

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?

STUDENT B

10 Facts about St. Patrick's Day Worksheet

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 _____, 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 _____ and learning about the people there. At the age of 22, he managed to escape.

3. Legend says St. Patrick drove all the _____ 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 _____ 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 _____ has appeared on Irish gravestones and manuscripts.

6. St. Patrick's was a _____ 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.

Worksheet B

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 _____. 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 _____. 1% of the annual consumption of _____ 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 _____ 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.

Write the questions to help you fill in the gaps

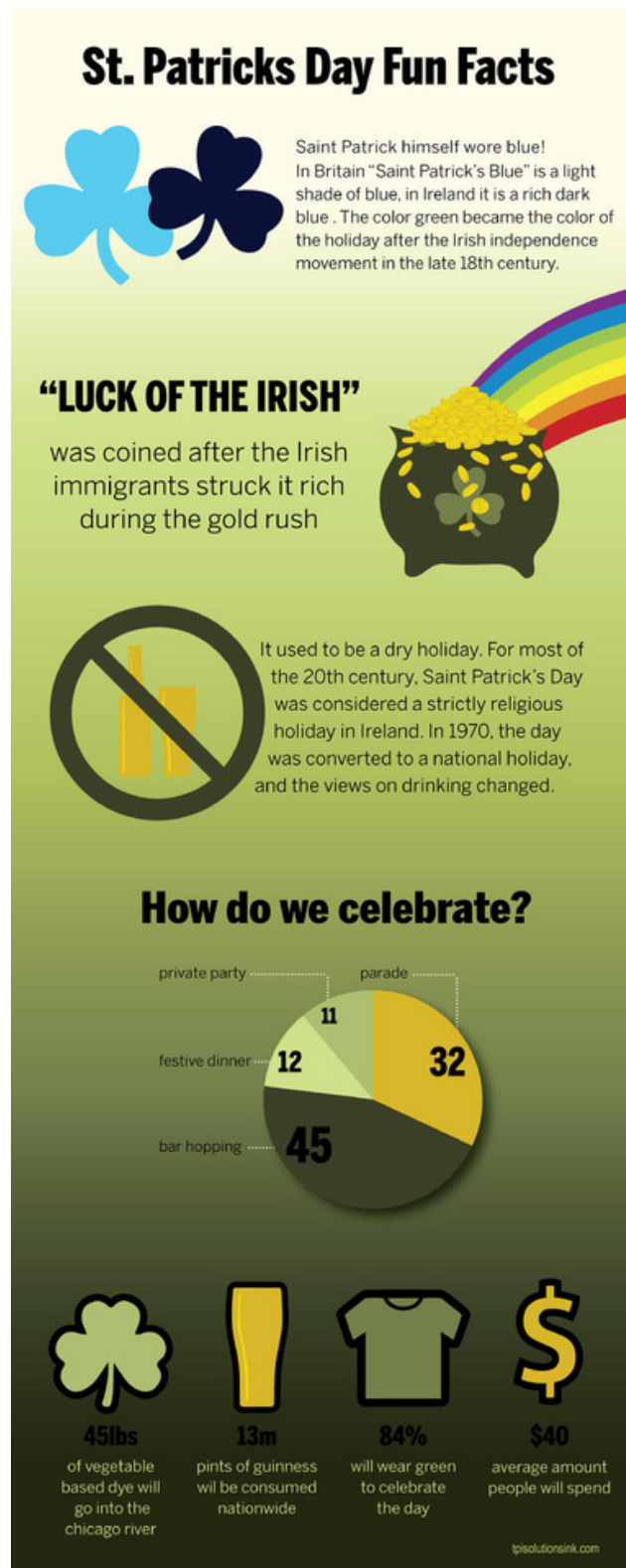
E.g. 2a) How old was Patrick when he was kidnapped?

- 2b) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8a) _____
- 8b) _____
- 9) _____
- 10) _____

True or False?

- a) The actual colour of St. Patrick's is green.
- b) The very first St. Patrick's Day parade was in Ireland 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.
- d) Many bars in the United States, and abroad, serve green beer to celebrate.
- e) The tradition of drinking on St. Patrick's Day is a new aspect to the holiday.
- f) More than triple the amount of Guinness is consumed on St. Patrick's Day.

Look at the infographic on the next page and discuss the positive and negative aspects of the St. Patrick's Day tradition.



Speaking

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

- What the new tradition is
- Why it is a good idea
- How it will make St. Patrick's Day better