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St. Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick's Day honors the patron saint of Ireland. Although he was not the first Christian missionary to Ireland, Patrick was chiefly responsible for converting the Irish to Christianity. Use this webquest to learn more about this saint, the holiday that bears his name, and Ireland.

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Find It!

Find the answers to the questions below by using the "Search" tool to search key words. Since this activity is about St. Patrick's Day, you can start by searching the key word "St. Patrick's Day." Write the answers on the lines provided or below the question.

1. When is St. Patrick's Day celebrated each year?
2. Saint Patrick is the patron saint of which country?
3. Saint Patrick was a missionary in the A.D. _____.
4. According to legend, what did Saint Patrick use the shamrock to explain?
5. Where and when was the first St. Patrick's Day celebration held in what is now the United States?

Saint Patrick

Go to the "Saint Patrick" article and answer these questions about the patron saint of Ireland.

6. What happened to Patrick when he was 16 years old?
7. What happened to Patrick after he had been a slave for 6 years?



8. What happened in 431 that affected Patrick's life?
9. Patrick is considered to have established more than _____ churches in Ireland and baptized more than _____ people.
10. What did Patrick do about 450?
11. According to legend, Patrick drove the _____ out of Ireland.
12. Why is the date March 17 significant to Saint Patrick?
13. Because of Saint Patrick, what is the traditional symbol of Ireland?

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Ireland

Go to the "Ireland" article and answer these questions about the country where Saint Patrick served for decades as a missionary.

14. What is Ireland's capital and largest city?
15. What happened in Ireland in the 1840's that caused the deaths of about 1 million people?
16. What are Ireland's two official languages?
17. Why is Ireland called the *Emerald Isle*?
18. What is Ireland's longest river? How long is it?
19. Which country ruled Ireland for centuries before Ireland gained its independence in the 1920's?
20. Find the image "Ireland flag and coat of arms." What do the 3 vertical stripes represent?
 - a. Green _____
 - b. Orange _____
 - c. White _____

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Find It!

Learn more about Ireland by answering these questions.

21. What is the Blarney Stone? According to folklore, what happens to anyone who kisses the stone?
(Hint: For this question see the “Blarney Stone” article.)
22. What is hurling? (Hint: For this question see the “Hurling” article.)
23. What was the Easter Rising? (Hint: For this question see the “Easter Rising” article.)
24. What is the Book of Kells? (Hint: For this question see the “Book of Kells” article.)
25. Who was Finn MacCool? (Hint: For this question see the “Finn MacCool” article.)



Teacher Page

Answers

1. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17 each year.
2. Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland.
3. Saint Patrick was a missionary in the A.D. 400's.
4. According to legend, Saint Patrick used the shamrock to explain the idea of the Trinity to the Irish.
5. The first St. Patrick's Day celebration in what is now the United States was held in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1737.
6. When Patrick was 16 years old, pirates kidnapped him during a raid and sold him as a slave in Ireland.
7. After six years of slavery, Patrick escaped and returned to Britain.
8. In 431, Palladius, the first missionary bishop to Ireland, died. Pope Celestine I then sent Patrick to Ireland.
9. Patrick is considered to have established more than 300 churches in Ireland and baptized more than 120,000 people.
10. In about 450, Patrick wrote the *Confession*, an account of his spiritual development.
11. According to legend, Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland.
12. Saint Patrick died on March 17, 461, and his feast day is March 17.
13. Because of Saint Patrick, the shamrock is the traditional symbol of Ireland.
14. Dublin is Ireland's capital and largest city.
15. In the 1840's, a potato blight (disease) and the starvation and disease that followed caused the deaths of about 1 million people.
16. Ireland's two official languages are Irish and English.
17. Ireland is called the *Emerald Isle* because of its beautiful green countryside.
18. The River Shannon is Ireland's longest river. It runs for 230 miles (370 kilometers).
19. The United Kingdom (formerly known as Great Britain) ruled Ireland for centuries before Ireland gained its independence in the 1920's.
20. a. Green – Ireland's Roman Catholics
b. Orange - Protestants of Ulster
c. White - Unity

21. The Blarney Stone is a block of limestone in Blarney Castle, near Cork, Ireland. According to folklore, anyone who kisses the stone receives the gift of flattering, convincing speech.
22. Hurling, a team game for men similar to field hockey, is one of Ireland's most popular sports.
23. The Easter Rising was a 1916 rebellion in which Irish rebels fought against British rule.
24. The Book of Kells is an illuminated manuscript of the four Gospels and related material in Latin.
25. Finn MacCool was a legendary Irish hero. He was the leader of a band of warriors who appear in ancient Irish tales.