Discussion Time:

1) What date is St. Patrick’s day?
2) Who is St. Patrick?
3) Why is it celebrated?
4) How is St. Patrick’s day celebrated around the world?
5) Have you ever been to a St. Patrick’s day parade?
6) Would you like to visit Dublin for St. Patrick’s day?

Did you know…?

A long-standing tradition, since 1962, in Chicago in the U.S, is to dye their river green to celebrate St. Patrick’s day.
THE STORY OF SAINT PATRICK:

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 New York and Dublin city.
ST. PATRICK’S DAY IN DUBLIN

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

Saint Patrick’s Day is associated with everything Irish! 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.
True/False Quiz:

1. Since 2000, the city of Chicago has been dying their river green in celebration of St. Patrick’s day.
2. Three million pints are drunk on St Patrick’s day all over the world.
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 17th 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.
Answers:

Discussion Time:

What date is St. Patrick’s day? (17th March)

Who is St. Patrick? (Patron Saint of Ireland)

Why is it celebrated? (It remembers St Patrick, who ministered Christianity in Ireland during the fifth century)

How is St. Patrick’s day celebrated around the world? (parades of traditional Irish music and dancers in many cities/towns around the world, wearing green coloured clothes. It’s also a religious holiday in Ireland)

A/B Task:

Some students will read text A and some students will read text B.

A = The Story of St Patrick / B = St Patrick’s Day in Dublin

Now, the ‘A’ students are grouped together and the ‘B’ students are together. Explain to the groups that they must now read their text and discuss the unknown vocabulary, explaining any difficult words to each other. Encourage students to work out the meaning of the underlined words/phrases from context instead of giving them the definitions.

When students are happy they understand the underlined vocabulary and the text as a whole, pair an ‘A’ student with a ‘B’ student. Now students paraphrase what they have read to their new partner.
Once both students have paraphrased their texts, encourage students to explain the vocabulary again to their new partners.

**Now, in groups of 3 or 4, ask your students to discuss their countries national day of celebration (if they have one) – if not, ask them to talk about any celebrations, parades, carnivals and what it means to their city/country. Gather feedback and take notes of errors for correction slot later.**

Now, tell students they are going to **read 10 statements** about St Patrick’s Day - they must decide which are true and which are false. If they feel a statement is false, encourage them to give reasons for this, stating their opinion. (you could elicit some phrases for giving your opinion on the whiteboard at this stage.)

Get feedback from the whole class, encouraging students to expand on their opinions about the true/false statements.

**Now play the following video:**

‘10 Fantastic Facts about St Patrick’s Day’

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijs-S4g4eCs

Ask students to watch carefully (without taking any notes this time). Now give students two minutes to discuss the statements with their partners. **Were they correct/incorrect?**

Play the video for a second time but this time, allow students to take notes and afterwards, ask them to compare their notes with their partners. Gather feedback.

In groups, students could now write their own true/false quiz about their chosen national day of celebration for the other groups.
True/False Quiz Answers:

1. Since 2000, the city of Chicago has been dying their river green in celebration of St. Patrick’s day. (False, since 1962)

2. Three million pints are drunk on St Patrick’s day all over the world. (False, on St. Patrick’s day, it’s 13 million)

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) (False, it’s the longest running parade)

4. St Patrick’s Day is also a national holiday on the Caribbean island of ‘Montserrat’ where they hold an entire week of celebrations. (True)

5. Wearing green is compulsory on this day. (False, but many people do)

6. St Patrick used the shamrock to teach the Irish about Christianity. (True)

7. St Patrick was born on 17th March 741AD (False, he died on this date in 461AD)

8. All pubs close on St Patrick’s Day (False)

9. At the time this video was made, there were 3.65 million Americans with Irish roots (True)

10. St. Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland. (True)