

English

Grade 4

St. Patrick's Day reading comprehension: the story of the shamrock

Learn where St. Patrick's Day came from and how it is celebrated in the United States.



I can use context to figure out the meaning of new words in a text.



1



Why the shamrock?



St. Patrick's Day is on March 17. It remembers Patrick, a man who lived about 1,600 years ago. Patrick was born in Britain. As a teenager, he was captured and taken to Ireland, where he worked as a shepherd for six years before he escaped.

Years later, Patrick returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary. Over time, he became Ireland's patron saint, a saint who is thought to watch over a place. March 17 is believed to be the day he died.

A popular legend says Patrick used the shamrock, a small plant with three leaves, to teach about his faith. Today the shamrock is a symbol of Ireland.

Many Irish immigrants came to the United States, and they brought their traditions with them. Some of the earliest St. Patrick's Day parades took place in American cities in the 1700s. Today, people of many backgrounds wear green, watch parades and enjoy Irish music and dancing.

2



Vocabulary

Draw a line from each word to its meaning.

☐

legend

☐

symbol

☐

immigrant

☐

tradition

☐

patron saint



A.

A person who moves to a new country to live.



B.

A custom passed down over many years.



C.

A saint who is thought to watch over a place.



D.

An old story that may not be completely true.



E.

Something that stands for an idea or a place.

3



Check your reading

Circle the best answer.

1. Where was Patrick born?

A Ireland

B Britain

C the United States

2. Why is the shamrock connected to St. Patrick's Day?

A A legend says Patrick used it to teach.

B It only grows on March 17.

C It was Patrick's favorite food.

3. How did St. Patrick's Day traditions come to the United States?

A Irish immigrants brought them.

B They started in Canada.

C A king sent them.

4 True or false

Circle the right answer.

1. St. Patrick's Day is on March 17.

True

False

2. A shamrock has five leaves.

True

False

3. Patrick worked as a shepherd in Ireland.

True

False

4. Only people from Ireland celebrate the day today.

True

False

5 Key details

Use the text to fill in each blank.

1. Patrick lived about _____ years ago.

2. He worked as a _____ in Ireland for _____ years.

3. A shamrock is a small plant with _____ leaves.

4. Some of the earliest St. Patrick's Day parades took place in American cities in the _____.

5. Today the shamrock is a symbol of _____.

6 Patrick's life

Write 1 to 4 in the boxes.

☐ Patrick is captured and taken to Ireland.

☐ Patrick is born in Britain.

☐

Patrick returns to Ireland as a missionary.

☐

Patrick escapes after six years.

7



Fact or opinion?

Write each sentence in the right column.

St. Patrick's Day is on March 17.

Green is the best color.

A shamrock has three leaves.

Parades are the most fun part of the holiday.

Patrick was born in Britain.

Irish music is nicer than any other music.

Fact

Opinion

8



Read closely

Circle the best answer.

1. How is most of the text organized?

A As a list of questions

B In time order

C As a poem

2. Why does the author call the shamrock story a 'legend'?

A It is a law.

B It is a song.

C It may not be completely true.

3. Patrick lived about 1,600 years ago. The first American parades were in the 1700s. Which came first?

A Patrick's life

B The American parades

C They happened at the same time.

4. What is paragraph 4 mostly about?

A How St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in the United States

B How to grow a shamrock

C Patrick's life as a shepherd

9



Use the context

Reread paragraph 2. Explain how the text helps you know what 'patron saint' means.

How did it go?



Made with **GradeAid**

English

Grade 4

Answer key

St. Patrick's Day reading comprehension: the story of the shamrock

Learn where St. Patrick's Day came from and how it is celebrated in the United States.



I can use context to figure out the meaning of new words in a text.

1



Why the shamrock?



St. Patrick's Day is on March 17. It remembers Patrick, a man who lived about 1,600 years ago. Patrick was born in Britain. As a teenager, he was captured and taken to Ireland, where he worked as a shepherd for six years before he escaped.

Years later, Patrick returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary. Over time, he became Ireland's patron saint, a saint who is thought to watch over a place. March 17 is believed to be the day he died.

A popular legend says Patrick used the shamrock, a small plant with three leaves, to teach about his faith. Today the shamrock is a symbol of Ireland.

Many Irish immigrants came to the United States, and they brought their traditions with them. Some of the earliest St. Patrick's Day parades took place in American cities in the 1700s. Today, people of many backgrounds wear green, watch parades and enjoy Irish music and dancing.

2



Vocabulary

Draw a line from each word to its meaning.

D legend



E symbol



A immigrant



B tradition



C patron saint



● **A.** A person who moves to a new country to live.

● **B.** A custom passed down over many years.

● **C.** A saint who is thought to watch over a place.

● **D.** An old story that may not be completely true.

● **E.** Something that stands for an idea or a place.

3



Check your reading

Circle the best answer.

1. Where was Patrick born?

A Ireland

B Britain

C the United States

2. Why is the shamrock connected to St. Patrick's Day?

A A legend says Patrick used it to teach.

B It only grows on March 17.

C It was Patrick's favorite food.

3. How did St. Patrick's Day traditions come to the United States?

A Irish immigrants brought them.

B They started in Canada.

C A king sent them.

4 True or false

Circle the right answer.

1. St. Patrick's Day is on March 17.

True

False

2. A shamrock has five leaves.

True

False

3. Patrick worked as a shepherd in Ireland.

True

False

4. Only people from Ireland celebrate the day today.

True

False

5 Key details

Use the text to fill in each blank.

1. Patrick lived about 1,600 years ago.

2. He worked as a shepherd in Ireland for six years.

3. A shamrock is a small plant with three leaves.

4. Some of the earliest St. Patrick's Day parades took place in American cities in the 1700s.

5. Today the shamrock is a symbol of Ireland.

6 Patrick's life

Write 1 to 4 in the boxes.

2 Patrick is captured and taken to Ireland.

1 Patrick is born in Britain.

4

Patrick returns to Ireland as a missionary.

3

Patrick escapes after six years.

7

**Fact or opinion?**

Write each sentence in the right column.

St. Patrick's Day is on March 17.

Green is the best color.

A shamrock has three leaves.

Parades are the most fun part of the holiday.

Patrick was born in Britain.

Irish music is nicer than any other music.

Fact

St. Patrick's Day is on March 17., A shamrock has three leaves., Patrick was born in Britain.

Opinion

Green is the best color., Parades are the most fun part of the holiday., Irish music is nicer than any other music.

8

**Read closely**

Circle the best answer.

1. How is most of the text organized?

A As a list of questions**B** In time order**C** As a poem

2. Why does the author call the shamrock story a 'legend'?

A It is a law.**B** It is a song.**C** It may not be completely true.

3. Patrick lived about 1,600 years ago. The first American parades were in the 1700s. Which came first?

A Patrick's life**B** The American parades**C** They happened at the same time.

4. What is paragraph 4 mostly about?

A How St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in the United States

B How to grow a shamrock

C Patrick's life as a shepherd

9



Use the context

Reread paragraph 2. Explain how the text helps you know what 'patron saint' means.

Right after the words, the text gives the meaning: a saint who is thought to watch over a place.

How did it go?



Made with **GradeAid**