

# Festivals and Celebrations

## St Patrick's Day

On the 17<sup>th</sup> March the whole world becomes Irish. It's the day we celebrate St Patrick's Day in honor of Ireland's patron saint. Who was St Patrick? How do we celebrate his day?

### Activity 1: Who was St Patrick?

Visit this site: <http://wilstar.com/holidays/patrick.htm> and read the article. Look for the answers to these questions. Share your answers with your classmates.

1. Where and when was St Patrick born?
2. What happened to him when he was 16?
3. When did he become a Christian?
4. How long was he a slave?
5. Where did he study and who was his teacher?
6. What did he want to do with his life?
7. Where did he want to go?
8. Who was sent there in his place and how long did he stay there?
9. What experiences did Patrick have in Ireland?
10. How long did he work in Ireland?
11. Where did he go when he retired?
12. When did he die?
13. What legends developed about St Patrick?
14. What is the traditional icon of the day and what does it symbolize?

Using questions 1-14 above, now finish the biography about St Patrick below in your own words.

*St Patrick was born in Wales in AD 385. He was sold into slavery when he was 16 and became a Christian after he arrived in Ireland...* .....

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### Activity 2: What is the history of St Patrick's Day?

Visit this site: <http://www.theholidayspot.com/patrick/celebration.htm> and read the article. Then complete the following sentences.

1. St Patrick's Day is more of a \_\_\_\_\_ holiday in Ireland.
2. The first US celebration was in \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The parade in \_\_\_\_\_ attracts over a million spectators every year and began in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The city of \_\_\_\_\_ colors its river \_\_\_\_\_.
5. St Patrick's Day celebrates being \_\_\_\_\_ with pictures of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. We \_\_\_\_\_ Irish food and tell Irish \_\_\_\_\_.

### Activity 3: A St Patrick's Day Treasure Hunt – Celebrations around the World

St Patrick's Day is celebrated all over the world. You have 15 minutes to visit these sites and answer the questions about various international celebrations.

Dublin, Ireland

<http://www.stpatricksday.ie/cms/events.html/>

#### United States of America

New York City

<http://www.saintpatricksdayparade.com/NYC/newyorkcity.htm>

Chicago

<http://www.chicagostpatsparade.com/>

Rochester, New York

<http://www.rochesterparade.com/CalendarFrameSet.htm>

Savannah, Georgia

<http://stpats.savannahnow.com/>

St. Louis, Missouri

<http://www.irishparade.org/2004/index.html>

#### Rest of the world

Toronto, Canada

<http://www.allirish.ca/topatrick/>

Tokyo, Japan

[http://www.inj.or.jp/index\\_e.html](http://www.inj.or.jp/index_e.html)

Seoul, Korea

[http://www.seoulshamrock.co.kr/Index\\_eng.htm](http://www.seoulshamrock.co.kr/Index_eng.htm)

Denmark

<http://www.stpatricksday.dk/event3.html>

In which city...

1. ...is there an Irish Sports day?
2. ...will there be a lecture about Tolkein?
3. ...will have cartoon character balloons in the parade?
4. ...is there an exhibition of paintings about Ireland?
5. ...is the river colored green?
6. ...is the Grand Marshall Miss World?
7. ...is the parade on Fifth Avenue?
8. ...is the water in the fountains colored green?
9. ...will there be four nightly processions of different vehicles?
10. ...is there a fundraiser at an Irish pub on February 29th?

Now, summarize for the class how St Patrick's Day is celebrated.

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### Activity 4: Irish Culture

There are many traditions connected with St Patrick's Day. Visit the links and investigate one of these aspects of Irish culture and report on it to the class. The questions will help you.

#### The Shamrock

**Links:** *How Stuff Works:* <http://people.howstuffworks.com/saint-patrick3.htm>  
*The Holiday Spot:* <http://www.theholidayspot.com/patrick/shamrock.htm>

#### **Questions:**

1. Why is the shamrock related to St Patrick?
2. When was the first reference to the shamrock and what was it used for?
3. Why is three the Irish magic number?

#### The Blarney Stone

**Links:** *The Holiday Spot:* <http://www.theholidayspot.com/patrick/shamrock.htm> (scroll down)  
*How Stuff Works:* <http://people.howstuffworks.com/saint-patrick3.htm> (scroll down)

#### **Questions:**

1. Where is the Blarney Stone?
2. What legend is told about the Blarney Stone?
3. What gift does the stone give?
4. What does "blarney" now mean?

#### Leprechauns

**Link:** *The Holiday Spot:* <http://www.theholidayspot.com/patrick/shamrock.htm> (scroll down)

#### **Questions:**

1. What is a leprechaun and what does it look like?
2. What kind of treasure do leprechauns hide from people?
3. How can you get their treasure?

#### Irish Blessings and Sayings

**Link:** *The Holiday Spot:* [http://www.theholidayspot.com/patrick/irish\\_blessings\\_and\\_sayings.htm](http://www.theholidayspot.com/patrick/irish_blessings_and_sayings.htm)

#### **Questions:**

1. What are blessings? How can you tell which of the texts are blessings? What word do they begin with?
2. Choose one blessing and memorize it. Recite it and explain what it means.
3. Choose one of the other sayings. Explain it to your classmates.

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### Activity 5: St. Patrick's Day Collage

Have you ever made a collage? Collage is an art form in which the artist takes a number of images and/or words and puts them together on a piece of paper, in a frame or on a screen. The goal is to make a message or feeling by the very patterns, content and interactions. Usually you cut and paste images and sentences from magazines, but you can also make collages on your computer. All you need is a word processing program, Power Point, or a website editing program (like Front Page). You can see some collages at *Collage Town*: <http://www.collagetown.com/gallery.shtml> .

In this activity you will make a collage about St Patrick's Day. How would you like to celebrate that day? Let your collage reflect how you would like to celebrate.

The links below will help you find images to include in your collage. Start by briefly looking at each site. When you see an image or read a sentence you like, save it in your computer. (For images, just put the cursor over the image you are interested in and click with your right mouse button if you are using a PC or double click if you have a MAC. Choose "save" and decide where you want to save the image. For words or sentences, just select the text, and copy it onto a document in a word processing program).

As soon as you have a collection of images, open the program you will use to make your collage and paste images wherever you want on the page. You can also add words and sentences if you want. You can edit the images using a photo-editing program and you can edit the sentences right in your word processing program (change the size, the font, the color).

When you finish making your collage, share it with your classmates and explain why it represents your personal view of St Patrick's Day.

**Links:** (you can also use any of the links in the other activities)

*Awesomeclipart:*

<http://www.awesomeclipartforkids.com/stpatricksday/spdclipart1.html>

*The Best Collection of Webimages & Clipart:*

<http://www.hellasmultimedia.com/webimages/patrick-htm/default.htm>

*St Patrick's Day Clip Art:*

<http://webclipart.miningco.com/library/Stpats/blstbra.htm>

#### Extra Activities:

1. Do you think you know a lot about St Patrick's Day? Take this quiz and find out:  
*The Holiday Spot:* <http://www.theholidayspot.com/patrick/quiz.htm>
2. Send a free St Patrick's Day card to your friends or teacher. These sites have lots of free cards available:  
*Hallmark:* [http://www.hallmark.com/Website/hk\\_ecards\\_cards.html?lid=HPA3](http://www.hallmark.com/Website/hk_ecards_cards.html?lid=HPA3) (click on Free E-cards and then look for St. Patrick's Day)  
*123 Greetings:* [http://www.123greetings.com/events/saint\\_patricks\\_day/](http://www.123greetings.com/events/saint_patricks_day/)
3. Do you like to cook? Check out these Irish recipes. Are they very different from your country's dishes?  
*All about food:* <http://fp.enter.net/~rburk/stpatricksday/stpatrick'sdayrecipes.htm>
4. Would you like to know more about St Patrick? Visit:  
*Saint Patrick Centre On-Line:* <http://www.saintpatrickcentre.com/about/index.asp>.  
The Centre offers an interpretative exhibition that tells the story of Ireland's Patron Saint.