

A Teaching House St. Patrick's Day – Teacher's notes

St. Patrick's Day	Intermediate/ upper-intermediate
Learners will develop reading skills and review/expand their knowledge of St. Patrick's Day related vocabulary.	Learners will also develop their speaking fluency through summarizing an article verbally and making a spoken presentation.
<u>Note to the teacher:</u> This reading text has 10 facts about St. Patrick's Day and infographics for the students to use to design a better celebration.	

1) Pre-reading:

Ss discuss these questions, which are on their worksheet

- What national holidays are holiday in your country?
- Is it celebrated anywhere else in the world?
- Do you / people in your country celebrate St. Patrick's Day?
- If yes, how do people celebrate it?
- Are there any similarities or differences between how people in your country celebrate St. Patrick's Day from the way that people in the USA celebrate St. Patrick's Day? If so, what are they?

2) Pre Reading : (OPTIONAL)

Have learners brainstorm words they know that are connected with Ireland. If your class is small

enough / your board is big enough you could play "pass the pen" for this. Students line up in two teams facing the board. The person at the front writes a St. Patrick's Day/ Ireland-related word then passes the pen/chalk to the next team member in line and then moves to the back of the line. This continues for around 2-3 minutes. The team with the most correct words wins.

3) Information Gap Reading:

Teacher puts splits the class into As and Bs and hands out appropriate worksheet. Ss quickly read the text and formulate the questions they need to ask to complete the text. Regroup the students so As and Bs are sitting next to each other and ask and answer each other's questions.

Once they have completed the text, compare both worksheets to see if they match. facts in "A Teaching House St. Patrick's Day: Reading Worksheet B" and ask As for the missing information.

4) Detailed reading task

Sts decide whether the following aspects of St. Patrick's Day are true or false .

- The actual color of St. Patrick is green. (False, it is blue)
- The very first St. Patrick's Day parade was in Ireland in 1737. (False it was in Boston in 1737)
- The phrase, "Drowning The Shamrock" is from the custom of floating the shamrock on the top of whiskey before
- drinking it. The Irish believe that if you keep the custom, then you will have a prosperous year. (True)
- Many bars in the United States, and abroad, serve green beer to celebrate. (True)
- The tradition of drinking on St. Patrick's Day is a new aspect to the holiday. (True)
- More than triple the amount of Guinness is consumed on St. Patrick's Day (False)

5) Speaking and presenting:

Put the students into groups of three. Give students the info graphics about St. Patrick's Day.

Ss should now work together with their group and discuss the positive and negative aspects of the St. Patrick's Day tradition. It could be about:

- Alcohol consumption
- Dying things green
- Crowds
- A traditional event
- Something else that you choose

They should prepare to give a short presentation to the class on how to improve the celebration in their city. They should include:

- what the new tradition is
- why it is a good idea
- how it will make St. Patrick's Day better

Sts then regroup and present their ideas to each other. The new groups then choose the best ideas and make the "Perfect St. Patrick's Day Celebration"

A St. Patrick's Day Lesson from Teaching House

- What national holidays are holidays in your country?
- Is it celebrated anywhere else in the world?
- Do you/ people in your country celebrate St. Patrick's Day?
- If yes, how do people celebrate?
- Are there any similarities or differences between how people in your country celebrate St. Patrick's Day from the way that people in the USA celebrate St. Patrick's Day? If so, what are they?

10 Facts about St. Patrick's Day Worksheet (Original Copy)

1. St. Patrick wasn't Irish, and he wasn't born in Ireland. He was born in 385 AD in either Scotland or Wales.
2. At the age of 16, Patrick had the misfortune of being kidnapped by Irish raiders who took him away and sold him as a slave. He spent several years in Ireland herding sheep and learning about the people there. At the age of 22, he managed to escape.
3. Legend says St. Patrick drove all the snakes from Ireland. In reality, this probably did not occur, as there is no evidence that they have ever existed in Ireland, the climate being too cool for them to thrive. Despite that, scholars suggest that the term may be figurative and refer to pagan religious beliefs and practices rather than reptiles or amphibians.
4. The original colour associated with St. Patrick is blue, not green as commonly believed.
5. The Shamrock is the symbol of Ireland but it is not the symbol of St. Patrick. As early as the mediaeval period, the harp has appeared on Irish gravestones and manuscripts.
6. St. Patrick's was a dry holiday in Ireland until 1970. The activity most associated with St. Patrick's Day is drinking. However, Irish law, from 1903 to 1970, declared St. Patrick's Day a religious observance for the entire country meaning that all pubs were shut down for the day. That meant no beer, not even the green kind, for public celebrants. The law was overturned in 1970, when St. Patrick's was reclassified as a national holiday - allowing the taps to flow freely once again.

7. St Patrick was said to have proclaimed that everyone should have a drop of the “hard stuff” on his feast day after chastising an innkeeper who served a short measure of whiskey. In the custom known as “drowning the shamrock”, the shamrock that has been worn on a lapel or hat is put in the drink of the evening.

8. It's a stereotype: Beer and Ireland go together. But on St. Patrick's Day consumption of Guinness worldwide more than doubles, a spokesman for the famous Irish beer told National Geographic, from 5.5 million pints a day to about 13 million. 1% of the annual consumption of beer is drunk on St. Patrick's Day.

9. St. Patrick's Day was first publicly celebrated in Boston in 1737 where a large population of Irish immigrants resided. Nearly 200 years later, the first St. Patrick's Day parade in the Irish Free State was held in Dublin in 1931. During the mid 90's, the Irish government also began a campaign to promote tourism in Ireland on March 17th.

10. Over 94 million people plan to wear green on St. Patrick's Day. Often, the day's name is shortened to Paddy's Day which comes from the Irish word for Patricks, Padraig.

a) The actual colour of St. Patrick's is green. (False, it is blue)

b) The very first St. Patrick's Day parade was in Ireland in 1737. (False it was in Boston in 1737)

c) The phrase, “Drowning The Shamrock” is from the custom of floating the shamrock on the top of whiskey before drinking it. The Irish believe that if you keep the custom, then you will have a prosperous year. (True)

d) Many bars in the United States, and abroad, serve green beer to celebrate. (True)

e) The tradition of drinking on St. Patrick's Day is a new aspect to the holiday. (True)

f) More than triple the amount of Guinness is consumed on St. Patrick's Day. (False)