Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits the gap.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY TRADITIONS

Celebrated **(1)** _____ [ANNUAL] on March 17, St. Patrick's Day is a **(2)** _____ [HOLY] known for parades, shamrocks and all things Irish. From leprechauns to the colour green, find out how symbols we now associate with St. Patrick's Day came to be, and learn about a few that are **(3)** _____ [PURE] American **(4)** _____ [INVENT].

The Shamrock

The shamrock, which was also called the "seamroy" by the Celts, was a sacred plant in ancient Ireland because it symbolized the **(5)** _____ [BIRTH] of spring. By the 17th century, the shamrock had become a symbol of emerging Irish **(6)** _____ [NATION]. As the English began to seize Irish land and make laws against the use of the Irish language and the practice of **(7)** _____ [CATHOLIC], many Irish began to wear the shamrock as a symbol of their pride in their heritage and their **(8)** _____ [PLEASE] with English rule.

Irish Music

Music is often associated with St. Patrick's Day—and Irish culture in general. From ancient days of the Celts, music has always been an important part of Irish life. The Celts had an oral culture, where religion, legend and history were passed from one **(9)** _____ [GENERATE] to the next by way of stories and songs.

After being conquered by the English, and forbidden to speak their own language, the Irish, like other oppressed peoples, turned to music to help them remember important events and hold on to their heritage and history. As it often stirred emotion and helped to galvanize people, music was **(10)** _____ [LAW] by the English. During her reign, Queen Elizabeth I even decreed that all **(11)** _____ [ART] and **(12)** _____ [PIPE] were to be arrested and hanged on the spot.

Today, **(13)** _____ [TRADITION] Irish bands like The Chieftains, the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem are gaining worldwide **(14)** _____ [POPULAR]. Their music is produced with instruments that have been used for centuries, including the fiddle, the uilleann pipes (a sort of elaborate bagpipe), the tin whistle (a sort of flute that is actually made of nickel-silver, brass or aluminium) and the bodhran (an ancient type of frame drum that was traditionally used in warfare rather than music).

The Snake

It has long been **(15)** _____ [COUNT] that, during his mission in Ireland, St. Patrick once stood on a hilltop (which is now called Croagh Patrick), and with only a **(16)** _____ [WOOD] staff by his side, banished all the snakes from Ireland.

In fact, the island nation was never home to any snakes. The "banishing of the snakes" was really a metaphor for the **(17)** _____ [ERADICATE] of pagan **(18)** _____ [IDEA] from Ireland and the triumph of **(19)** _____ [CHRISTIAN]. Within 200 years of Patrick's **(20)** _____ [ARRIVE], Ireland was **(21)** _____ [COMPLETE] Christianized.

Corned Beef and St. Patrick's Day Foods

Each year, thousands of Irish Americans gather with their **(22)** _____ [LOVE] ones on St. Patrick's Day to share a "traditional" meal of corned beef and cabbage. Though cabbage has long been an Irish food, corned beef only began to be associated with St. Patrick's Day at the turn of the 20th century. Irish **(23)** _____ [MIGRATE] living on New York City's Lower East Side substituted corned beef for their traditional dish of Irish bacon to save money. They learned about the cheaper alternative from their **(24)** _____ [JEW] neighbours.

Leprechauns

One icon of the Irish holiday is the Leprechaun. The **(25)** _____ [ORIGIN] Irish name for these figures of **(26)** _____ [FOLK] is "lobaircin," meaning "small-bodied fellow." Belief in leprechauns **(27)** _____ [PROBABLE] stems from Celtic belief in fairies, tiny men and women who could use their **(28)** _____ [MAGIC] powers to serve good or evil.

In Celtic folktales, leprechauns were **(29)** _____ [CRANK] souls, responsible for mending the shoes of the other fairies. Though only minor figures in Celtic folklore, leprechauns were known for their **(30)** _____ [TRICK], which they often used to protect their much-fabled treasure. Leprechauns have their own holiday on May 13, but are also celebrated on St. Patrick's, with many dressing up as the wily fairies.

Source: History

LIVEWORKSHEETS