

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!





St. Patrick

- St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and National apostle of Ireland
- Born in Great Britain in 387 A.D.
- The name his parents gave him was Succat
- At age 16 he was captured by Irish raiders and made a slave for 6 years.
- Patrick was sold to Milchu, a chieftain from Co. Antrim and was forced to herd sheep on Slieve Mis or Slemish Mountain

Did you know?



History of the Holiday



- **St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17: the anniversary of St. Patrick's death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for thousands of years.**
- **St. Patrick's Day falls during the Christian season of Lent and Irish families traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon.**
- **The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland, but in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762.**

Celebrations

St Patrick's Day is a bank holiday in Ireland where everyone gets a day off work and there is no school!

- Huge parades are held across Ireland
- People wear the color green and often wear shamrocks too!



St. Patrick's Day Symbols

- Belief in leprechauns stems from Celtic belief in fairies, tiny men and women who could use their magical powers to serve good or evil.
- The cheerful, friendly leprechaun is a purely American invention, but has become an easily recognizable symbol of both St. Patrick's Day and Ireland in general.
- Legend says that if you follow a Leprechaun he will lead you to a rainbow with a pot of gold!



The Shamrock



- The shamrock was a sacred plant in ancient Ireland because it symbolized the rebirth of spring.
- Legend says that Saint Patrick used a shamrock to teach the Irish people about the Christian Holy Trinity
- Even today in Ireland a four-leaf clover is considered to be very lucky!





For each petal on the shamrock,
this brings a wish your way
Good health, good luck, and happiness
for today and every day.



Happy
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