

St Patrick's Day is a celebration and a public holiday in honour of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. It is celebrated in Ireland and around the world every year on March 17.

WORDSPOT

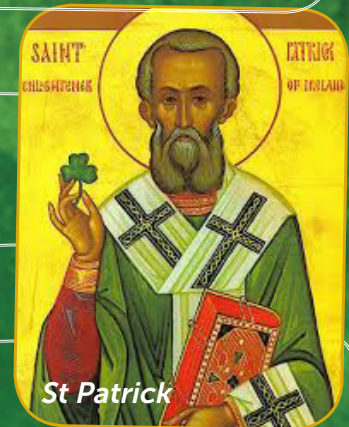
- A** What do you know about St Patrick's Day? How are these words and phrases connected to St Patrick's Day and Ireland? Discuss in class what you think they mean.

Gaelic snakes green shamrock parade Druids
pagans leprechauns corned beef and cabbage Holy Trinity

- B** Complete the text with the words from Task A.

1 St Patrick's Day is a national holiday in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and it is usually celebrated on March 17, the day when Saint Patrick died. In _____, the Irish language, the day is called Lá Fhéile Pádraig or The Feast of Saint Patrick.

2 It is believed that St Patrick, a Christian priest from Britain, was born in the late 4th century and that he brought Christianity to the Irish people, who were _____ at the time.



3 There is a legend that St Patrick drove all the _____ out of Ireland. But today we know this is a legend because there were never any snakes in Ireland. Many people believe that the word snake is connected to the snake symbol of the _____, the religious people in Ireland and Scotland in those days.

Druid snake
symbol

4 On this day many people wear _____, which is the Irish national colour. One of the Irish traditions is to pinch anyone who is not wearing green on St Patrick's Day. But, traditionally, St Patrick's colour was a light shade of blue, so he would also get pinched on his day.



People dressed in green leprechaun
costumes.



St Patrick's Day parade in New York.

5 St Patrick's Day is not only an Irish holiday. Irish immigrants began observing the holiday in Boston in 1737 and the first St Patrick's Day _____ was held in New York City in 1766. Today it has become a popular holiday which is celebrated all around the world. The Irish call this celebration cèilidh, which in Gaelic translates as a social gathering. _____ and _____ are traditional foods eaten on this holiday. Also, rivers are dyed green in honour of the day.



A three-leaf shamrock.

6 The _____ is the national flower of Ireland. Three is Ireland's magic number and the three leaves of the shamrock are supposed to bring good luck. There is a legend that St Patrick explained Christianity and the _____ to the Irish using the three leaves of the shamrock.

7 The pot of gold and _____ are also associated with St Patrick's Day. The leprechaun is a small Irish fairy. He is dressed like a shoemaker, with pointed shoes and a hat. Leprechauns are unfriendly little men who live alone in the forest, guarding their pots of gold. If someone catches a leprechaun, he will be forced to tell them where he hides all his pots of gold.



Become Irish for St Patrick's Day! Match the Irish phrases to their English translations and speak Gaelic.

EVERYDAY GAELIC

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1 Good day! | <input type="checkbox"/> | Nil. (neel) |
| 2 What is your name? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cad is ainm duit? (cahd iss anim ditch) |
| 3 How are you? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ba mhaith liom. (bah hwah lyum) |
| 4 I'm well. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Nil mé go maith. (neel may go mah) |
| 5 I'm not good. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Táim go maith. (tah-im go mah) |
| 6 Yes. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dia duit! (djiah gwich) |
| 7 No. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Conas tá; tú? (co-nas tah tu) |

ANSWER KEY: A 1 Gaelic 2 pagans 3 snakes; Druids 4 green 5 parade; corned beef, cabbage 6 shamrock; Holy Trinity 7 leprechauns; C 7, 2, 6, 5, 4, 1, 3