

## St. Patrick's Day (teacher's notes)

### 1. Warm-up (Activity 1) 5 mins

**Aims:** to break the ice and generate the interest in the topic.

**Procedure:** Ask students to look at the pictures and guess the country (key: Ireland, explain that this country is also called the Emerald Isle due to its green countryside). Pay students attention to the sayings. Introduce the topic. (key – the holiday is St. Patrick's Day.)

Sayings explanations:

Why do you get pinched if not wearing green -

<https://www.vix.com/en/world/527708/heres-why-you-get-pinched-not-wearing-green-st-patricks-day>

Luck of Irish - <http://mentalfloss.com/article/30236/luck-irish-old-mining-expression>)

### 2. Video (Activity 2) 10 mins

**Aims:** to practice listening skills and to learn more about the holiday.

**Procedure:** Ask the students to look at some facts about St. Patrick's day and choose whether they are true or false. Pre-teach the words "saint" and "shamrock" if necessary. Student discuss in pairs. Then students watch the video and check their guesses.

Play the video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXmxooGQ\\_Dg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXmxooGQ_Dg)

Check the answers open class. Ask the students to correct the false sentences.

Key:

- 1) The day of St. Patrick's day is different every year. F (St. Patrick's Day is on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March)
- 2) St. Patrick was from Ireland. F (He was from Britain)
- 3) St. Patrick was is the patron saint of Ireland. T
- 4) Patrick used the three leaves of the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity. T
- 5) The largest and longest St. Patrick's Day Parade is in Dublin. F (It's in New York)

Before the second watching, pre-teach the vocabulary:

- 1) to [kidnap](#) - to take a person away illegally by force, usually in order to demand money in exchange for releasing them.
- 2) [famine](#) - a situation in which there is not enough food for a great number of people, causing illness and death, or a particular period when this happens.
- 3) [captivity](#) - the situation in which a person or animal is kept somewhere and is not allowed to leave.
- 4) [frigid](#) - (about weather) extremely cold.

Students should watch the video again and complete the gaps.

1. When Patrick was 16 he was kidnapped by **Irish** pirates.
2. He was imprisoned for **six** years.
3. Patrick died on **March 17th, 461**.
4. As one famous myth says, Patrick drove all the **snakes** from Ireland.
5. The **frigid** water is the real reason why snakes do not exist in Ireland.
6. According to the video the tradition of wearing shamrocks later grew into wearing **green** clothing.
7. The tradition of parades started in **America (the USA)** after Great Potato **famine** in Ireland in the 1840s.
8. In 1762 the 1<sup>st</sup> St. Patrick's Day parade in New York happened when a group of **soldiers** marched a few blocks to a tavern.

### Transcript

#### Bet You Didn't Know - St. Patrick's Day

Millions of people around the world don their best green attire every March 17th to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. But there is a lot we bet you didn't know about Ireland's patron saint...

To start with, St. Patrick wasn't even Irish. He was born around the fifth century in Britain, then part of the Roman Empire. At sixteen, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and spent 6 years in captivity. He converted to Christianity and later returned to Ireland to spend the rest of his life working as a Christian missionary. After Patrick died on March 17th 461, he was largely forgotten until mythology and legend grew. And centuries later he was honoured as the patron saint of Ireland.

According to one famous myth, Patrick drove all the snakes from Ireland. The story symbolized Patrick cleansing the island of paganism. There's just one problem: Ireland never had any snakes, to begin with. The Emerald Isle is surrounded by water too frigid for snakes to migrate there, whether from Britain or anywhere else.

According to another famous story, Patrick used the three leaves of the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity. As a result, people in 18th-century Ireland started wearing shamrocks to signify their Irish pride. That tradition later grew into wearing green clothing, a popular St. Patrick's Day custom today. Though shamrocks don't really exist, we know them as any one of several three-leaf plants such as wood sorrel or white and yellow clover.

As important as St. Patrick is to Irish history, we bet you didn't know the tradition of celebrating March 17th with parades actually started in America. The parade tradition really took off after the Great Potato Famine hit Ireland in the 1840s, sending hundreds of thousands of Irish immigrants pouring into New York, Boston and other American cities. The first record of a St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York dates to 1762, when a group of Irish soldiers serving with the British marched a few blocks to a tavern in Lower Manhattan. Today it's the largest and longest St. Patrick's Day Parade, hosting close to 200,000 participants and nearly 3,000,000 spectators each year.

So this March 17th we hope you'll be wearing green and toasting to some St Patrick's Day history that we bet you didn't know.

### 3. Vocabulary work (Activity 3) 10 mins

**Aims:** to revise the vocabulary.

**Procedure:** Brainstorm the symbols of St. Patrick's. Write the words and phrases on the board. Then students should read the riddles and try to guess the words. Ask them to think individually. Use the music as a time limit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dh5ufYHQ2Gs>.

When the students are ready, ask them to compare answers in pairs. Check the answers open class. Check the spelling, especially of the word "leprechaun" (you can play Hangman).

Key:

- 1) What type of bow cannot be tied? ( a rainbow)
- 2) I'm a little man dressed in green, the funniest creature, you've ever seen. If you ever catch me, so it's told, I'll give you treasure. (a leprechaun)
- 3) Why do frogs like St. Patrick's Day? Because they are \_\_\_\_ . (green)
- 4) If you can ever reach the end of a big colorful rainbow. You should find something valuable of which little creatures with ginger beard won't let go. (a pot of gold)



- 5) What kind of music does a \_\_\_\_\_ band play? Hint: A green plant, A three-leafed plant (shamrock-n-roll)
- 6) What type of boots horses prefer most of all? ( horseshoe)
- 7) What brings that rhymes with puck. (luck)
- 8) It causes pain and rhymes with inch. (pinch)

**4. Reading (Activity 4) 10 mins**

**Aims:** to practice reading for gist.

**Procedure:** Brainstorm superstitions about bad luck and good luck. Ask the students to look at the pictures and speculate in pairs how can kissing and irish and a leprechaun bring good luck. Then students should read the text and check the guesses.

**Key:** 1) Kissing someone who is Irish is pretty much the next best thing to kissing the stone in Blarney Castle, which is likely where this famous saying comes from.

2) Catch a leprechaun and he'll probably tell you where his treasure is in exchange for his freedom. If you capture one of these at the end of a rainbow. He will grant you three wishes if you will then let him go.

Ask students to match the words with the definitions. They can use the text to help them figure out the meaning of the word. Model and drill the pronunciation, check the meaning of some words.

Optional: ask to make sentences with the new words.

**Key:**

1. to cast a spell	3	the action of making someone do or believe something
2. convincing	7	to disappear or stop being present or existing
3. persuasion	5	to press something, especially someone's skin, strongly between two hard things such as a finger and a thumb
4. aloof	1	to use words thought to be magic
5. to pinch	4	not friendly or willing to take part in things
6. invisible	6	impossible to see:
7. to vanish	2	able to make you believe that something is true or right.

**5. Follow - up discussion (Activity 4) 10 mins**

**Aims:** to raise SS' interest in the topic, provide free speaking practice and apply new vocabulary in the discussion

**Procedure:** Ask SS to discuss the questions in pairs. Change partners and let them report the most interesting information which they've found out about their previous partners.

**6. Sum up 3 mins**

Put errors on the board or whiteboard and let SS correct them.

Summarise the lesson and tell students what results they have achieved (Now you can ... After our reading and speaking lesson you will be able to....). Ask them if they have any questions.

### **7. Homework**

Give students the links and ask to learn more about this holiday –

<https://www.history.com/topics/st-patricks-day>

[https://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/03/140314-saint-patricks-day-2014-culture-nation-ireland/?\\_ga=2.61956335.2103036165.1521027268-1585181588.1521027266](https://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/03/140314-saint-patricks-day-2014-culture-nation-ireland/?_ga=2.61956335.2103036165.1521027268-1585181588.1521027266)