic design. Have one person trace their finger on the design while sharing a story. When the finger has returned to the starting point, another person can tell the next part of the story while tracing. The speed of the tracing is unimportant. The focus and the relaxation are more important to the telling. Feel free to draw your own artwork inspired by the Celtic designs.</p> <p><i>The Celtic knotwork came from their exposure to Norse tree of life motifs. You can see them on scandi stave churches. The Irish interpreted them in their fashion as a decorative element with a christianised application in illuminated manuscripts, jewelry and woodwork. The tree of life may have had a cultural contact with societies from before the indo European migration in both Celtic and Germanic cultures.</i></p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>

Celtic Literature, Music & History

<i>Celtic Myths and Legends</i> by T.W. Rolleston	Great book for reading and studying the major stories and myths of Irish Culture. https://www.amazon.com/Celtic-Myths-Legends-Irish/dp/0486265072
<i>Classic Myths in English Literature</i> by Gayley	These are mostly classical Roman and Greek myths with a section on Nordic Myths, but everyone should have this in their library anyway. https://tinyurl.com/classicmythsinenglishlit
<i>Beowulf</i> , an Anglo-Saxon epic poem	Read one of the translated versions here. https://www.gutenberg.org/files/16328/16328-h/16328-h.htm
<i>Favorite Celtic Fairy Tales</i> by Joseph Jacobs	This is a recommended read from Dave and Carol Sharp. https://tinyurl.com/FavoriteCelticFairyTalesbook
<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> Anonymous, 14th century	There is a nice translation by J. R. R. Tolkien of this anonymous manuscript. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir_Gawain_and_the_Green_Knight
<i>The Dance Music of Ireland</i> by Chief O'Neill	This 1001 Irish tune book can be downloaded as a pdf booklet (322 pages) at: http://www.braccio.me/oneill/ONEillsDanceMusicOfIreland.pdf



At the present time there are seven Celtic nations or cultural groups that have survived into modern times. Many have been conquered, incorporated, or absorbed in their past, but their people remain fiercely independent and have proven difficult to assimilate. Many have once again won their independence or autonomy. In fact cultural identity in Celtic peoples is so strong that they have even been known to assimilate conquered peoples that have invaded them. They in turn become as Irish as the Irish in the case of invading Normans or Norsemen.

The seven nations are Ireland, Scotland, Wales, The Isle of Man, Brittany in France, Cornwall and Gallaecia in Spain. Celtic peoples migrated out of the Indo-European plain into Europe around the 5th Century BC. Documented by Greek writers and geographers, they were written about and fought by Julius Caesar in western Europe bringing them partially within the scope of the Roman Empire. Celtic peoples were gradually pushed westward into Britain, Wales, Ireland, and Gallaecia by other peoples migrating across Europe from the Indo European plain in their turn. With the Anglo Saxon invaders many small Celtic enclaves were surrounded and survived with a Celtic flare in what is modern day Britain as well. What we know as the Celtic people of today is in fact a blending of many cultural groups and races.



However in spite of all the diversity among Celtic peoples, the thing they have in common is a highly spiritual and imaginative mind, which gives rise to their amazing achievements in the arts. Celtic peoples are famous for their, Music, Poetry, Dance and of course Storytelling. There is a distinct language (Gaelic, Gallic, Cornish, Cymraeg etc.) for each group as well as cultural differences yet they share many things from their past.

Important Celtic Themes

1. Mythology in Celtic Cultures

Having been great converts to Christianity they still kept elements from their Polytheist past. Each culture had its own separate myths, but held many elements in common. Gods, Goddesses, Faeries, Mythical creatures, Enchanted items, Early Saints, all made for exciting stories. Lyr and Mannan the Irish Sea Gods, Morrigan the Phantom Queen, Lugh the Sun God, Water Kelpies, The Blue Men of the Minch, the Twyleth Teg of Wales or the Tuatha De Danann of Ireland or Faerie folk are good examples. I might add a few as well off the top of my head Dagda, Saint Bridget, Saint George, the evil Fomorians and Fir Bolg along with Brownies and Dwarves are more ideas.

2. Hero Stories as Key Element of All Celtic Warrior Societies

Courage, Magic, Destiny or a great Quest, figure greatly in the Hero cycles. Many hero's would have curses on them, or magical weapons, seek the Holy Grail or have enormous strength and do great deeds that were admired by Celtic peoples. One only has to think of King Arthur, Fionn mac Cumhaill (Finn MacCool), Cú Chulainn, King Llyud, Bran the Blessed, Owain Glyndŵr, Rob Roy, William Wallace, Robert the Bruce, or Jack an

