

# Saint Patrick's Day

## Who was Saint Patrick?



Patrick was born at the end of the fourth century in Britain. When he was 16, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken as a slave to \_\_\_\_\_. He spent six years there before escaping back home and became a priest. Later Patrick returned to Ireland to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity. According to the legend, Saint Patrick used the three-leaved shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity to them. He spent many years converting \_\_\_\_\_ which eventually turned in to a story in which he drove all of the "snakes" out of Ireland.

Patrick died on the 17th of March and over the following centuries, many legends grew around Patrick which eventually led him to becoming a saint.

## Saint Patrick's Day Celebrations

On St. Patrick's Day, it is customary to wear green \_\_\_\_\_ (green is the national colour of Ireland). There are many colourful parades around Ireland and other parts of the world and many important buildings are lit with green lighting at night to celebrate the day. In Ireland, a St. Patrick's Festival lasts for around \_\_\_\_\_ which showcases Ireland and its culture with concerts, outdoor theatre performances and fireworks.

The largest Saint Patrick's Day parade in the world is held in New York (USA) with around \_\_\_\_\_ participants each time. Also in the United States, the north White House fountain has been dyed green for Saint Patrick's Day every year since 2009. \_\_\_\_\_ is also dyed green on this day.

### 1. Put the words into the text:

150,000

The Chicago River

five days

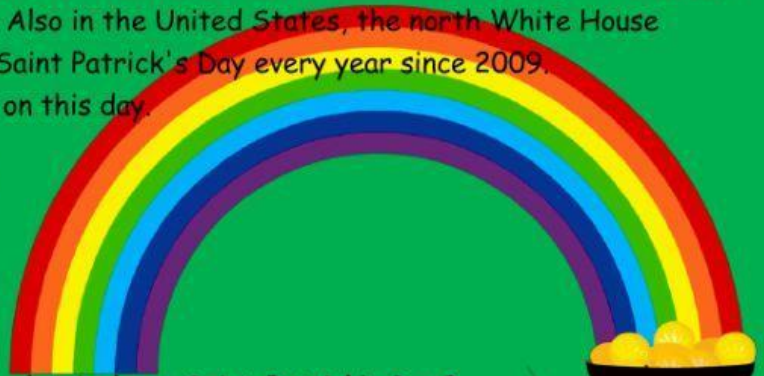
leprechauns

clothing and accessories

the Pagans

Ireland

17th of March



## Why do people pinch on Saint Patrick's Day?

If you don't wear green on St. Patrick's Day then someone may pinch you... or so some people say. You will be interested to know that this is in fact an American tradition, not an Irish one. I confirmed my doubts after asking many people from Ireland and they say they had never heard of this or done it themselves. But why is it done in the US? They say \_\_\_\_\_ pinch people that don't wear green on the \_\_\_\_\_.



## 2. Match the definitions

cabbage

emerald

fiddle

four-leaf clover

gold

harp

leprechaun

luck

legend

limerick

parade

pinch

pot of gold

saint

shamrock

(noun) a public procession, especially one celebrating a special day or event.

(noun) a violin, especially when used to play folk music.

(noun) a clover leaf with four leaves instead of the typical three. They are thought to bring good luck.

(noun) a small, mischievous creature from Irish folklore.

(noun) a green vegetable consisting of thick leaves in a spherical shape.

(noun) a green precious stone. Ireland is sometimes called the Emerald Isle.

(noun) a precious metal that is yellow.

(verb) when you squeeze someone's skin between your index finger and thumb.

(noun) a triangular-shaped musical instrument that has many parallel strings that are plucked to make sound.

(noun) a person acknowledged as being holy or virtuous.

(noun) a traditional story that is sometimes regarded as historical but is unauthenticated.

(noun) a humorous verse of three long and two short lines.

(noun) a clover-like plant with three leaves, used as the national emblem of Ireland.

(noun) success or failure supposedly brought by chance rather than through your own actions.

(noun) a large but distant or imaginary reward. It is said that there is a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow.

### Glossary:

Precious \_\_\_\_\_

Spherical \_\_\_\_\_

Unauthenticated \_\_\_\_\_

Mischievous \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledged \_\_\_\_\_

Pluck \_\_\_\_\_

You can use a dictionary  
to help you.

### 3. Click on the links to practice some more.

Wordsearch or Hangman

Memory or Crossword