

A Special Day for the Emerald Isle

Complete the questions at the bottom of the page. Then ask your partner the questions and complete the text.

On March 17th, Irish people all over the world celebrate 1) _____ . Although this day is a religious and national holiday for the patron saint of Ireland, it has become a popular festival for many more people than the Irish alone. It is said that everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day, and 3) _____ turns green on the 17th. This is particularly true in many of the larger cities in the USA; the river in Chicago is dyed green for the day and partygoers enjoy drinking 5) _____ .

Separating fact and fiction in the life of St. Patrick is difficult. He is believed to have been born around 390AD in 7) _____ . When he was 16, he was captured and taken to Ireland to be a slave. During the six years he spent as a slave, he found God and became a committed Christian. After managing to escape from Ireland and captivity, he first travelled to 9) _____ , then further into Europe and probably beyond.

Little is known of exactly where he went during his years of travelling but some years later he returned to Ireland as a bishop, sent by Pope Celestine. From this moment on, he helped to convert many thousands of pagan Irish to Christianity.

Many of the myths and legends surrounding the man have been added to his achievements over the years, giving us the impression that St. Patrick was a latter-day superhero. The truth, as always, is less alluring. It is claimed he chased 11) _____ out of Ireland. However, there have never been snakes in Ireland, so the image of the snake is most probably a substitute for paganism and evil.

He is also famous for having used the 13) _____ , the three-leaved plant and symbol of Ireland, to explain the Holy Trinity (of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in one God) to his followers.

The first of the St. Patrick's Day parades, which are so popular today, took place in 15) _____ in Boston, USA. The St. Patrick's Day parades in Ireland didn't take place until several years later.

- 1) What _____ ?
- 3) What _____ ?
- 5) What _____ ?
- 7) Where _____ ?
- 9) Where _____ ?
- 11) Who or what _____ ?
- 13) What _____ ?
- 15) When _____ ?

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Complete the questions at the bottom of the page. Then ask your partner the questions and complete the text.

On March 17th, Irish people all over the world celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Although this day is a religious and national holiday for 2) _____, it has become a popular festival for many more people than the Irish alone. It is said that everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day, and the world turns green on the 17th. This is particularly true in many of the larger cities in the USA; the river in 4) _____ is dyed green for the day and partygoers enjoy drinking green beer.

Separating fact and fiction in the life of St. Patrick is difficult. He is believed to have been born 6) _____ in Wales. When he was 16, he was captured and taken to 8) _____ to be a slave. During the six years he spent as a slave, he found God and became a committed Christian. After managing to escape from Ireland and captivity, he first travelled to France, then further into Europe and probably beyond.

Little is known of exactly where he went during his years of travelling but some years later he returned to Ireland as a bishop, sent by 10) _____. From this moment on, he helped to convert many thousands of pagan Irish to Christianity.

Many of the myths and legends surrounding the man have been added to his achievements over the years, giving us the impression that St. Patrick was a latter-day superhero. The truth, as always, is less alluring. It is claimed he chased all the snakes out of Ireland. However, there have never been snakes in Ireland, so the image of the snake is most probably a substitute for 12) _____.

He is also famous for having used the shamrock, the three-leaved plant and symbol of Ireland, to explain the Holy Trinity (of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in one God) to 14) _____.

The first of the St. Patrick's Day parades, which are so popular today, took place in 1737 in 16) _____. The St. Patrick's Day parades in Ireland didn't take place until several years later.

- 2) Who _____ ?
- 4) Where _____ ?
- 6) When _____ ?
- 8) Where _____ ?
- 10) Who _____ ?
- 12) What _____ ?
- 14) Who _____ ?
- 16) Where _____ ?