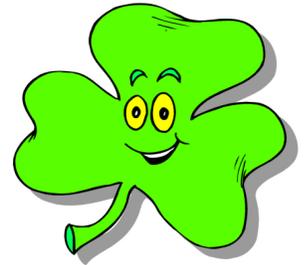


# GREEN, GREEN, GREEN...

## CELEBRATE

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY



St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17.

This is the day that Saint Patrick died. It is a religious holiday in Ireland. Ireland is an island which is located in northern Europe. It is known as the Emerald Island because it has a climate that encourages the growth of trees and plants.



St. Patrick was a missionary in the fourth century. It is believed that he was born between Scotland and Wales. He is considered as the patron saint of Ireland who evangelized and brought Christianity to Irish. He built numerous churches during his life.

The importance of the shamrock, or clover, comes from a legend, which says that St. Patrick used the three-leaf clover to represent the Christian Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). The Trinity is the three Persons who form one God. It is also said that if a four-leaf clover is found, it is believed that it brings good luck to whoever finds it.

Speaking of good luck symbols, it is said that if you have or find a horseshoe, it is a good luck charm for attracting fortune in your life.

Leprechauns, or pixies, are another characteristic symbol of the Saint Patrick's holiday. Leprechauns are small, old-looking beings that play pranks and jokes. It is said that they are shoemakers. Before the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was possible to see them dressed in a red jacket with silver buttons, red breeches, high blue or brown socks, big black shoes with thick silver buckles, and high top hat. They have a special treasure, a pot full of gold coins.





It is said that they hide at the end of the rainbows. If you catch one, you can ask him to give you his treasure. But you'll have to keep your eyes fixed on him; if you look the other way, he will escape and run away so fast that you will not be able to catch him.



St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in many parts of the world, especially in English-speaking countries. Some cities have parades where different groups and bands stroll around the city dressed in their best suits. Most of them



wear the color green in honor of the saint. The biggest parade is in New York City, where more than 150,000 people come to enjoy it. The city of Chicago dyes the river green to celebrate the date. It is a special dye that is temporary and is not toxic, so it does not damage the fauna in the river. The green color lasts for a short time until the party is over.



The cuisine is different for this holiday. The menu for St. Patrick's Day consists of corned beef with cabbage, black pudding, sausages, and mashed potatoes. This was the typical food of Americans of Irish origin in the

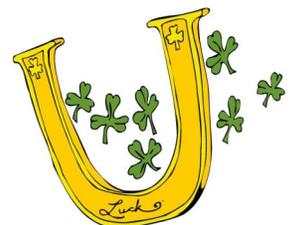
19th century. People enjoy drinks that are tinted green, in honor of the festival.

Finally, be sure to remember one other important tradition; if you don't wear something green on this day, you can be pinched!



Don't forget to wear something green this March

17!!!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_



ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.



1. Saint Patrick's Day \_\_\_\_\_

- a. is celebrated on May 17 in different countries of the world.
- b. is important because it celebrates the king of Ireland, the Emerald Island.
- c. was an Irish missionary who brought good luck to Christians.
- d. celebrates St. Patrick, who brought the Christian religion to the Irish.

2. Ireland \_\_\_\_\_

- a. is linked to St. Patrick because it was the country where he led the Christianity.
- b. is considered as the emerald island because of the color of its landscapes.
- c. is located in the northern part of Europe.
- d. All the answers are correct.

3. From the text, why is the clover a symbol used on St. Patrick's Day?

- a. It is a green plant that the inhabitants of Ireland eat.
- b. It represents the trinity of the Holy Trinity.
- c. It's the color of the leprechaun's clothes.
- d. The river in the city of Chicago is the color of clover.

4. The treasure of the pot of gold \_\_\_\_\_

- a. is guarded by snakes that fell into the sea.
- b. can be taken if you find the end of a rainbow, and catch a leprechaun.
- c. is hidden in the boots of the leprechauns.
- d. can only be obtained if you put the leprechaun in a cage.

5. The leprechauns on St. Patrick's Day \_\_\_\_\_

- a. are well-behaved little men who keep a pot of gold.
- b. are naughty girls who play jokes on other people.
- c. are snakes that drowned in the sea.
- d. are naughty shoemakers who keep a treasure.



6. To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, \_\_\_\_\_

- a. people parade through the streets dressed in green.
- b. people organize to hunt down the leprechauns that carry gold.
- c. People eat stuffed turkey and pumpkin pie.
- d. People plant clovers in their garden.



7. If you found a leprechaun, how should you keep him from escaping?

- a. Take him by the hands and tie them with a rope.
- b. Call the police to arrest him for all the pranks done.
- c. Give him a clover to eat to make him give you his pot of coins.
- d. Stare into his eyes without looking away for even a second.

8. Leprechauns, or pixies, wear a \_\_\_\_\_

- a. red jacket, silver buttons, blue or brown high socks, large black shoes with thick gold buckles, and top hat.
- b. green jacket, silver buttons, blue socks, big black shoes with thick silver buckles, and a tall hat.
- c. red jacket, silver buttons, high blue or brown socks, large black shoes with thick silver buckles, and high top hat.
- d. red jacket, silver buttons, short blue or brown socks, large black shoes with thick silver buckles and a low top hat.

9. The city of Chicago dyes the river green to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

- a. True
- b. False

10. What happens if you don't wear green on St. Patrick's Day?

- a. They don't let you participate in the party.
- b. They give you a pot of gold coins.
- c. They pinch you.
- d. They can confuse you with a leprechaun.

