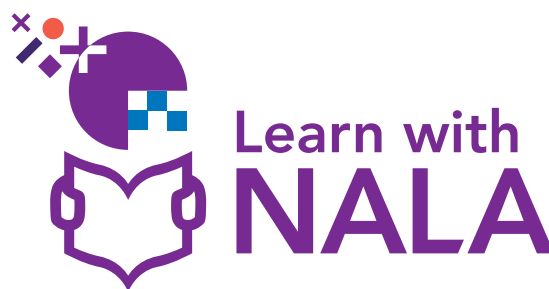


That's Interesting!



A worksheet for adults to practise reading, writing, spelling and numbers

Wildflowers of Ireland



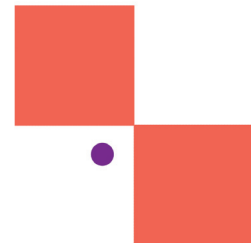
From early spring, the Irish countryside comes alive with colour after the long winter months, as wildflowers appear in woodlands, ditches, roadsides and gardens.

So, what is a wildflower? A wildflower means a flower that grows naturally in the wild. Some people see these as weeds and use dangerous weed killers and chemicals to get rid of them. But these flowers and plants are far from being weeds; they play a big part in nature.



Wildflowers provide food for bees, butterflies, moths, insects, birds and other creatures. Bees and birds are really important as they help to pollenate and move seeds and pollen from one plant to another which they need to grow. Plants such as tomatoes, strawberries and other fruits need to be pollinated if they are to produce fruit. More than one third of the plant food we eat depends on bees for pollination.

Farming and gardening methods have changed over the past 50 years, with more chemicals and fertilisers being used which has, sadly, killed off many of the native wildflowers. With nothing to feed on, our honeybees and insect population is falling at a fast rate.



Farmers and gardeners are all now being encouraged to leave parts of their gardens or fields over to wild flower meadows to encourage bees and wildlife. An acre of wildflowers could produce enough nectar to feed 60,000 honeybees.

When you are out and about in the countryside, or the park in your town, you will be amazed at all the colourful wildflowers you can find if you take the time to look!

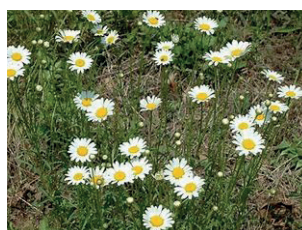
Here we look at some of the more common wildflowers that can be found in Ireland.



Dandelion



Foxglove



Ox Eye Daisy



Buttercup



Cowslip



Primrose



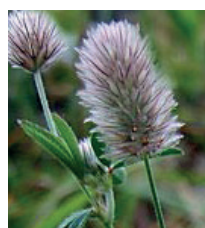
Fuschia



Bluebell



Wild Garlic



Clover



Meadowsweet

Dandelions, Buttercups, Foxgloves, Clover, Meadow Sweet and Cowslips can be found in fields, meadows and on the roadsides. Ox Eye daisies are generally seen on waste ground and gravel but will also grow in gardens. Bluebells and Wild Garlic are usually found in woodland areas.

Irish Special Olympics Team



A 73-member team represented Ireland in the Special Olympics which took place in Berlin, Germany. The team were cheered on by their families, friends and many supporters from all over Ireland who travelled to the games.

Special Olympics is an organisation that was set up to provide training and opportunities for young people and adults with an intellectual disability to take part in sporting events. The organisation was set up in America in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy, a sister of the late president John F Kennedy. The Special Olympics take place every two years in different parts of the world.

In all 7,000 Special Olympics athletes, from 190 countries, took part in Berlin. We are very proud of our Irish team as they put in many hours of training all year round to take part in 12 sporting events such as athletics, gymnastics, swimming and many more. Team Ireland returned home to a big welcome having won 24 Gold, 22 Silver and 29 Bronze medals in the games.



Special Olympics Ireland celebrates their 7-a-side win against Morocco

Image source:
Isabel Infantes / Alamy Stock
Photo

Death of Christy Dignam

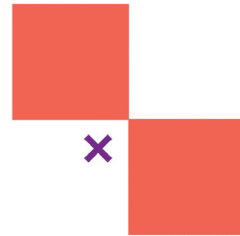


Music fans across the world were sad to learn of the passing of singer Christy Dignam who died following a long illness. He was 63. Born in Finglas in Dublin, Christy set up the band Aslan in the 1970s and was lead singer in the band for over 40 years.



Christy Dignam

Christy was a talented singer and song writer and the band went on to have many hit songs including a song that Christy wrote when his daughter was born, Crazy World. Described by people as a “rock legend”, crowds of fans lined the streets in Dublin for Christy’s funeral.



Words ending in “cian” sound like “shan”

Usually only used for the name of people’s jobs.

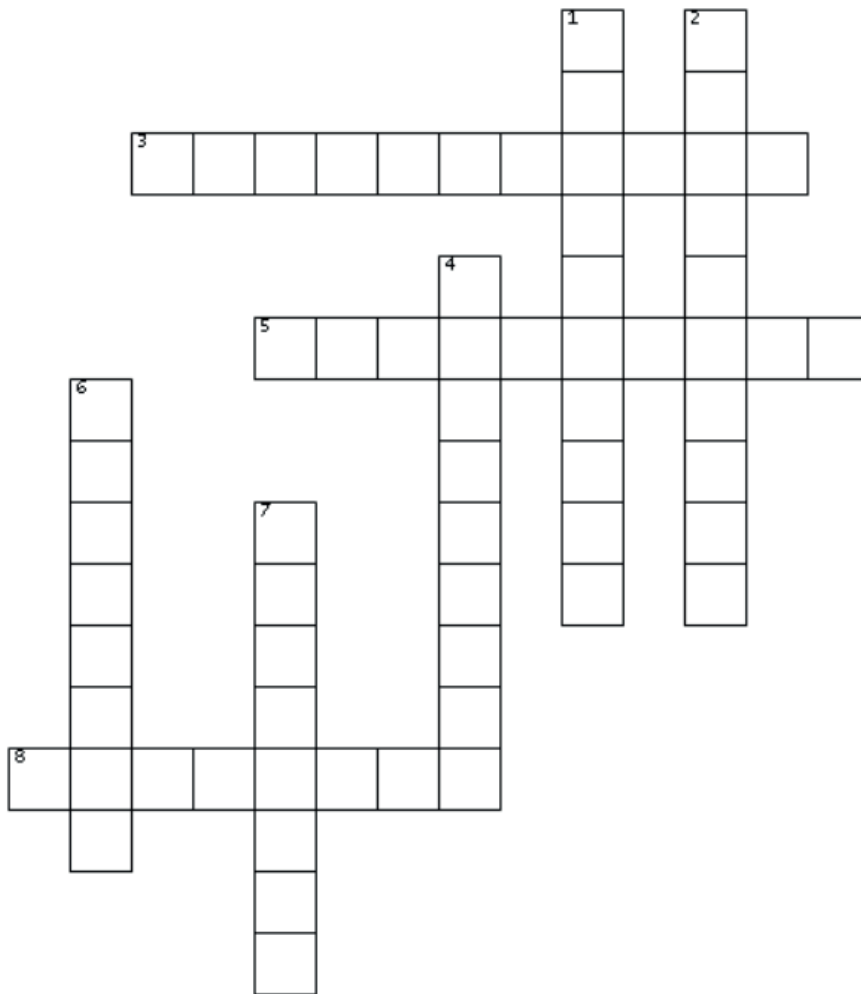
beautician beaut i cian	electrician el ec tri cian	optician opt i cian	dietician di et i cian
magician mag i cian	musician mus i cian	politician pol it i cian	technician tech ni cian

- Tip:** To learn these words, you need to practise them
- Take **1 word** every day, break it into syllables or parts
 - Example: **musician**: 3 syllables (mus i cian)
 - Then write the word in a sentence: My sister is a musician.

Fill in the blanks with a word from the list above:

1. A _____ will do your make-up for a special occasion.
2. I love playing music, I hope to become a _____.
3. You will need to ask a qualified _____ to install the cooker.
4. I want to eat a better diet, I will get advice from a _____.
5. I am interested in current affairs and politics, I might become a _____.
6. I can do magic tricks, I am a _____.
7. An _____ will check your eye health.
8. This person will check that equipment is working correctly. _____.

Crossword



The answers to the clues are all words from the list on the previous page.

Clues

Across

- 3. I had to get this person to install sockets and lights in my house.
- 5. Someone who has been elected to work on our behalf.
- 8. A person who performs magic.

Down

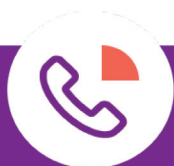
- 1. This person will fix different types of equipment
- 2. I go to this person to get my make-up done.
- 4. This person advises me on the correct foods to eat.
- 6. I went to this person to get an eye test.
- 7. This person likes to play musical instruments.

Notes



Further help is available

If you need help with these worksheets, or with reading, writing, maths or digital skills, you can contact the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA).



Call us on Freephone **1 800 20 20 80**
or text **LEARN** to **50050**

You can study online on our Learn with NALA website www.learnwithnala.ie or with a tutor over the phone or we can give details of your local centre.



National Adult Literacy Agency
Áisíneacht Náisiúnta Litearthachta do Aosaigh

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That's Interesting! are not
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