

## Picture Bank



Bonfire in Belfast during Eleventh Night, celebrating King William III and his victory in the Battle of the Boyne in 1690.  
| Photo: Graham Martin / SOPA Images / LightRocket / Getty Images



A mural in Belfast depicting hunger strikers | Photo: Artur Widak / NurPhoto / Getty Images

## Terminology

**Nationalists / Republicans:** Predominantly Catholics, their political goal is the unification of Northern Ireland with the Republic of Ireland.

**Unionists / Loyalists:** Predominantly Protestants, they want Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom.

### Pre-listening

1. Read the interview with a tourist guide from Belfast below and decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F). For the statements that are false, provide evidence from the text that shows why they are wrong.

Statement	T	F
a) The reporter is from Northern Ireland.		
b) The capital letter in the Troubles is a spelling mistake.		
c) King William of Orange is associated with the unionists.		
d) Brexit is having a negative impact on life in Belfast.		
e) The parliament in Stormont is called the Northern Ireland Assembly.		
f) The cages around private homes were installed to imprison dangerous individuals in their homes.		
g) Visitors to Belfast try to stay away from the peace walls.		
h) The conflict in Northern Ireland is one between unionists and Protestants.		
i) The Irish language is associated with the Catholic community.		
j) The party who has the most votes in the Northern Irish Assembly is a British national party.		
k) The murals have played an important role for each community not only to express their differences but also to reflect the peace effort in the region.		

**Reporter:** Can you tell me about the murals on the peace walls in Belfast? What do they represent and why are they significant to the local community?

**Guide:** Well, of course, I can. But I think it would be better to speak about local communities, in the plural. That is what these walls are all about, unfortunately. The peace walls or peace lines in Belfast are a series of barriers that have kept Protestant and Catholic neighbourhoods apart. The murals on the walls depict the history and culture of the city, reflecting the shared troubled past of both communities. The murals cover various themes, including the city's industrial history, its role in the world wars, and its involvement in the Troubles. They also feature symbols and figures that have deep meanings within these communities. For instance, King William of Orange, who won the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, is often represented as a symbol of unionist pride. You also find portraits and names of people on the walls, for example, on nationalist murals, of those who fought against the British. The murals continue to play a crucial role in promoting understanding and unity among the different communities in Belfast and have developed into a kind of tourist attraction.

**Reporter:** There are quite a few abbreviations and names used on many murals. Are they some kind of code?

**Guide:** Yes and no. For the people here, it's easy to see which murals promote which political or religious group. IRA stands for the Irish Republican Army, a paramilitary organisation that is

## Post-listening

### Raising awareness with murals

12. What do you have to consider if you want to use your house as a mural for a political message?

- a) Discuss this idea with a partner.
- b) Comment on the process of getting a political mural for one's house. Write a coherent text presenting your ideas in about 250 words.

13. Choose a cause that you would like to draw people's attention to, and pick one of the tasks below.

- a) **Drawing:** Collect ideas for the artistic style and political message of a mural expressing your cause. Draw a first draft of your political mural for your house.
- b) **AI:** Describe your ideas for a political mural in great detail (arrangements of parts, writing, colours, etc.), and use this description as a prompt, that is, as instructions for an AI drawing app and have the AI create your mural (e.g., DALL-E 2).

### Tip for teachers!

You can use the Gallery Walk method to have students present the miniature version of their murals. Spread the drawings across the classroom, and place sticky notes beneath them. All students can now walk around the gallery, look at the different murals, and give feedback on the art or political message by writing a small comment on the sticky note.

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