

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# The Troubles

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. In the late 12th century, Anglo-Norman forces landed in Ireland. This marked the beginning of more than 800 years of English (and, later, British) control of the island. For centuries, British laws restricted the rights of Ireland's large Catholic population to worship, vote, and own land. By the 1870s, Irish nationalists were demanding self-government and eventual independence from Britain, now part of the United Kingdom. From 1919 to 1921, the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the British Army fought in the Irish War of Independence. The Anglo-Irish Treaty, signed on December 6, 1921, ended British rule in most of Ireland. The following year, the Irish Free State (later named the Republic of Ireland) was established. But the Republic of Ireland did not include *\*all\** of Ireland. Six counties in the northeast, known collectively as Northern Ireland, remained within the United Kingdom.

Which of these can you infer from the passage?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| A. The Anglo-Normans were the primary colonizers of Europe through the 20th century. | B. Ireland and England are part of the same island in the North Sea. |
| C. England's political structure changed during the time it controlled Ireland.      | D. Northern Ireland became part of the Republic of Ireland in 1922.  |
2. While Catholics made up most of the population of the Republic of Ireland, Protestants were more populous and held most of the political power in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland was largely segregated by religious sect, which usually corresponded with political alliances. Protestants were mainly pro-British loyalists who wanted to stay within the United Kingdom. Catholics were mainly nationalists who wanted to join the Republic of Ireland. By the 1960s, the region's Catholic minority was frustrated over issues like unfair treatment by the Protestant-controlled government and police force, partisan gerrymandering, and unequal access to housing and jobs. Historians disagree on the official start of the Troubles but cite a few inciting events. On October 5, 1968, nationalists marched in Derry, a majority Catholic city, to protest segregation and were met with police violence. In January 1969, a loyalist mob ambushed a protest march on Burntollet Bridge outside of Derry, injuring over 100 people. And in August 1969, nationalist rioters attacked a group of loyalists in what came to be known as the "Battle of the Bogside," during which 1,500 Catholic homes were burned to the ground. On August 14, 1969, the overwhelmed prime minister of Northern Ireland called on the British government to send in troops to restore order.

What was the official start of the Troubles?

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| A. The October 1968 march in Derry | B. The Burntollet Bridge ambush                            |
| C. The Battle of the Bogside       | D. Historians do not agree on one official inciting event. |

3. Catholic nationalists initially welcomed the British troops, hoping they would protect them from further attack. However, the military soon instituted a controversial policy of “internment without trial,” during which hundreds of nationalists were rounded up and imprisoned without due process. On January 30, 1972, Catholic nationalists in Derry organized a march to protest this policy, but the military was called in to shut it down. Troops killed 13 protesters and injured 17 more on this day, which became known as “Bloody Sunday.” Over the next three decades, Northern Ireland saw dozens of car bombings, shootings, assassinations, and other guerrilla attacks perpetrated by extreme factions of both loyalists and nationalists. Both sides organized heavily armed paramilitaries, including the nationalist provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force. 3,600 people were killed, and thousands more were injured. In 1994, the IRA, weary of fighting, declared a ceasefire, followed by pro-British paramilitaries. Peace talks began with the help of the British and Irish governments, as well as US senator George Mitchell. The Good Friday Agreement, signed on April 10, 1998, stipulated the disarmament of paramilitary groups and a shared plan for Northern Ireland to set up its own government. Though the terrorism and violence of the Troubles has mostly ended, the region is still quite segregated, with many Protestant and Catholic communities separated by “peace walls.” Northern Ireland has one of the world’s highest rates of PTSD, with nearly half of adults knowing someone who was killed or injured during the Troubles. Lingering differences have also led to political gridlock and government collapse. However, there’s hope a new generation of peacemakers can help Northern Ireland move forward.

Based on the passage, which of these best describes guerrilla warfare?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| A. Large, highly organized military battles        | B. Nonviolent tactics such as marches and sit-ins     |
| C. A series of small, unofficial, surprise attacks | D. An official government attacking an unofficial one |