

St. Patrick's Day Around The World

- Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland.
- This means he is the protector of Ireland.
- St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on 17th March.
- It is an Irish holiday, but is now celebrated around the world.



The shamrock is the symbol of Ireland and Saint Patrick's Day. Its name comes from the Irish Gaelic word 'seamrog'.

Who Was Saint Patrick?

- Saint Patrick was born in Wales in AD365.
- When he was only 16, he was kidnapped by pirates.
- He was sold as a slave in Ireland and spent six years working as a shepherd.
- After that, he escaped to Western Europe.
- He became a deacon for the church, then a priest and eventually a bishop.
- When he went back to Ireland, he taught people about Christianity and Ireland became a Christian country.

How Is St. Patrick's Day Celebrated in Ireland?

- St. Patrick's Day is a national holiday in Ireland.
- Most places are closed for the day.
- It is a Christian festival, like Christmas and Easter.
- Most Irish people begin the day by going to church.
- After this, they usually go to their local town or village for the St. Patrick's Day parade.
- The parades have lots of singers, dancers and other types of entertainment.

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- There is a lot of green and sometimes people dress as leprechauns (an Irish fairy from old folk tales).

How Is St. Patrick's Day Celebrated in the UK?

- Birmingham has the largest parade in the UK (the third largest in the world).
- Manchester has a large Irish community. There is a two-week Irish festival before St. Patrick's Day. There is an Irish Market outside the town hall and a large parade through the city centre on St. Patrick's Day.

How Is St. Patrick's Day Celebrated in Europe?

Several countries in Europe celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

- **Brussels, Belgium:** A parade takes place in an area of the city called the Irish Village.
- **Oslo, Norway:** There is a lively parade through the city. There is a pipe band and lots of traditional Irish music and dancing.
- **Copenhagen, Denmark:** In 2001, the first St. Patrick's Day three-legged charity race took place. All the money raised is given to a different charity every year.

What About the Southern Hemisphere?

- **Buenos Aires, South America:** This is the largest St. Patrick's Day celebration in South America.
- **Sydney, Australia:** St. Patrick's Day is also called Family Day. There is a large parade and lots of local and international singers and dancers perform.
- **Auckland, New Zealand:** There is a parade and carnival. There are lots of food stalls, a Gaelic football match and many parties.

Interesting Facts

- New York City has the largest St. Patrick's Day parade in the world.
- In Chicago, USA, the Chicago River is dyed green.
- Over 100 million people celebrate St. Patrick's Day every year.
- In Ireland, there are about 60 churches and cathedrals named after Saint Patrick.

Questions

1. When is St. Patrick's Day celebrated?
2. What does the Irish Gaelic word 'seamrog' mean?
3. In which city is there a two-week Irish festival before St. Patrick's Day? Why do you think they have this festival?
4. Which countries from the Southern Hemisphere celebrate St. Patrick's Day and what do they do?
5. Where in the world is the river dyed green as part of St. Patrick's Day celebrations?

Questions

6. How long was Saint Patrick kept as a slave in Ireland?

7. What does the word 'traditional' mean?

Challenge:

Imagine you are planning a St. Patrick's Day celebration. What would be part of your celebration and why?