

S is for Shamrock

An Ireland Alphabet



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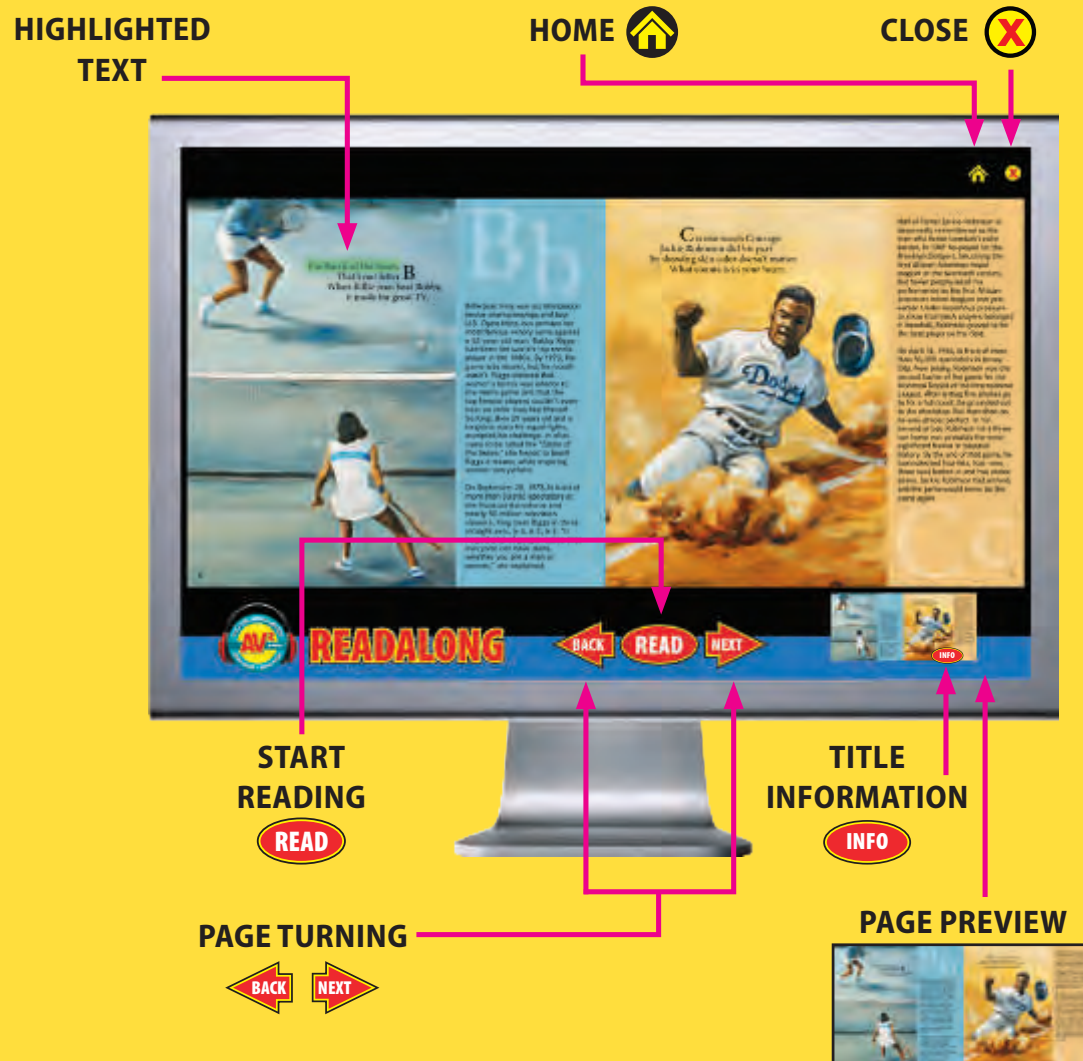
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The small island of Ireland has been invaded by many countries.

Around 400 BC Celtic tribes came from the European mainland bringing with them the Gaelic language, which is still spoken in parts of Ireland today.

Then from Denmark and Norway came the Norsemen in their longships. They began as raiders, pillaging the country, but eventually established communities such as Cork and Dublin.

The Anglo-Norman invaders came around 1160. Soon, like the Norsemen before them, the Normans, too, intermarried, adopted the Irish language, and lost their loyalty to England. However, England continued to control Ireland, and still controls a part of it.

Throughout all these invasions the Irish have never accepted a foreign government and fight against it still. Today, patriots everywhere raise their voices in the toast “Erin go Bragh”—Ireland Forever.

