

Emerald Isle Celebrations



Skills:

- Can follow most lectures, discussions, and debates with relative ease.
- Can frame a discussion to decide a course of action with a partner or group, reporting on what others have said, summarising, elaborating and weighing up multiple points of view.

Adults

Group

1 Discuss what you know about St. Patrick's Day and Ireland as a country in pairs or small groups. After 6 minutes, share your findings with the class.

2 Match the words with their definitions:

shamrock

kidnapped

raider

The Holy Trinity

patron saint

paganism

in captivity

clover

don

missionary

convert to

1. a saint who is considered the special guardian of a country, group, trade, or profession _____
2. the Christian belief that God exists as three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit _____
3. taken away illegally by force, typically for ransom _____
4. to put on (an item of clothing) _____
5. being held as a prisoner or confined against one's will _____
6. people who attack an enemy's territory in order to steal from it _____
7. a person sent on a religious mission, especially one sent to promote Christianity in a foreign country _____
8. change one's beliefs or religion _____
9. a religion other than one of the main world religions, specifically a non-Christian or pre-Christian religion _____
10. a small plant with three round leaves, often used as a symbol of luck _____
11. a small plant with three leaves that is the national emblem of Ireland _____



3 Watch the video about Saint Patrick's Day and do the quiz based on the facts you've learned.

1. What is the significance of the Shamrock in relation to Saint Patrick?

- A. It symbolizes his love for nature.
- B. It represents the Holy Trinity.
- C. It signifies good luck.
- D. It is a symbol of Irish independence.

2. Why did people in 18th-century Ireland start wearing shamrocks on March 17?

- A. To show their support for the British monarchy.
- B. To honor Saint Patrick's love for gardening.
- C. To celebrate the arrival of spring.
- D. To signify their Irish Christian pride.

3. What event led to the growth of the Saint Patrick's Day parade tradition in America?

- A. The American Revolution
- B. The Great Potato Famine
- C. The Civil War
- D. The Industrial Revolution

4. What is the main reason why Ireland never really had any snakes?

- A. The water surrounding the island was too cold.
- B. The snakes were driven away by Saint Patrick.
- C. The snakes migrated to Britain.
- D. The snakes were eaten by the Irish people.

5. What is the myth associated with Saint Patrick driving snakes out of Ireland?

- A. It symbolizes his victory over evil forces.
- B. It represents the eradication of paganism.
- C. It signifies the cleansing of the sins.
- D. It is a metaphor for Saint Patrick's courage.

4 Fill in the gaps in the summary of the video in pairs:

Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated on _____(1)
Saint Patrick was not Irish, but born in _____(2)
He was _____(3) and spent _____(4)
After converting to Christianity, he returned to Ireland as _____(5)
Despite being largely forgotten after his death, he was later honored as _____(6)
The tradition of celebrating St. Patrick's Day with parades actually started _____(7)
The first recorded St. Patrick's Day parade in New York dates back to _____(8),
growing into _____(9).

5 Choose one of the topics below and create a dialogue about it with your partner. Act it in front of your class.

Cultural Exchange Café: People from different countries gather in a café to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day.

Shopping for Saint Patrick's Day: Characters meet at a store to buy supplies for a Saint Patrick's Day party.

Planning a Saint Patrick's Day Party: The characters are preparing for a Saint Patrick's Day party and discussing the food, drinks, dress code and whom to invite.

Decorating for a Saint Patrick's Day Party: Students work together to decorate a classroom or common area for a Saint Patrick's Day party.

Visiting an Irish Pub on Saint Patrick's Day: Characters meet at an Irish pub to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day.

Preparing a Saint Patrick's Day Meal: Friends gather in the kitchen to prepare a traditional Irish meal for Saint Patrick's Day.

Correct answers

1

The idea was generated in the “Lead-in activities” tool.

Teacher tip: Play a short traditional Irish [folk song](#) 0:43-1:16 before this activity. Ask the students to describe how the music or dance makes them feel and if it reminds them of any other cultural celebrations they are familiar with.



2

Made in the “Word-Definition Matching” tool.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. patron saint | 7. missionary |
| 2. The Holy Trinity | 8. convert to |
| 3. kidnapped | 9. paganism |
| 4. don | 10. clover |
| 5. in captivity | 11. shamrock |
| 6. raiders | |

3

Created in the “ABCD Questions” tool.

1. b
2. d
3. b
4. a
5. b

4

Created in the “Summary Gapfill” tool.

Possible answers:

1. March 17th each year
2. Brittany in the fifth century
3. kidnapped by Irish Raiders at sixteen
4. six years in captivity
5. a missionary
6. the patron saint of Ireland
7. in America
8. 1762
9. a massive event with close to 200,000 participants and 3 million spectators each year

5

The idea was generated in the “Lead-in activities” tool.

Teacher tip: Divide your students into pairs or small groups and ask them to come up with a short skit or role-play related to Saint Patrick's Day. Each group will have 5-10 minutes to prepare and then perform their skit for the class. Encourage creativity!