

Saint Patrick's Day.

Who Was St. Patrick?

Saint Patrick lived during the fifth century. He is the patron saint of Ireland. He was born in Great Britain in the Roman period. He was brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. Later, he escaped, and returned back to Ireland to convert the Irish to Christianity. He was a bishop, and he is known as the "Apostle of Ireland".



Saint Patrick was a Bishop in Ireland.

A legend tells that St. Patrick was attacked by snakes, and he expelled all of snakes from the island.

Another tradition says that he explained the mystery of Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover: 'the shamrock'. This is the reason because of green is the traditional colour of Ireland.



A shamrock means "young clover".¹ It is used as a symbol of Ireland.

When Was the First St. Patrick's Day Celebrated?

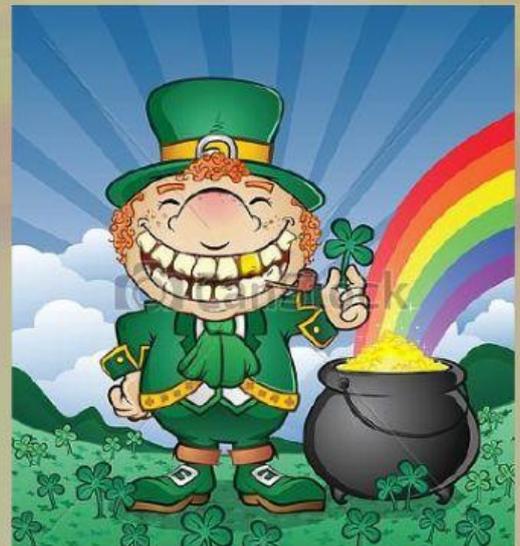
Since around the ninth or 10th century, people in Ireland have been celebrating the Roman Catholic feast day of St. Patrick on March 17th. There were a lot of Irish people living in the United States, so in the 18th century, the first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland but in America. Nowadays, the parade in New York is the largest in the United States, with over 150,000 participants, and takes more than five hours. Today, St. Patrick is celebrated in all over the world. From Ireland, Canada, and the United States, to Australia or Japan.



An example of Saint Patrick's parade in the United States.

Who is a leprechaun?

A leprechaun is a diminutive supernatural being in Irish folklore. It's a type of solitary fairy or elf. They are usually described as little bearded men, wearing a green coat and hat. They are shoemakers who have a hidden pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.



1.- LOOK UP THESE WORDS FROM THE TEXT ON A DICTIONARY:

patron saint:

to bring-brought-brought:

slave:

to convert:

christianity:

bishop:

to explain:

Holy Trinity:

clover:

have been celebrating: *han celebrado*

since:

feast day:

parade:

took place: *tuvo lugar*

but: *pero, sino...*

nowadays:

Leprechaun:

fairy:

elf:

bearded men:

shoemakers:

pot:

to hide-hid-hidden:

2.- CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TEXT.

- 1.- Saint Patrick was born in... Ireland Great Britain United States
- 2.- He was born in... 18th century Roman period Age of 16
- 3.- The first time he went to Ireland he was a... bishop slave shepherd
- 4.- The legend says that St Patrick expelled... Roman snakes British
- 5.- 'The shamrock' is a... a green tree a clover a snake
- 6.- Green is the traditional colour of Ireland because...
 - A) Green is St. Patrick's favourite colour.
 - B) Clover is Green.
 - C) Leprechaun's hat is Green.
- 7.- When is St. Patrick's Day: December 25th March 17th February 14th
- 8.- The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place in... Ireland USA Japan
- 9.- How long is St. Patrick's parade in New York? 4 hours 6 hours 5 hours
- 10.- Leprechauns have pots full of... silver money gold

3.- MATCH THESE PARTS OF THESE SENTENCES.

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|---|------------------------|
| 1.- Saint Patrick was born in | A Ireland |
| 2.- St Patrick was the saint patron of | B Great Britain |
| 3.- The legend tells that St. Patrick was | C green |
| 4.- The traditional colour of Ireland is | D green coat and a hat |
| 5.- A 'shamrock' is a kind of | E elf |
| 6.- St. Patrick day is celebrated on | F The United States |
| 7.- The first parade was celebrated in | G March 17th |
| 8.- Nowadays St Patrick's day is celebrated | H all over the world. |
| 9.- A leprechaun wears a... | I clover |
| 10.- A leprechaun is a kind of... | J attacked by snakes |

