

# THE STORY OF SAINT PATRICK:

A



Read the text and explain the underlined vocabulary to your partner:

Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. He was born in Roman Britain, kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He later escaped, but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people, using the shamrock, which is now Ireland's national flower, to explain the Holy Trinity to the pagans.

Saint Patrick is most well-known for driving the snakes from Ireland although the island was separated from the rest of Europe at the end of the Ice Age so nobody knows for sure how true this is...

The snakes may have been symbolic. As in many old pagan religions, serpent symbols were common and often worshipped. Driving the snakes from Ireland was probably symbolic of Ireland's end to pagan practice.

In the centuries following Patrick's death (believed to have been on March 17, 461), the mythology surrounding his life became ever more deep-rooted in Irish culture.

Today, many Catholic places of worship all around the world are named after St. Patrick, including cathedrals in Ne



## ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN DUBLIN

Read the text and explain the underlined vocabulary to your partner:

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Saint Patrick's Day is associated with everything Irish: anything green and gold, shamrocks and luck. With the exception of restaurants and pubs, almost all businesses close on March 17th. Being a religious holiday as well, many Irish attend mass, where March 17th is the traditional day for offering prayers for missionaries worldwide before the serious celebrating begins.

Dublin stages the biggest and most extravagant St. Patrick's Day Parade outside New York. Literally half of Dublin's one million population plus more than a hundred thousand visitors from all over Ireland and abroad line the parade and turn it into Ireland's largest street carnival.

Everyone tends to wear something green, a t-shirt or sweatshirt and watch the parade before having a pint in one of the many pubs lining the route of the parade. Marching bands from Ireland, Europe and the USA take part in the parade. Patrick's Day Parade also features a dozen or more floats and pageants, all extravagantly decorated.



## St. Patrick's Day Quiz

### True/False:

1. Since 2000, the city of Chicago has been dyeing their river green in celebration of St. Patrick's day.
2. Three million pints are drunk on St Patrick's day alone.
3. The New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade is the shortest running parade in the world. (15,000 people take part and 3 million people watch)
4. St Patrick's Day is also a national holiday on the Caribbean island of 'Montserrat' where they hold an entire week of celebrations.
5. Wearing green is compulsory on this day.
6. St Patrick used the shamrock to teach the Irish about Christianity.
7. St Patrick was born on 17<sup>th</sup> March 741AD
8. All pubs close on St Patrick's Day
9. St Patrick was Irish
10. St. Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland. Evidence has proven this.