

## HAPPY ST. PAYRICK'S DAY!



Hello friends,

Saint Patrick was actually born in Wales. He became a monk in France and went to Ireland in 432. There are different myths about his power. According to the legend, he used a three-leaf clove or shamrock to explain the Christian idea of Trinity. Another legend says that he chased all the snakes out of Ireland. The truth is that these creatures never lived in the country.

So we are going to celebrate! Can you imagine?

I'm going to the big parade in the streets of Dublin, where I live ,with all my family wearing green costumes , green hats and shamrocks in our buttonholes. Mum has even dyed her hair green!

At first the colour that was associated with St. Patrick was blue, but when the shamrock became our national symbol, blue changed into green.

Green is also the colour of leprechauns, the fairies. The tradition says that wearing green makes you invisible to leprechauns, which like to pinch anyone they can see.

Well, after the parade, we will all have a big party at home. We have prepared bunches of shamrocks from our garden. We have decorated our house green, a must on an island which is called the Emerald Island. And of course we're eating green food! All the food for the party is green, apples, lettuce, cucumber, olives, spinach, pistachio cake...the bread for the sandwiches is green too! And we drink green mint lemonade. Dad prefers green beer, poor Dad!

My cousins in New York and Chicago in the USA are celebrating it, too. Guess what! In Illinois they even colour the Chicago River green. They also like eating corned beef and cabbage.

So yes, it is going to be a great day for us all.

Love, Maura



## A. Read the letter and say if these sentences are True or False

- 1. Today is the 17th of March.
- 2. People do nothing special on that day.
- 3. The main colour associated is blue.
- 4. St. Patrick is the patron Saint of Wales.
- 5. Maura is going to a big parade in the capital.
- 6. After the parade, Maura is going home to rest.
- 7. They have decorated their house green.
- 8. They are going to wear orange costumes.
- 9. They are going to eat green food.
- 10. Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated in Ireland only.

## B. Choose the correct answer

1.	Of whish country is St. Patrick the patron saint?		
	a. Scotland	b. Germany	c. Ireland
2.	How many leaves does a shamrock have?		
	a. two	b. three	c. five
3.	What will you get from a Leprechaun if you don't wear green?		
	a. a pinch	b. a prize	c. a kiss
4.	What colour was originally associated with St. Patrick?		
	a. Blue	b. Red	c. Orange
5.	According to legend, what animal did St. Patrick chase out of Ireland?		
	a. horses	b. rats	c. snakes
6.	Which of these is a nickname for Ireland?		
	a. The Emerald Isle	b. Snake-free Island	c. Angel Island
7.	According totradition, what would you find a leprechaun hiding at the end of		
	rainbow?		
	a. Shamrocks	b. A pot of gold	c. Sandwiches
8.	On which day is St. Patrick's Day celebrated?		
	a. March 5 <sup>th</sup>	b.March 10 <sup>th</sup>	c. March 17 <sup>th</sup>
9.	Which of these dishes is usually eaten in the USA?		
	a. Barbecue	b. Corned beef and cabbage	c. Carrot caketh
10.	Which river do the Americans colour green?		
	a. The Chicago River	b. The Mississippi River	c. The Oregon River