



# The legend of Finn McCool

The Giant's Causeway is an unusual rock formation on the northeast coast of Northern Ireland. The six-sided rocks go from the land into the sea and their flat tops are like stepping stones (*Trittsteine*). There is a legend that they were made in an argument between Finn McCool, an Irish giant, and Benandonner, a Scottish giant.

5 Long, long ago the giant Finn McCool and his wife Oonagh lived on the northeast coast of Ireland. One day Finn was on the beach when he heard someone shouting. He looked across the sea and saw another giant on the Scottish beach.

10 "I'm Benandonner and I know you! You're Finn McCool the little giant. Oh, your poor wife! I wish I could swim and then I could come across there and show her what a real big giant can do!"

Now this made Finn very angry and he threw a big rock at the Scottish giant. It nearly hit him, too – but Benandonner jumped back and the rock landed on the beach. He laughed and made a very rude sign with his finger. This made Finn even angrier and he threw another big rock. But

15 now Finn was weaker and it landed in the sea. Finn threw more rocks, but with each one he became weaker.

"You are small, weak and stupid, too!" Benandonner jumped onto the rock in the sea. "And you will soon be dead! Tell your wife that her new husband is coming!

20 Ha, ha, ha!" And he jumped across to the next rock.

Now Finn saw that the rocks made a bridge from coast to coast. Finn was now very weak – it wasn't a good time for a fight. He went home and told his wife that Benandonner was coming and it wasn't a friendly visit. Benandonner wanted to kill him. Oonagh wasn't pleased. "I don't want to be

25 a widow and unfriendly macho giants are bad neighbours. So listen carefully, Finn." Benandonner arrived at the McCool house and saw a woman rocking a child's cradle with her foot and singing quietly.

"Where is he? Where's your weak little husband, Finn McCool?"

"Ssh! Don't wake the baby or that will make my husband angry."

30 Benandonner looked at the baby. Ugh! It was very big and very ugly! He bent down for a closer look and the baby hit him on the nose.

"Excuse me," said Oonagh and lifted the baby out of the cradle. "I must feed him now. My husband is behind the house. He's digging a big hole. He says that it's a grave

35 for a Scottish giant."

Benandonner was worried now. The baby was big.

Very big! So how big must Finn be? And he was already digging a grave. Perhaps fighting Finn wasn't a good idea. Benandonner ran back to Scotland over the rocks

40 and he kicked some rocks away so that Finn couldn't follow him.





1. Read the text. Then join the two parts together and form complete sentences.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a) One day Finn McCool was ...           | A ... he threw big rocks at Benandonner. |
| b) Benandonner started an ...            | B ... argument with Finn.                |
| c) This made Finn angry and ...          | C ... by the size of the baby.           |
| d) Benandonner used the rocks ...        | D ... was very big and ugly.             |
| e) Benandonner thought Oonagh's baby ... | E ... as a bridge from coast to coast.   |
| f) Benandonner was frightened ...        | F ... walking along the beach.           |



2. Complete these sentences with words from the text.

- a) The Giant's Causeway is on the northeast ..... of Northern .....
- b) It's an unusual formation of ..... rocks.
- c) They look like ..... stones across the sea.
- d) In a legend, Finn McCool and Benandonner had an .....
- e) Benandonner said nasty things about Finn and made him very .....
- f) Finn threw some big ..... at the Scottish giant.
- g) The rocks made a ..... across the sea from the Scottish coast to the Irish coast.
- h) Benandonner ..... from stone to stone and crossed the sea.



3. Find these words in the text and look at the context. Underline or highlight the best translation.

- |            |           |  |
|------------|-----------|--|
| a) Line 1  | formation | ( <i>Entstehung • Gebilde • Gestaltung</i> )   |
| b) Line 3  | legend    | ( <i>Sage • Märchen • Mythos</i> )             |
| c) Line 3  | argument  | ( <i>Streit • Diskussion • Argument</i> )      |
| d) Line 13 | rude      | ( <i>ungezogen • unhöflich • unanständig</i> ) |
| e) Line 13 | sign      | ( <i>Geste • Hinweis • Zeichen</i> )           |
| f) Line 19 | dead      | ( <i>verstorben • tot • leblos</i> )           |
| g) Line 34 | hole      | ( <i>Loch • Lücke • Öffnung</i> )              |
| h) Line 38 | grave     | ( <i>ernsthaft • Grab • Gruft</i> )            |



4. Translate the following words from the text into German. Don't use an English-German dictionary yet. Compare your answers with your classmates.

- |             |       |            |       |
|-------------|-------|------------|-------|
| a) usual    | ..... | unusual    | ..... |
| b) real     | ..... | unreal     | ..... |
| c) friendly | ..... | unfriendly | ..... |
| d) worried  | ..... | unworried  | ..... |



5. Use an English-English dictionary and find a word that means the opposite.

- a) giant .....
- b) land .....
- c) big .....
- d) poor .....
- e) jump back .....
- f) rude .....
- g) weak .....
- h) stupid .....
- i) dead .....
- j) good .....
- k) carefully .....
- l) quietly .....
- m) angry .....
- n) ugly .....
- o) behind .....



6. Fill in the missing words.

- a) I took a ferry (*Fähre*) ..... the Irish Sea to Northern Ireland.
- b) My Aunt Betty lives ..... the northeast coast near Larne.
- c) I took a bus ..... Belfast to Larne.
- d) Aunt Betty sent me an SMS and asked me to call her .....