HAIL TO THE CELTS!

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Croeso i fy nosbarth ar y Celtiaid. Fy enw i yw Lynn Elliott, a anwyd ac a fagwyd yng Nghaerdydd, Wales.
Welcome to my class on Celts. My name is Lynn Elliott, born and raised in Cardiff, Wales.

Who are the Celts? Six small nationalities (and a mysterious possible seventh) who, through their ancient language and culture, are the inheritors of nearly three thousand years of unbroken cultural tradition.

Once the Celts were spread out across Europe and even invaded Rome. Following a series of battles and invasions (military, social and political), they were driven to the coasts of the Atlantic Ocean: the Celtic Fringe. Despite these setbacks and attempts to destroy their language, music, arts, dance and joy, the Celts live on. “The continuing existence of a [Celtic] identity is in itself a remarkable historical fact . . . at any time since the eleventh century, it could have disappeared, but for the determination of one generation or another that it should not . . . The history of [the Celtic nations], such as it is, is a history of unending resistance and unexpected survival.” (Emyr Humphreys, The Taliesin Tradition).

In this class we focus on two subjects: 1. The history of the Celtic peoples; and, 2. The continued existence of the Celtic tradition and what it offers to the world.
How many of these can you answer? Don’t worry if you can’t.

1. How many nations make up Celtic fringe? Name them in English.
2. Name them in their original Celtic names.
3. Is there another nation considered potentially Celtic? What is it?
4. Which English king was known as “the Hammer of the Scots”?
5. This King’s hatred of the Scots was so strong that he . . . . after death.
6. Who do Welsh people consider the last true Prince of Wales?
7. Which English King first gave his son the title Prince of Wales?
8. Who is the current Prince of Wales? What, besides birth, is a requirement for this title?
9. What are the national anthems of Ireland, Scotland and Wales? (No, it’s not “God Save the Queen”!)
10. Who came to Britain first? The Romans or the Angles and Saxons?
11. How many counties in Northern Ireland are under “British” (i.e. English) control? Clue: the number is the same as #1 above)
12. Why are Protestant Ulster Unionists called “Orangemen” and their parade called the “Orange Day” parade?
13. Name the two branches of the Celtic language. Which countries’ languages are associated with each branch?
14. Do the Celts have a creation (“In the Beginning”) myth?
15. Besides English and Gaelic, what is the other language is spoken in Scotland?
16. Which of these are historical, which mythological, and which of the latter should you AVOID (particularly at night)! The Silkie, Arthur, Alp-luachra, Boudicca, The Morrigan, Cu Chulain, The Banshee, Owain Glyndwr, Tolund Man, Gwyllgi, Bran, Kelpie, Merlin, Leprechauns, Rhiannon, Boudicca, Dearg-Due, Morgan la Fay, Gwyn ap Nudd, Nuckelavee, the Tylwyth Teg, Caorthannach, the Bean Nighe?
17. Who is Maewyn Succat? Clue: you celebrate the day of his death every year.
18. During the “dark Ages” of Europe, it was the Celts who kept Christianity alive. True or false?

By the end of this class you’ll be able to dance like the Irish, sing like the Welsh, and play bagpipes like the Scots! The Celts are also known for their love of humor, stories and tall tales!