

Saint Patrick's Day



What? Saint Patrick's Day is a cultural celebration of the patron saint of Ireland: Saint Patrick.

When? It is celebrated every year on or around the 17th of March

Where? St. Patrick's Day is a **global** festival, which is celebrated by Irish communities all over the world. It is a **public holiday** in Ireland and Northern Ireland, but it is also celebrated in big cities in the United States, due to the large amount of Irish immigrants living in the U.S.

Why do we celebrate St. Patrick's Day?

According to folklore, St. Patrick was kidnapped and brought to Ireland at 16, but he escaped and was reunited with his family in Britain at the encouragement of a voice he heard in his dreams, which later told him to go to Ireland. St. Patrick became a priest and then spent the rest of his life converting the Irish to Christianity.

What do people do on St. Patrick's Day?

St. Patrick's Day started out as a religious feast day, where people would go to church and have a big dinner together, to celebrate the patron saint of Ireland. Nowadays, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated with parades, parties and lots of fun events in cities. The oldest St. Patrick's Day parade (1917) is in County Wexford, in Ireland.

Fun Facts!

- Everyone wears green!
- Around 13 million pints of Guinness are consumed on St. Patrick's Day!
- The most common St. Patrick's Day symbol is the **shamrock** - the leaf of the clover plant
- As part of a more than fifty-year-old Chicago tradition, the Chicago River is dyed green in observance of St. Patrick's Day.

Interview:

- 1) Have you ever celebrated St. Patrick's Day? If yes, when and where? If no, would you like to?
- 2) What do you think about St. Patrick's Day?
- 3) Do you have a similar holiday like this in France?
- 4) What is your national holiday and how do you celebrate it?