

Ireland and St Patrick's Day



- Ireland is the third largest island in Europe, and the twentieth largest island in the world.
- The Irish flag is green, white, orange.
- The capital of Ireland is Dublin.
- The official name of the Republic of Ireland is Eire.
- The poetic name of Ireland in English is Erin.
- The Irish Free State (= Ireland) was created in 1922.
- Ireland is also known as the Emerald Island.
- The Potato Famine in the 1840s forced many Irish people to immigrate to the United States.

NOTE: Northern Ireland is NOT part of the Republic of Ireland. It is part of the United Kingdom. The other name of Northern Ireland is Ulster. The capital of Northern Ireland is Belfast.



- The patron saint of Ireland is St Patrick.
- St Patrick's Day is celebrated on the 17th of March, the day St Patrick died.
- St Patrick was born in Britain. When he was a boy, he was kidnapped by pirates and sold as a slave in Ireland.
- St Patrick's mission was to convert the Irish to Christianity. His mission lasted over 20 years in Ireland.
- The Celtic druids did not like St Patrick.
- There are no snakes in Ireland because St Patrick drove all the snakes into the sea where they drowned. (It is a legend!)
- On St Patrick's Day, you have to wear green clothes. If you don't wear green on St Patrick's Day, children pinch you! On St Patrick's Day, people eat corned beef and cabbage. They drink Guinness, they dance, they sing, etc.



- To explain the Trinity (= The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit), St Patrick used a shamrock.
- If someone finds a four-leaved clover, he/she is said to be lucky.



- A leprechaun is a little Irish fairy.
- A leprechaun is a shoemaker.
- A leprechaun hides a pot of gold.
- Leprechauns do not like being with people (they are unfriendly and they live alone).
- In order to find a leprechaun, you have to listen to the sound of his hammer.
- If you stop looking at a leprechaun, he disappears.



- People kiss the Blarney Stone in order to have the gift of eloquence (= to be able to speak very well) and persuasiveness.