

Word on the Street

Northern Ireland's Street Art

Exercises

Answers are at the end of this support pack.

Activity 1

Watch the video about Belfast, the capital city of Northern Ireland. Which of these topics are included?

1. The conflict between communities in Northern Ireland.
2. Political parties in Northern Ireland.
3. Murals (paintings) on walls and houses.
4. Belfast's museums and art galleries.
5. How Belfast has changed in recent years.
6. An arts project at a community centre.

Activity 2

Watch the video again. Choose the correct option to complete each sentence.

1. The period of fighting between communities in Northern Ireland was called:
 - a) the Conflict.
 - b) the Troubles.
 - c) the War.
2. One community in Belfast, mostly Catholic, wanted Northern Ireland to

be:

- a) part of the UK.
 - b) part of the Republic of Ireland.
 - c) an independent country.
3. The other community in Belfast, mostly Protestant, wanted Northern Ireland to be:
 - a) part of the UK.
 - b) part of the Republic of Ireland.
 - c) an independent country.
4. You can see murals on walls and houses:
 - a) in Catholic areas of Belfast.
 - b) in Protestant areas of Belfast.
 - c) in both Catholic and Protestant areas.
5. A lot of the old murals in Belfast have been preserved because:
 - a) they're a tourist attraction.
 - b) they're great works of art.
 - c) they're historically important.
6. The old murals from both communities:
 - a) use militaristic and defensive images.
 - b) use the same colours.
 - c) use the same symbols.
7. Nowadays in Belfast:
 - a) people don't paint murals any more.
 - b) people still paint murals in the

old style.

c) people paint murals in a new style.

8. Today, the street art scene in Belfast:

a) is very large and important.

b) is small but getting bigger.

c) is small and getting smaller.

Activity 3

Read the sentences about murals in Belfast. Find words and expressions for describing works of art and complete the lists below.

1. The murals showed support for one side or the other.
2. They symbolised a divided community.
3. They contain a lot of defensive, militaristic kind of imagery.
4. In murals from different communities, you will find similar imagery but the symbolism is different.
5. There's a different use of colour but the content will be very similar.
6. The new art murals reflect a more

prosperous and peaceful Northern Ireland.

Verbs

sh_____

sy_____

co_____

re_____

Nouns

im_____

sy_____

u_____ of c_____

co_____

Discussion

- Do people make graffiti where you live? Where do they make it?
- What is your opinion of graffiti?

Discuss these questions with another student or post a comment on the LearnEnglish website.

Answers

Activity 1

1. The conflict between communities in Northern Ireland.
3. Murals (paintings) on walls and houses.
5. How Belfast has changed in recent years.
6. An arts project at a community centre.

Activity 2

1. b) the Troubles.
2. b) part of the Republic of Ireland.
3. a) part of the UK.
4. c) in both Catholic and Protestant areas.
5. c) they're historically important.
6. a) use militaristic and defensive images.
7. c) people paint murals in a new style.
8. b) is small but getting bigger.

Activity 3

Verbs

show(ed)
symbolise(d)
contain
reflect

Nouns

imagery
symbolism
use of colour
content