

Ireland

By Lia Costiner

Because it is an island, the habitat of **Ireland** has many unusual features. Ireland is located to the northwest of England and is bordered by the Irish Sea on the east and the Atlantic Ocean on the west.



Ireland's location has a huge impact on its **climate**. The **Gulf Stream** brings mild temperatures across the whole country. This current also brings lots of rain. It is the rain that accounts for the green color of the countryside, giving Ireland its famous nickname, "Emerald Isle."

Ireland's terrain, animals and plants were greatly affected by the last **Ice Age**. During this period the island separated from Europe. As a result, over millions of years fewer kinds of flora and fauna developed in Ireland than in Europe. The Ice Age also produced Ireland's ice smoothed rocks, low mountains and glacial lakes that are found scattered throughout the Irish countryside.

Ireland's terrain was once covered with old forests, although not many survive today. One land feature that does remain is the **bog**, a wetland area covered with moss, shrubs and peat. The bog is home to a variety of animals including rodents, badgers and rabbits. Surprisingly, there are no snakes in Ireland. The only reptile in Ireland is the reptile.

Along with the vegetation and wildlife, more than 3.8 million people also live in Ireland. Most of these people live in towns or cities. Thank goodness that despite the coming of modern ways, Irish citizens are making great efforts to preserve the beautiful countryside so future generations, as we all visiting tourists, can enjoy Ireland's beauty for years to come.