

Saint Patrick's Day worksheet 1

Play the game with a friend.

Get to the pot of gold before the leprechaun! With a friend, take turns to answer the questions. Color each shamrock as you answer. When your six shamrocks are green, the treasure is yours!



Leprechauns hide their pots of gold at the end of the rainbow. Can you say the seven colors of the rainbow in order?



Ireland's national musical instrument is the harp, and its lucky number is 3. Stand up and play three other musical instruments – your friend has to guess them!



Leprechauns make shoes and wear hats. If you made a magic hat, what would it look like? What three magic things would it do?



Ireland's lucky color is green, like shamrocks. What else is green? Name an animal, a fruit, a vegetable, a TV or story character, and something in your classroom.



A leprechaun hates being caught because he will lose his pot of gold! So if you let him go, he will make three wishes come true for you. Which three wishes would you make?



Saint Patrick's Day is on March 17th. March is the 3rd month. "March" has five letters. Which is the other month that has five letters? Can you spell it backward?





Saint Patrick's Day worksheet 2



Answer the questions for your country.

- Is there a festival where people wear a special color? What does the color mean?
- Is there a number that brings good luck or bad luck?
- Imagine an Irish leprechaun moves to your country. Give him advice: what clothes could he wear? Where could he live? What things would he need to learn? Where could he hide his pot of gold?



Level 6

Teaching notes

Saint Patrick's Day

- These cultural notes describe both the origins of this festival, as well as its current traditions. You can explain as much as you think is relevant to your class and encourage students to recognize and point to the relevant items on the worksheet.
- St. Patrick's Day is Ireland's national holiday. This religious and cultural celebration takes place on March 17th every year. It commemorates the death of Saint Patrick, Ireland's patron saint. This date is also a public holiday in Northern Ireland, U.K.; Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada; and Montserrat. St. Patrick's Day is also a popular festival in the U.S., the U.K., Australia and Canada. It is believed Saint Patrick was born at the end of the fourth century and grew up near the border between England and Scotland. At the age of 16, he was taken to Ireland as a slave. He fled back to Great Britain, but returned to Ireland as a missionary some years later. Saint Patrick played a key role in bringing Christianity to Ireland. He's been credited with driving all snakes from the country. It is believed that the term "snakes" referred to the serpent symbols of the Druids (the priests in ancient times) that inhabited the land at that time.
- People celebrate Irish culture on St. Patrick's Day, by holding festivals and parades. The biggest parade takes place in Dublin. Many towns and villages also hold their own parades. During the parades, there are music performances by local musicians. In many regions, the festivities can be a week long, including visual and performing arts and music. Most people, even if not Irish, wear green on this holiday. One Irish tradition is to pinch anyone who is not wearing green! Typical foods people eat on this day are corned beef and cabbage. There are many people of Irish ancestry in the U.S., and many cities have St. Patrick's Day parades.
- Traditional symbols associated with St. Patrick's Day are the shamrock, the color green, pots of gold, and leprechauns. The shamrock is the plant that represents Ireland. Ireland's magic number is three, and the three leaves that make up the shamrock are said to bring good luck. They also symbolize the Holy Trinity. The leprechaun is a small Irish fairy from old Irish stories. He wears a leather apron and dresses like a shoemaker, with a pointed hat and pointed shoes. Leprechauns are said to live alone in the forest and cause problems. All they do is make shoes and guard their treasures. If a leprechaun is caught, he will have to tell where he's hiding his treasure. However, the captor must keep an eye on the leprechaun – if they look away, the little old man may disappear along with his treasure!

Saint Patrick's Day worksheet 1

- **Pre-activity:** Use the cultural notes to introduce Saint Patrick's Day and Ireland's traditional symbols. Familiarize students with the items *shamrock*, *pot of gold*, *harp*, and *leprechaun* – practice pronouncing this word with students a few times. Encourage students to say what they know about these things (though they're not expected to have any prior knowledge). Then describe the items briefly, and ask students to identify them on the worksheet.
- Read the instructions with students. Allow a few minutes for them to take a look at the questions and the pictures, and ask you about any doubts. Then in pairs, students take turns to answer the questions (e.g., Student A answers 1, 3, and 5; Student B answers 2, 4, and 6). Encourage students to read each question aloud. As each question is answered, both students color its corresponding shamrock green. As students play, circulate around the class, helping them as necessary. Once they've colored the six shamrocks, they can "get" the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.
- Key:** 1 red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet; 2 (possible answers) students could mime playing the drums / violin / guitar / piano; 3 students' own answers; 4 (possible answers) crocodile / frog, apple / pear, cucumber / broccoli, Hulk / Frankenstein / Shrek / Kermit the Frog / Yoda, students' own answers; 5 students' own answers; 6 April
- **Optional follow-up activity:** Now that students have their "pot of gold," they can say what they would do with the money! They could work in pairs or small groups. Ask them to come up with as many ideas as they can. Say that they can use some of the money for themselves and their family, but part of the money also has to be used to help the environment, animals, or other people. Set a time limit. After the class shares their ideas, they can vote for the five best / most original ones.

Saint Patrick's Day worksheet 2

- Students can work in pairs or small groups to answer the questions. As students work, circulate around the class, helping them with new vocabulary or ideas as necessary. Encourage the use of their creativity and imagination for the third question! Students report their answers to the class, and see if there are any answers that are repeated.

Key: Students' own answers

- **Optional follow-up activities:** Some students could now come to the front and act out the dialog between the leprechaun (asking the questions) and the local giving him advice.
- For homework, students can find out what traditional food is eaten on Saint Patrick's Day (corned beef and cabbage), and print out some pictures.