

Discussion Questions – St. Patrick’s Day, 2nd Edition

For Segment One

1. What is the name of Sarah Murray’s dance troupe? (Trinity Dancers)
2. Who helps Sarah practice? (Her father and brother)
3. Why is she practicing? (To prepare for St. Patrick’s Day celebrations)

For Segment Two

1. Where was St. Patrick born? (England)
2. How long ago did he live? (About 1,600 years ago)
3. What happened to St. Patrick when he was 14? (Fierce warriors took him to Eire.)
4. What did St. Patrick do as a young man in Eire? (He was a shepherd.)
5. Where did St. Patrick sleep as a shepherd? (In the open)
6. What did the voice say to St. Patrick when he was sleeping? (“Thy ship is waiting for thee.”)
7. What did Patrick find when he returned to Europe? (Destroyed villages and burned crops)
8. Where did Patrick study when he was in Europe? (A monastery)
9. What did the voice say to Patrick when he was studying? (“Come, walk among us again.”)
10. What did Patrick think the voice was saying to him? (He thought God was calling him back to Eire.)
11. What happened to Patrick when he first returned to Eire? (People threw stones at him, jailed him.)

12. What was Patrick’s plan? (He combined old Irish religious customs with Christianity, taught leaders first, built a church before moving on.)

For Segment Three

1. What do the Murrays make for their big St. Patrick’s Day breakfast? (Scones, Irish brown bread, sausages, rashers, white pudding sausage)
2. What is pictured on the Murray’s placemats? (Irish castles and scenery)
3. What do the Murrays set out on St. Patrick’s Day, besides special placemats? (Irish crystal, pottery)
4. What is a Celtic knot? (An ancient Irish symbol)
5. Who were the Celts? (A group of people who lived in Europe long ago)
6. Who are the Meehans? (The Murrays’ friends)
7. Besides having a big breakfast, what other things do the Murrays do to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day? (Recall trips to Ireland by looking at pictures, sing Irish folk songs)

For Segment Four

1. What do people at heritage centers do on the holiday? (Listen to music, play games, eat Irish food, watch folk dancing, learn about Irish crafts)
2. What is a shillelagh? (A stick once used as a club in battle)
3. What are leprechauns? (Mischievous make-believe creatures)
4. What Irish symbol did St. Patrick use to teach Christianity? (Shamrock)

Name _____

Shamus O'Daley & His Magic Shillelagh

Directions: Read the story below the picture.



Shamus uses mushrooms as trampolines.

Shamus O'Daley is one of the wee folk. He lives in a wee village in a wee glen (a narrow valley far from any town) in Ireland. Shamus learned magical tricks from his grandfather. One of his favorite tricks is bouncing off mushrooms. Shamus can bounce so high and so far, he can bounce all the way to North America. When he performs this trick, he always carries a magical, invisible shillelagh and some green glitter. Being a typical leprechaun, he's very mischievous. When he lands near a school, he runs into a room, waves his magical shillelagh and all the chairs immediately turn over! He also leaves behind some green glitter to make certain everyone knows he was responsible for the disorder. Did Shamus visit your classroom today?

Name _____

St. Patrick's Day Maze

Directions: Draw a line from the left side of the maze to the right, to the pot of gold. Once you enter the maze, you cannot go outside at the edges until you reach the pot of gold. You cannot exit to the pot where there is a square dot. When you finish the maze, read about leprechauns and pots of gold, below.



According to Irish legend, leprechauns are about two feet tall and have two jobs. The first is shoemaker or cobbler. The second is banker. Leprechauns keep their money in a pot of gold. If you catch a leprechaun, he must take you to the pot of gold, which is found at the end of a rainbow. Then he must give you all the gold. But leprechauns are very clever, and if one of them promises to lead you to the end of the rainbow, you must always pay very close attention to him as he does so. That's because leprechauns can disappear very quickly, in the blink of an eye.

Name _____

St. Patrick's Day Word Search

Directions: There are seven words in the shamrock. Find them in the word search box. Draw a circle around the words you find, or underline them.

