



St. Patrick's Day

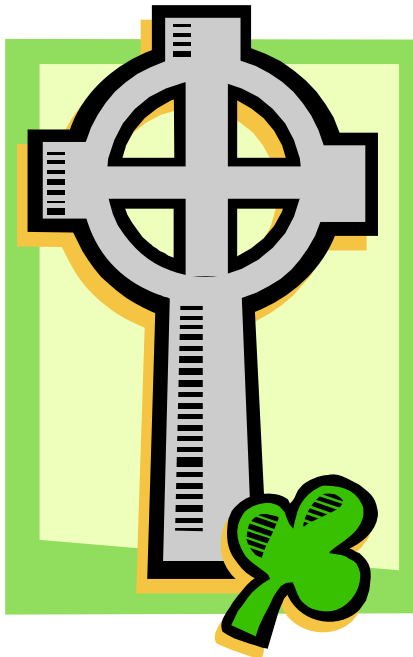
March 17

five in a row holiday



St. Patrick

Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is credited with establishing 300 churches in Ireland and of having converted most of the population to Christianity. Patrick was born in Great Britain to a wealthy Alderman and Christian. At 16 Patrick was kidnapped by pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland. During his captivity as a shepherd, he drew close to God. He managed to escape captivity six years later. Patrick returned to England because he believed it was his responsibility to bring Christianity to the Irish. He studied in the monastery of Le'rins off the southeast coast of France and in Auxerre, France with Saint Germanius, a French bishop. Pope Celestine the First later sent Patrick to Ireland. He finally became an Apostle to the Irish.



The legends about Saint Patrick are what most people associate with St. Patrick's Day. It is said he used the shamrock to explain the concept of the Trinity to the Irish. Showing them the three leafed clover he explained that God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit were three parts of the same divinity. Many people believe this is how shamrocks came to be identified with St. Patrick as well as Ireland, becoming it's national symbol.

Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ within me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me. —Saint Patrick



an Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
And rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again;
may God hold you
in the hollow of His hand.



celtic harp

Indeed, one of the most remarkable ways in which the Emerald Isle distinguishes itself is that, as a tribute to the importance of music in Irish culture, Ireland is the only country in the world with a musical instrument as a national symbol.

Otherwise known as the heraldic harp or Gaelic harp, Celtic harps have been part of the Irish landscape for centuries.

Ever since the 16th century, when King Henry VIII of England made the harp the official symbol of his new land by putting it on Ireland's currency, harps have been beloved symbols of Ireland's national pride.

Irish Potato Famine

The potato came to Ireland from South America in 1600. For the next 200 years the Irish grew potatoes and enjoyed the results: good nutrition plus a minimum of labor, training, and technology to produce more calories per acre than any other crop. Storage was simple and potatoes could be kept for up to 12 months. Some families lived for a year on one acre's worth of potatoes! This eventually proved too good to be true.

The downside to such a good crop was that three million people depended on it as their only source of food. By relying on one single crop, they left themselves open to pests, disease, and poor weather conditions.

In 1845, a fungus caused potatoes to rot in the fields. With no surplus and no income from these crops, there was no money to buy seed to start new crops. There was also no money to pay for the other more expensive crops intended for export. Ireland was producing food, yet the people were too poor to afford the cost.

From 1845 to 1847, potato crops went from two million acres to 300,000 acres. As a result of this blight, half a million people were evicted from their homes, and one and a half million people emigrated to America. Ireland's population dropped from eight million to five million due to famine, disease, and emigration. This new wave of immigration helped to shape the history of the United States and Britain.



potato plants and the potato



Flag of Ireland



shamrock



Ireland Coat of Arms





shamrock

An island in the northern Atlantic ocean west of Great Britain.

Blarney Stone

a stone in Blarney Castle in Ireland said to give the gift of flattery to everyone who kisses it.

Ireland

a British born missionary to the people of Ireland.

St. Patrick

a plant with compound leaves in threes ; a national emblem of Ireland.





Ireland

Places to visit



Killarney National Park (Killarney, Kerry IRELAND)



St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin IRELAND



Blarney Castle [Cork, IRELAND]



Dublin Castle. Dublin IRELAND

BOOKS TO READ:

St. Patrick's Day in the Morning by Eve Bunting

Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland by Tommi dePaola

FOR ADDITIONAL INSPIRATION AND ACTIVITIES SEE
YOUR FIVE IN A ROW HOLIDAY MANUAL.

Knock, knock!

Who's there?

Irish.

Irish who?

Irish you a happy St. Patrick's Day!

S	T	C	O	E	L	N	R	M	E	W
A	T	A	H	A	D	F	R	N	B	I
I	D	A	A	N	K	L	I	M	O	F
N	U	E	R	B	R	I	P	R	A	R
T	B	S	P	A	T	P	S	M	I	O
P	L	N	Y	I	I	H	I	S	I	R
A	I	R	E	L	A	N	D	I	I	A
T	N	G	N	M	E	L	B	R	H	M
R	G	I	R	O	T	A	T	O	P	O
I	T	O	A	E	N	H	N	A	W	A
C	C	H	L	L	E	E	I	E	D	I
K	H	H	B	D	I	N	O	A	T	B

SHAMROCK
IRELAND
SAINT PATRICK
DUBLIN
GOLD
RAINBOW
HARP
POTATO
FAMINE
KISS
BLARNEY
GREEN

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