

Ireland is one of the least wooded parts of Europe, with only 2-3 % of woodland area. Lots of oak trees were cut down during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I to build ships for the Royal Navy. The most common native trees include:

- oak (dąb)
- ash (jesion)
- hazel (leszczyna)
- birch (brzoza)
- Scots pine (sosna pospolita)
- rowan (jarzębina)
- willow (wierzba)
- alder (olcha)
- arbutus or strawberry tree (chruścina jagodna)
- holly (ostrokrzew).

Most of the Irish land is pastureland for grazing farm animals. There is also a lot of **moorland** (wrzosowisko) of **grass**, **heather** (wrzos) and **ferns** (paprocie).

There are a lot of species of mammals. Popular wild animals include:

- ✓ **foxes**
- ✓ **badgers**
- ✓ **rabbits**
- ✓ **hedhogs,**
- ✓ **shrews** (ryjówka)
- ✓ **martens** (kuna)
- ✓ **red deer**
- ✓ **otters** (wydra).

The best -known native animal is the Connemara pony which is the largest of pony breeds.

In spring the south of Ireland becomes home for cormorants or herons (czapla).

In the seas around Ireland there is plenty of mackerel (makrela, herring (sledź), salmon (łosoś), cod (dorsz), lobster (homar) or crab. Also, we can spot dolphins or seals there.

There are NO snakes, moles or weasels (łasice) in Ireland!!!!

To read an article about the mammals not found in Ireland, go to the link below.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/northern_ireland/7335006.stm