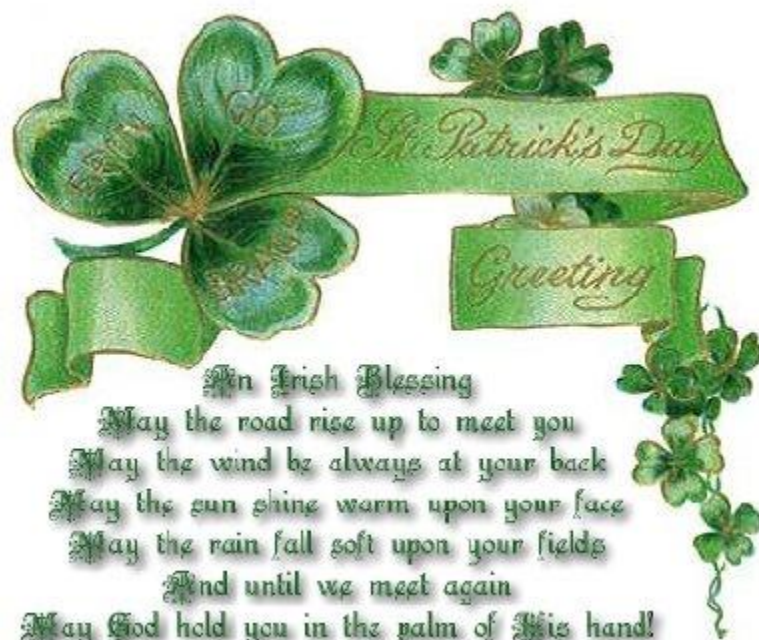


Saint Patrick's Day





An Irish Blessing
May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
May the rain fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of His hand!



- Saint Patrick's Day is an Irish festival, but it is also celebrated in North America each year on March 17th. On this day, many people, even if they are not Irish, wear something green, which is the color of spring and is connected with nature and hope.
- Here in the United States people celebrate it by wearing green, watching parades, and eating corned beef. Everyone can be Irish on Saint Patrick's Day!

Symbols of St. Patrick's Day



When is Saint Patrick's day?



- It is on March 17, every year.
- We celebrate it by wearing green clothes.
- We say "Happy Saint Patrick's Day!"

Who is Saint Patrick?



- Saint Patrick was a missionary who lived in Ireland. He died around March 17, 493.
- When he was 16 years old, Saint Patrick was captured and made a slave.
- He was a slave for six years.

What are these?

- Since the shamrock has three leaves, thousands of years ago St. Patrick (a religious leader) used it to teach the Irish people about the holy Trinity (the three parts of god - father, son, holy spirit). Today many people wear a shamrock design on St. Patrick's Day because it is supposed to bring good luck.



Who is this?

- Leprechauns ['leprə,kon]

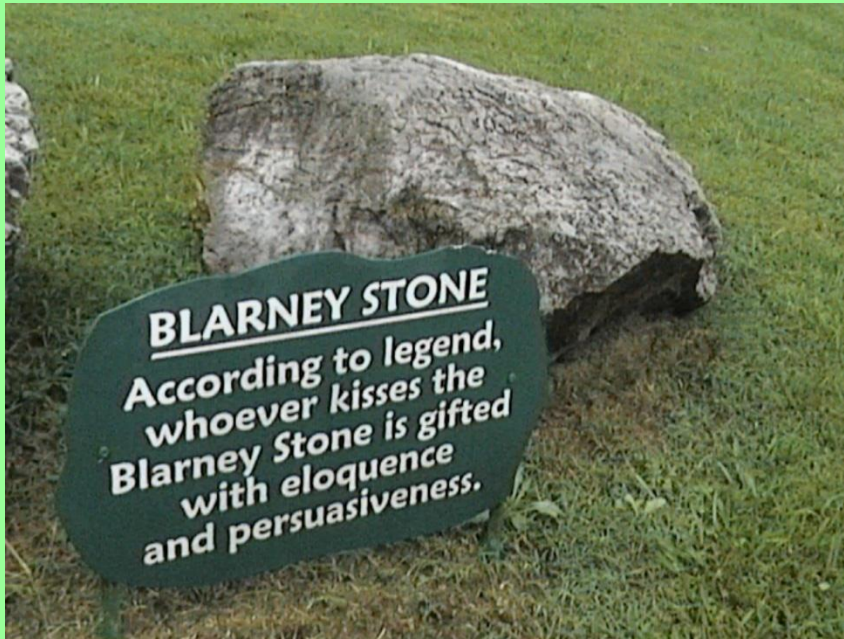
- A Leprechaun (Irish fairy) looks like a little old man. He's about 2 feet tall and dresses like a shoemaker. Leprechauns are aloof and unfriendly. They live alone and pass the time by making shoes. They're special because they also possess a hidden pot of gold.

- If you listen closely for the sound of their hammer, you might be able to capture a Leprechaun. If you do, you can force him to reveal where he has hidden his treasure. But watch him carefully because otherwise he will vanish and your hopes of finding his treasure will vanish with him.



What is this?

- The Blarney ['bla:ni] Stone
- The Blarney Stone is a stone set in the wall of the Blarney Castle tower in the Irish village of Blarney. Kissing the stone is supposed to give the kisser the gift of persuasive eloquence.



What does this picture represent?



- It represents an Irish saying: "There is a pot of gold at the end of every rainbow."

What do people eat on Saint Patrick's Day?



- They eat corned beef, cabbage, and potatoes.
- You can boil all these items together in a large pot.
- Most people put mustard on their corned beef.

Are there parades on Saint Patrick's Day?



- Yes, there are. This parade was in New York City in 2006.
- The first celebration of Saint Patrick's Day in the United States was in Boston, Massachusetts in 1737.

Why is the water in this river green?



- The city of Chicago dyes the river green for Saint Patrick's Day.
- Many Irish people live in Chicago.



May the wings of the butterfly
kiss the sun...

And find your shoulder
to light on...

To bring you luck,
happiness and riches...

Today, tomorrow and beyond !

- Irish Blessing

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Happy St. Patrick's Day !



Can you answer all these questions?

1. When is Saint Patrick's day?
2. Who is Saint Patrick?
3. Why do people wear a shamrock design on St. Patrick's Day?
4. What is a Leprechaun?
5. Why do people want to kiss the Blarney stone?
6. What do people eat on Saint Patrick's Day?
7. Are there parades on Saint Patrick's Day?

