

THE TOP 10 FACTS YOU (MAY NOT) KNOW ABOUT THE IRISH...

Ancestry.co.uk, the UK's leading family history website, has compiled a Top 10 list of Irish creations, discoveries and inventions you may not have known...

1. **The Submarine** - was invented in 1899 by Phillip John Holland, a Christian Brother from County Clare
2. **The Aircraft Ejector Seat** - legend has it that it was one too many plane journeys next to a nagging woman that inspired James Martin of County Down to devise this quick getaway in 1945
3. **The Royal Ballet** - you could be forgiven for thinking that Ninette De Valois, prima ballerina and founder in 1931 of the Royal Ballet was from continental climes, but she was in fact born Edris Staunus in County Wicklow
4. **Punk Music** - at the other end of the British cultural spectrum, we may claim punk as our own, yet its two most famous sons, Johnny Rotten and Sid Vicious, both have Irish origins
5. **Tayto's Cheese and Onion crisps** - he didn't create the crisp but Joe Murphy from Donabate in Co. Dublin decided to give them some flavour in 1956, setting up the first Tayto factory in the heart of Dublin and creating the cheese and onion flavour
6. **Why the sky is blue** - boundary pushing work in 1869 on light refraction by Irish scientist, John Tyndall of County Carlow finally gave us an explanation to this age-old question
7. **Colour Photography** - the engineer, geologist and physicist John Joly of the appropriately named town of Hollywood in Co. Offaly invented the first practical system of colour photography in 1894
8. **Shorthand** - the Irish not only talk quickly, but Irishman John Gregg of Monaghan invented the art of writing quickly - shorthand - in 1893
9. **The White House and the Southbank Complex** – the Americans can thank Irish-American James Hoban for designing the White House in the early 1790s, while the UK can pin the blame for the South Bank Complex firmly on the Irish, in this case Patrick Abercrombie, who was responsible for the 1943 London Plan which recommended the construction of the famously ugly complex
10. **Soda water** - this thoroughly sober beverage was invented in Dublin by Robert Percival in 1900 and just goes to show that there's so much more to being Irish than just Guinness and shamrocks