



Story of the Irish Flag....

Article 7 of the Constitution of Ireland

The national flag is the tricolour of green, white and orange. The flag is divided into three equal stripes and its width is equal to twice its height. It is used as the civil and state flag and as the civil and naval ensign.

The **green stripe** represents those of native Irish descent, the **orange stripe** represents the descendants of 17th century British colonists (a group which supported **William of Orange** in the War of the Two Kings), and the **white stripe** represents the hopes for peace between the two groups.

Thomas Francis Meagher spoke as follows when presenting the flag to the public for the first time at a meeting organized by the Young Ireland movement in Dublin on 15 April 1848:

“The white in the centre signifies a lasting truce between the “Orange” and the “Green”, and I trust that beneath its folds the hands of the Irish Protestant and the Irish Catholic may be clasped in generous and heroic brotherhood.”

The supporters of **Daniel O’Connell** had used a green flag but the Young Irelanders were republicans and required a distinctive emblem which would clearly express their republicanism, and thus the design of the tricolour was modeled on that of the flag of the French Republic.