Heritage and Irish Folklore

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Many place-names in Irish tell you about the history or appeareance of the location. Sometimes the root words that make up a place-name can be difficult to see in modern english spellings.

For example "Baile" means "settlment" or "town" and is often anglicised as "Bally". "Cell" means "church" and is often anglicised as "Kil". **Dublin** is also called **Baile Atha Cliath** which means "town of the ford of the hurdles". The name comes from the viking settlement that was established in the 9th century.

- Fun fact: Baile can also mean "frenzy" or "madness" in Irish.

For example, Kilkenny is called **Cill Chainnigh** which means "church of St. Cainnech". Another example, Kildare is called **Cill Dara** which means "church of the oak". Saint Brigid founded a monastery in Kildare in the 5th century and was in she was a Goddess. She is celebrated either in Catholicism and Paganism.

1.1 Skellig Michael

Skellig Micheal is a small island off the coast of Kerry. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was a monastic settlement from the 6th to the 12th century. The monks lived in beehive huts. The island was abandoned in the 12th century. The island was used as a location for the Star Wars movie "The Force Awakens".

1.2 Dùn and Ràth

You may remmeber several words for "fortress" from the previous lecture. Dùn and Ràth are two more words for "fortress". Dùn is often anglicised as "Doon" and Ràth is often anglicised as "Rath". Waterford is called **Port Láirge** which means "fort of the Vikings". The Vikings established a settlement in Waterford in the 9th century.