

# St. Patrick's Day



# Who was St. Patrick?

- **St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland**
- **He was born in Scotland in 385 A.D**
- **He died on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 460 A.D**





# Who was St. Patrick?

- **At the age of sixteen, Patrick was captured and taken to Ireland to work as a slave.**
- **He spent six years tending sheep. He was a shepherd.**
- **One day Patrick escaped. He claimed God had spoken to him in a dream, telling him to leave Ireland**





# Who was St. Patrick?

- **Patrick began training to be a Priest.**
- **This lasted for fifteen years!**
- **When he finally became a Priest, he was sent to Ireland to bring the Christian message to the Irish people.**
- **Patrick understood the Irish language and culture.**
- **He taught Christianity using Irish symbols.**
- **For example he put the sun, a powerful Irish symbol, with the Christian cross to create what we now call the Celtic Cross**



- **So, Saint Patrick is famous for bringing Christianity to Ireland**
- **But legend has it that he also chased all of the snakes from Ireland**





# History of the Holiday

- **St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17: the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for thousands of years.**
- **On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon.**
- **The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland, but in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762.**



# History of the Holiday

- **Today, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated by people of all backgrounds in the United States, Canada, and Australia. It has been celebrated in other locations far from Ireland, including Japan, Singapore, and Russia.**
- **In modern-day Ireland, St. Patrick's Day has traditionally been a religious occasion. In fact, up until the 1970s, Irish laws said that pubs had to be closed on March 17.**
- **Beginning in 1995, however, the Irish government began a national campaign to use St. Patrick's Day as an opportunity to drive tourism and showcase Ireland to the rest of the world. Last year, almost one million people took part in Ireland's St. Patrick's Festival in Dublin, a multi-day celebration featuring parades, concerts, outdoor theater productions, and fireworks shows.**





# The Celebrations

- **St Patrick's Day is a bank holiday in Ireland which means that everyone gets a day off work and there is no school!**
- **To celebrate there are huge parades across Ireland**
- **People wear the colour green and often wear shamrocks too!**





# St Patrick's Day symbols



- **Belief in leprechauns probably stems from Celtic belief in fairies, tiny men and women who could use their magical powers to serve good or evil.**
- **This cheerful, friendly leprechaun is a purely American invention, but has quickly evolved into an easily recognizable symbol of both St. Patrick's Day and Ireland in general.**
- **Legend says that if you follow a Leprechaun you will find a rainbow with a pot of gold!**



# The Shamrock

- **The shamrock was a sacred plant in ancient Ireland because it symbolized the rebirth of spring.**
- **Legend says that Saint Patrick used a shamrock to teach the Irish people about the Christian Holy Trinity**
- **Even today in Ireland a four-leaf clover is considered to be very lucky!**





**Happy Saint  
Patrick's  
Day!**