



THE STORY OF SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

St Patrick's day is on March 17th. It is both an Irish religious and national holiday. Immigrants from Ireland brought this tradition to the United States.

St Patrick is a very famous and important person in Ireland. St Patrick's real name was Maewyn Succat. He was born in Wales around 389 AD. When he was 16, he was kidnapped by bandits and taken to Ireland as a slave. He worked as a shepherd. He spent many long hours alone taking care of sheep out in the fields. He felt lonely and afraid. During that time he began to think about God. He repented from his sins and unbelief and he turned to God with all his heart. He had a dream in which God told him to leave Ireland by going to the coast.

He escaped to Gaul (France) after six long years of slavery. He studied in a monastery for twelve years near Auxerre, in France. He had a vision telling him to return to Ireland as a missionary. At sixty, he came back to Ireland to convert the pagans of Ireland to Christianity. He used the shamrock to explain the concept of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit). St Patrick's mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. He died on March 17 in 461 AD.



St Patrick's Day today

On Saint Patrick's Day everything is green, the colour of hope and nature.



Even beer is green on that day. In the US the Chicago River is even dyed green. Saint Patrick's Day is a celebration honouring Saint Patrick.



People also organize parades with Irish music and dancing through the streets, with big bands – and not only in Ireland. About 500,000 people go to the parade in Dublin. Irish people all over the world wear green clothes and ribbons in their hair. If you don't wear green on Saint Patrick's Day you get pinched as a punishment! At the parade people wear green, white and orange hats... or hair! They also wear badges that say "Kiss me, I'm Irish!"

After the Great Potato Famine in the 1840s, millions of Irish people emigrated to England, America or Europe, and their descendants are fond of remembering their Irish roots. So, today people celebrate St Patrick's Day in Ireland and in many countries like in Australia, Canada, the USA and even Japan!

There are 44 million Americans of Irish descent, many are firemen and policemen and they participate in the parades.

There is a big parade in New York. 150,000 people march towards Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York.



The shamrock is the symbol of Ireland. Shamrocks bring good luck.



Legend says that if you find a four-leaf shamrock and you put it in your shoe under your heel, you will marry the first person you'll meet.



Leprechauns are magical little men from Irish legends, they have a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. If you follow the rainbow, you can try to catch it, but be careful leprechauns are very quick!!!

The flag : green, white and orange are the colours on the Irish tricolour flag :

- green is for Catholics
- orange is for Protestants
- white is for peace between them



1).All these sentences are FALSE. Correct what is wrong!

1. St Patrick was Irish
2. Patrick was a bandit who kidnapped slaves.
3. The shamrock is a Christian symbol because it's green.
4. On St Patrick's Day, the Irish stay in bed and eat potatoes.
5. St Patrick's Day is only celebrated in Ireland.



5 th	Century when
389	Date
16	Patrick's age
461	Year when
6	Number of years
60	Age when
30	Number of
3	Number of
17th March	Day of
1840s	Years when
44	Number of
millions	Number of
150 000	Number of



2) Find in the text what these numbers refer to

3) Vocabulary Quiz

a) gold	1) of or relating to Ireland or its people, language or culture
b) shamrock	2) an organized public procession on a festive or ceremonial occasion
c) leprechaun	3) the capital and largest city of Northern Ireland
d) Irish	4) a patron saint of Ireland; an English missionary to Ireland in the 5th century
e) rainbow	5) one of a race of elves in Irish folklore who can reveal hidden treasure to those who catch them
f) saint	6) the chance happening of fortunate or adverse events
g) parade	7) a person officially recognized, especially by canonization, as being entitled to public veneration and capable of interceding for people on earth
h) Belfast	8) an arc of spectral colours, usually identified as red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet that appears in the sky opposite the sun as a result of the refractive dispersion of sunlight in drops of rain or mist
i) St Patrick	9) a soft, yellow, corrosion-resistant element that is used as an international monetary standard, in jewelry, for decoration and as a plated coating on a wide variety of electrical and mechanical components
j) luck	10) the capital and largest city of Ireland, in the east-central part of the country on the Irish Sea
k) Dublin	11) the symbol of Ireland used by St Patrick to explain the concept of the Trinity



4) Unscramble these words

1) S A R T E P I	2) N E R E G	3) D G L O	5) H I I R S
4) A S T I N I A R K T P C		6) C L N U H A E E P R	
7) E S L R Y A V	8) E D R I N A L		9) E N M W Y A
10) O A R W I B N			
11) S C M R K H O A			
12) R S T Y A O E M N			

5) Unjumble these words Here is a clue

kormshac	An Irish plant
nitsa kapcirt	An Irish saint
nildub	Ireland's Capital City
geonra	A colour on the Irish flag
crahm	Saint Patrick's Day is in this month
ngledan	The country where Saint Patrick was born
caleig	the Irish language

6) A word search Find the 27 words hidden in this grid

C	I	L	E	A	G	I	J	O	M	M
B	C	H	U	Z	U	R	G	N	L	O
I	M	A	R	C	H	I	E	A	I	N
S	B	R	E	S	K	S	S	E	D	A
L	E	P	R	E	C	H	A	U	N	S
A	L	A	A	D	I	A	I	S	A	T
V	F	E	I	N	R	M	N	E	L	E
E	A	R	N	E	T	R	T	D	E	R
R	S	I	B	G	A	O	F	A	R	Y
Y	T	E	O	E	P	C	U	R	g	U
O	E	L	W	L	W	K	N	A	K	Z
R	D	U	B	L	I	N	B	P	F	L