

ST. PATRICK'S DAY



17TH MARCH

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Saint Patrick's Day is a popular holiday celebrated on March 17. The holiday honors Saint Patrick, the man who brought Christianity to Ireland. Saint Patrick's Day is a national holiday in Ireland. Yet people in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and other countries enjoy the holiday, too.

Saint Patrick was born in Britain in the late 300s or early 400s. Pirates captured him when he was 16. They sold him as a slave in Ireland, where he worked as a shepherd for six years. He then escaped and returned home.

After years of religious training, Patrick went back to Ireland. There he converted many people to Christianity. The year of his death is unknown.

There are several legends about Saint Patrick. One legend says that he drove away all the snakes in Ireland. Another legend says that he used the three parts of a shamrock leaf to explain the idea of the Trinity. The Trinity refers to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the Christian religion.

Many people celebrate Saint Patrick's Day with the "wearing of the green." That means that they wear green clothing or shamrocks (three-leafed clovers). Green and shamrocks are symbols of Ireland. Some people eat certain foods, including corned beef and cabbage.

Many cities with large Irish populations have huge public celebrations. Boston held its first Saint Patrick's Day celebration in 1737. In the 1760s New York City began the tradition of holding a parade for the occasion. Chicago dyes its river green for Saint Patrick's Day.

Say True or False

1. The holiday honors the man who brought Christianity to Iceland.
2. Patrick has never worked in Ireland.
3. St. Patrick's Day is a religious holiday.
4. Shamrock is a metaphor for the Christian Holy Trinity.
5. This holiday is celebrated all over the world.
6. It is celebrated on the 17th March.
7. People wear different colours to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.
8. St. Patrick was a leprechaun.
9. He worked as a priest for six years.
10. Some people eat certain foods on that holiday.

