

St. Patrick's Day

Fast Facts

<http://www.kidskonnnect.com/subjectindex/32-categories/holidaysseasons/129-saint-patricks-day.html>



1. St. Patrick's Day is the national holiday of Ireland and is usually celebrated on March 17.



2. St. Patrick's Day has become a popular holiday in the United States. People wear green and eat corned beef and cabbage.

3. St. Patrick was a Roman-Britain-born Christian missionary who was born in the late fourth century. He brought Christianity to the Irish people.

4. It is also believed St. Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland. However, post-glacial Ireland never actually had snakes. Today, there are no snakes to be found!



5. Most people, whether they are Irish or not, wear green on this day. One of the Irish traditions is to pinch anyone who is not wearing green on St. Patrick's Day.



6. Irish immigrants began observing the holiday in Boston in 1737 and the first St. Patrick's Day parade was held in New York City in 1766.

7. The shamrock ,



pot-of-gold



and leprechauns



are also associated with St. Patrick's Day.

The shamrock was worn as a badge on the lapel  . Three is Ireland's magic number and the three petals that make up the shamrock are supposed to bring good luck. The three leaves also represent the Trinity in the Christian religion.

The leprechaun is a small Irish fairy. He is dressed like a shoemaker, with pointed shoes and hat. He also wears a leather apron. Leprechauns are supposed to be unfriendly little men who live alone in the forest, spending all of their time making shoes and guarding their treasures. If someone catches a leprechaun, he will be forced to tell where he hides all his pots of gold. However, the leprechaun must be watched at all times. If his captor looks away, the leprechaun will vanish along with his treasure.



8. St. Patrick's Day has become a holiday all around the world and for one day out of the year anyone can be Irish and join in the celebration.

TO PINCH: to squeeze (someone's skin) between your thumb and finger often in a painful way.

