

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. Colour 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 colours 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 colour 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 17th March. March is the 3rd month. 'March' has five letters. Which is the other month that has five letters? Can you spell it back to front?





Saint Patrick's Day worksheet 2



Answer the questions for your country.

- Is there a festival where people wear a special colour? What does the colour 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?



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 learners to recognise 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 the Republic of Ireland, Newfoundland, and Labrador and Montserrat. St Patrick's Day is also a popular festival in the UK, the US, 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 parade. 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.
- Traditional symbols associated with St Patrick's Day are the shamrock, the colour 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 symbolise 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. Familiarise learners with the items *shamrock*, *pot of gold*, *harp* and *leprechaun* – practise pronouncing this word with learners a few times. Encourage learners 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 learners to identify them on the worksheet.
 - Read the instructions with learners. Allow a few minutes for them to take a look at the questions and the pictures, and ask you any doubts. Then in pairs, learners take turns and alternate answering each question (e.g. learner A answers 1, 3 and 5; learner B answers 2, 4 and 6). Encourage learners to read each question aloud. As each question is answered, both learners colour its corresponding shamrock green. As learners play, circulate around the class helping them as necessary. Once they've coloured 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) learners could mime playing the drums / violin / guitar / piano; 3 learners' own answers, 4 (possible answers) crocodile / frog, apple / pear, cucumber / broccoli, Hulk / Frankenstein / Shrek / Kermit the Frog / Yoda, learners' own answers, 5 learners' own answers, 6 April
- **Optional follow-up activity:** Now that learners 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

- Learners can work in pairs or small groups to answer the questions. As learners 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! Learners report their answers to the class, and see if there are any answers that are repeated.

Key: Learners' own answers

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