

## ST PATRICK'S DAY

St Patrick's Day is the most important Irish festival. Because of the terrible conditions in Ireland during the 1800s many Irish went to America, so the Irish community in the USA is very big. They went to live all over the country and took their traditions with them. There are also many Irish in Britain, and all over the world.

### *WHO WAS ST PATRICK?*

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. He was born in Wales. He was a Christian. When he was 16, some pirates took him to Ireland, where he became a slave. After six years he escaped to France. He became a priest there. He returned to Ireland as a bishop in about 432. He converted a lot of Irish people to Christianity, and he introduced the Roman alphabet to Ireland.



There are legends about St Patrick. One legend says he took all the snakes in Ireland to the top of a mountain and pushed them into the sea. Another legend says he used the shamrock to teach the Irish about Christianity; he used the three leaves of this plant to explain that the Christian God is three beings at the same time.

### *CELEBRATING ST PATRICK'S DAY*

In Ireland St Patrick's Day is an important religious holiday. Businesses are closed and people go to church. In 1995 the Irish government started the St Patrick's Day Festival, a four-day festival in the capital city, Dublin.

On St Patrick's Day, there are a lot of tricolour flags in the streets. Irish people created this flag in 1848 with a special meaning. The green represents the Irish Catholics (mostly from the south of Ireland) and the orange represents Irish Protestants (mostly from the north of Ireland). The white rectangle in the middle represents the hope for the peace between Catholics and Protestants.

In the USA, the Chicago river becomes green for St Patrick's Day and in New York, there is a big parade, the biggest parade in the world (more than 150,000 people).

The Irish believe that green is a lucky colour, and a lot of people wear green clothes on St Patrick's Day. The green shamrock is a symbol of Ireland, and another symbol is a leprechaun, a kind of Irish fairy. This little old man usually wears green.



is a lucky colour, clothes on St shamrock is a symbol is a This little old man

**1.- Are the following statements true(T) or false(F)? Correct the false ones**

- a) St Patrick's Day is on 17<sup>th</sup> March
- b) The Irish community in America is very small
- c) St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland
- d) St Patrick became a priest in Ireland
- e) A legend says that St Patrick pushed the leprechauns in Ireland into the sea
- f) The orange part of the Tricolour represents the Irish Catholics
- g) Green is a lucky colour for the British
- h) On St Patrick's Day the river in Chicago becomes orange and green

**2.- Circle the word that doesn't belong**

- a) orange                  green                  colour                  purple
- b) snake                  bishop                  fish                  horse
- c) shamrock                  leprechaun                  rose                  whiskey
- d) legend                  tale                  story                  music
- e) France                  Irish                  America                  Britain

**Now use the odd words to complete the sentences**

- a) The band played traditional
- b) My favourite                  is green
- c) Patrick became a
- d) The                  isn't a traditional symbol of Ireland
- e) The                  community in the USA is very big

**3.- What nationality are people that come from the countries in the box?**  
**Look at the endings of the nationalities in the table below. Write each nationality in the correct column**

AMERICA	AUSTRALIA	CANADA	CHINA	DENMARK
ENGLAND	FRANCE	GERMANY	GREECE	HOLLAND
IRELAND	ITALY	JAPAN	NORWAY	POLAND
PORTUGAL	SCOTLAND	SOUTH AFRICA	SPAIN	WALES

-an	-ish	-ese	others
AMERICAN	ENGLISH	CHINESE	WELSH
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