

PRESENTING A CITY OR A REGION

1. Listening and viewing

Pre-watching activities

Words and phrases for presenting a city or region:

1. Asking for the way

- directions: to turn right/left, to go straight on (till), to go down/up the ..., to cross the street, opposite to, next to, behind, in front of, near, in the centre, keep left/right, ...
- questions: How do I get to ...?, How long does it take me to get to ...?, Where is the next station/bus stop?, Which line do I have to take for/to get to ...?, I've lost my way. Can you tell me the way to ...?, ...

2. Means of transport

- public: bus, train, tram, taxi, ferry, underground, ...
- private: car, motorbike, bike, camper van, boat, canoe, ...

3. Sights

- castle, (open air) museum, exhibition, church/cathedral, historic buildings / bridge, gallery, monument, statue, town hall, street market, observatory, cave, (theme) park, show mine, botanical gardens, ...

4. Activities

- walking, cycling, inline-skating, swimming, climbing, hiking, skiing, kayaking, canoeing
- to visit a museum, a festival
- to book a sight-seeing tour
- to take part in a sight-seeing tour
- to buy tickets
- to go to the cinema/theatre/a funfair/a Christmas market
- to watch a film/a play/a musical/a show
- ...

5. Landscape

- nouns: mountains, hills, rivers, lakes, upland moor/raised bog, forests, valleys, canyon, meadows, fields
- adjectives: flat, high, hilly, rocky, beautiful, attractive, unique, wild
- ...

6. General terms

- population, area, size, borough, village, town, city, inhabitants, economy, industries, agriculture, forestry, ...

While-watching activities:

Aspects of Belfast

- introduction of Belfast: popular sights
- history: time of the Troubles
- Belfast art scene
- future perspectives

Aspects	Facts
causes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extremes on both sides • years of conflict between Protestants and Catholics
aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protestants: remaining in the UK • Catholics: joining up with Irish Republic
methods used for achieving aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • usage of violence on both sides • bombings • murals for expressing attitudes putting communities under pressure

Importance of art in the past and today

Past	Today
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reminder of the past • common in working class areas= reflecting the history of that area • murals: defensive, militaristic imagery • similar imagery and symbols, but different colours • similar content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • important part of city's history • appearing of new murals • murals: expressing hope for non-violent future, linking both sides • small art scene

2. Analysis of a mural

Picture 1:

Elements	Meaning
Red Hand of Ulster	Several interpretations are possible. The most common is: the kingdom of Ulster had at one time no rightful heir . Because of this a boat race was to take place and that "whosoever's hand is the first to touch the shore of Ireland, so shall he be made the king". One potential king cut off his hand and threw it to the shore — thus winning the kingship. The colour red represents the blood which covered his hand.
Rem 1690	Remember 1690 Battle of the Boyne – Protestant King William of Orange defeated Catholic King James Consequence: Ulster Plantation; Protestants came from Scotland and drove out the native Irish farmers
Green landscape	National colour of Ireland
Grey shape behind the Hand	Outline of Northern Ireland

Picture 2:

Elements	Meaning
Representation of street fighting	Troubles in 70s / 80s
Text	Advert for a history tour of Belfast

Picture 3 (Optional Task):

- Various countries mentioned as places of conflict
- Combination of religious, ethnic and political issues
- Association with the Berlin Wall?

3. Reading comprehension

Read the text about Belfast. Find 4 main topics and match them to the correct passages.

topics	passage (line numbers)
1 location	lines 1 - 5
2 population	lines 6 - 13
3 industries	lines 14 - 28
4 today's role	line 29 - end

4. Listening comprehension

Transcript des Textes der Hörverstehensübung:

Northern Ireland might only be a small country, smaller even than an area the size of Thuringia, but it is a country with diverse and stunning landscapes – from the Sperrin Mountains in the west to the UNESCO world heritage site at the Giant's Causeway to the lakes in County Fermanagh, not forgetting the beautiful long sandy beaches on the popular north coast. With its somewhat unique and troubled history Northern Ireland has not been the most popular tourist destination in decades past, but in the last ten years we have seen considerable growth in tourism to the extent that it is now an industry that can make a significant contribution to the country's economy.

Of the approximately 300 visitor attractions in Northern Ireland which drew in more than 9.5 million visits in 2007, the famous Giant's Causeway tops the list. This geological wonder with more than 40,000 hexagonal basalt columns was formed by a volcanic eruption millions of years ago. However, legend has it that the various features to be found at the Giant's Causeway, for example the Giant's Boot, the Wishing Chair, the Giant's Granny and the Organ, are the remains of Fionn MacCool's giant home. The causeway itself is said to have been built as a bridge to Scotland as Fionn had been challenged to fight the Scottish giant Benandonner. But when Fionn heard that Benandonner was much bigger than him, he hid and his wife, Una, dressed him in massive baby's clothes and tucked him into a cradle. When Benandonner saw this huge baby he reckoned that the father must be much bigger than him and fled, destroying the bridge or causeway behind him so Fionn could not follow him.

The Giant's Causeway is not the only place worth seeing in this area of Northern Ireland called County Antrim. Dunluce Castle, a mediaeval Irish fortress, is only a few miles along the coast. Although today only a ruin of what it once was, this 16th or 17th century building has a fascinating history and may even be the inspiration for Cair Paravel in C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia.

Carrick-a-Rederope bridge is also an amazing attraction. Traditionally built by salmon fishermen, the 30-metre deep and 20-metre wide gap can only be traversed by treading onto the wobbly bridge... Once you're on the rocky island you can relax and appreciate the geology, flora and fauna – it is an area of special scientific interest after all.

County Antrim boasts some of the most spectacular scenery on the island of Ireland - from the town of Larne, rugged cliffs stretch for 80 miles, broken only by nine deep glens. This word 'glen' comes from the Gaelic word meaning valley. Glenariff, the Queen of the Glens, is the fairest of them all with the wild beauty of

its waterfalls and forests. Every year hikers from all over the world come here to enjoy the splendid scenery – and you can even see Scotland on a clear day. Not far inland, you can visit the mountain Slemish near the garden village of Broughshane where St. Patrick looked after sheep as a young slave.

Cushendall, the capital of the Glens, is a lively centre of music, dance and craic, which means fun and comes from Irish Gaelic. It is famous for the Heart of the Glens Festival in August – but other villages, such as Carnlough and Glenarm, are equally renowned for their festival weeks in the summer months. The next stop on the coast has to be Cushendun – a National Trust preserved village. With only 138 inhabitants it is a haven of peace and solitude. It was designed for a politician in the style of a Cornish village in the late 19th century. Its tiny harbour with the charming bridge and the long, sweeping beach make Cushendun a must-see.

Hiking is one of the main activities this region has to offer – others include surfing on the White Rocks beach, fishing at Portballintrae or even puffin watching on Rathlin Island. This small island is the northernmost point of Northern Ireland and has a rising population of just more than 100 people. If you live there, you have to take a ferry every day to get to school. It was probably known to the Romans and it was the site of the first Viking invasion of Ireland. In the 19th century an English visitor found it had a very unusual form of government where the people elected a judge who sat on a “throne of turf.”

So you see – Northern Ireland, for all its troubles and problems, is a country with a rich culture, magnificent scenery and friendly people. It is a country jam-packed with things to do and places to see.

(Author: William Alexander, Bad Berka, 2013)

Useful vocabulary:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| - world heritage | - objects and qualities such as cultural traditions, unspoiled countryside, and historic buildings that have been valued and passed on |
| - fled | - flee, fled, fled |
| - preserved village | - village kept in its original state |
| - haven | - a place of safety and refuge |
| - puffin | - dt.: Papageientaucher |
| - feature | - here: rock formation |

Task 1:

Listen to the text and create a suitable heading. Give reasons for your choice.

Task 2: Complete the table below.

Places of interest	Information
Giant´s Causeway	- most frequently visited sight
	- 40,000 basalt columns
	- formed by a volcanic eruption
	- ...
Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge	- built by fishermen
	- bridges a gap 30 metres deep and 20 metres wide
	- interesting fauna and flora
	- ...
County Antrim	- spectacular scenery
	- cliffs stretching for 80 miles
	- glen = valley
	- attractive for hikers
	- ...
Cushendun	- preserved village
	- 138 inhabitants
	- peaceful place
	- charming bridge
	- ...
Rathlin Island	- northernmost point
	- surfing, fishing and puffin watching
	- ferry to go to school
	- site of Roman invasion
	- ...

Task 3:

Use the map. Develop an attractive route for a one-week tour through Northern Ireland. Include sightseeing as well as activities. Find a balance between adventure and recreation. Mark your route in the map.

→ individual solutions

5. Project work – Our city/Our region

→ individual solutions

Accreditation:

The viewing tasks in section 1 of this worksheet are based on content from learnenglish.britishcouncil.org

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