
Holiday Facts & Fun:
St. Patrick's Day
Second Edition



Teacher's Guide

Written by Barrí Golbus

**Produced
by
Colman Communications Corp.**

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY SECOND EDITION

From the
Holiday Facts & Fun
Series

Grades K-5

Viewing Time: 14:00

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Intended Audience and Uses

St. Patrick's Day, 2d Edition has been produced for students in grades K-5. This video has several classroom uses. First, it can be used to help students understand and appreciate the holiday. Second, the biographical section on St. Patrick can be used as part of primary-intermediate social studies units that cover Europe and European history. This program meets McREL K-4 History Standard 1, Level I, Benchmark 5 (Understands personal family or cultural heritage through stories, songs, and celebrations); McREL U.S. History Standard 1, Level II, Benchmark 8

(“Understands the historical events and democratic values commemorated by major...holidays”), and McREL K-4 History, Topic 4 (“The history of Peoples of Many Cultures Around the World”).

Program Synopsis

St. Patrick’s Day, 2nd Edition is divided into four sections. The introduction shows Sarah Murray, a nine-year-old member of the Trinity Dancers Irish folk dance troupe, practicing for upcoming St. Patrick’s Day celebrations. The second part provides an animated biography of St. Patrick. It discusses his privileged family background in late 4th and early 5th century England, his abduction by marauding Celtic warriors, his life as a shepherd in Eire (ancient Ireland), his flight back to Europe, his monastic life and ultimate return to Eire, where he introduced Christianity to the emerald isle. The third part of the program shows how the Murray family marks the holiday – by recalling family trips to Ireland, having a large Irish country-style breakfast with friends, also Irish-Americans, and by singing Irish folk songs. The fourth part of the program shows various St. Patrick’s Day activities at an Irish-American heritage center – music, games, craft activities, Irish food, and a dance program in which Sarah participates. Viewers then see a large St. Patrick’s Day parade, during which various symbols of Ireland (shillelagh, leprechauns, shamrock) are explained. Finally, the program shows the Chicago River being dyed bright green for the day.

VIEWER OBJECTIVES

After viewing this video and participating in the suggested activities, viewers should be able to do the following:

1. Tell about St. Patrick’s life.
2. Explain the historical importance of St. Patrick’s accomplishments.

3. Explain how Sarah Murray and her family celebrate the holiday.
4. Tell about the various community celebrations of the holiday.
5. Explain the significance of three symbols of Ireland and the Irish people – the shillelagh, the shamrock, and leprechauns.

The producers encourage you to make adaptations and changes to the following lesson plan whenever you feel it will enhance your students' learning experiences. Only by tailoring the material to your unique classroom situation will you be able to maximize the educational experience afforded by these materials.

SUGGESTED LESSON PLAN

Viewing Strategies

Various strategies may be employed when showing this video or DVD to your class. If you wish to use the video as a way to give general information about the holiday, you may find it useful to show the entire program in one screening, then follow up with appropriate questions (see the *Suggested Discussion Questions* blackline master) and/or activities suggested in this guide. Alternately, you may wish to show only the first several sections of the video if presentation time is limited, or if your class is using the video to learn only biographical information about St. Patrick.

Introduce the Program

The producers encourage you to prescreen the program to familiarize yourself with its content.

Ask the class if anyone has ever heard of Ireland. Locate Ireland on your classroom map or globe. Explain that the

country is an island. Ask what an island is. Make certain everyone understands an island is a relatively small body of land surrounded by water. Does anyone’s ancestors come from Ireland? If so, ask if they’ve heard about their family members’ experiences on the “emerald isle.” Why and when did they come to the United States or Canada?

Pre-Viewing Activities

Now ask, “Has anyone ever heard of a famous person named St. Patrick? Does anyone know why we still remember him today?” (If someone mentions that St. Patrick was responsible for ridding the island of snakes, explain that that story is part of the legend – or make-believe story – of St. Patrick, but it never really happened.) Next, tell the class that St. Patrick lived very long ago when there were no such things as computers, televisions, cell phones, and airplanes. In those days, the most powerful country in the world was known as the Roman Empire. Finally, tell the class that they will now see a program about St. Patrick and the ways people celebrate the holiday named after him.

Post-Viewing Activities

Discuss the program, using the *Suggested Discussion Questions*, if you prefer. When recess time rolls around, stay inside and turn over the chairs in your room and then randomly sprinkle green glitter around the classroom. When your students return, ask them what they think might have happened. At the end of the discussion, hand out *Shamus O’Daley & His Magic Shillelagh*. You may read it aloud, have your students read it silently, or have someone in your class read it aloud. Speculate whether Shamus visited your classroom during recess. Recall that the video mentioned that leprechauns are very mischievous. Next, pass out the *St. Patrick’s Day Word Search* and the

St. Patrick's Day Maze. Have your students do these activities in class or tell them they can do them at home.

Description of Blackline Masters

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Gives questions that may be asked after each segment is viewed.

SHAMUS O'DALEY AND HIS MAGIC SHILLELAGH – A fun activity that emphasizes the mischievous nature of leprechauns.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY WORD SEARCH – A fun activity that strengthens observation and word recognition skills.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY MAZE – A fun activity that strengthens observation skills.

ANSWER KEY

Video Quiz: 1. b., March 17th 2. England 3. Fierce warriors took him to Eire. 4. False 5. c., Destroyed villages 6. c., Both a. and b. 7. a., The Trinity Dancers. 8. False 9. c., Once used as clubs in battle 10. Chicago, Illinois.

St. Patrick's Day Word Search:

G E D W O B N I A R X P Q V B
X M J I S N D U H W Y K I T R
C E P M I U A H C E R P E L N
Y R A P N R S I N T R P K U K
U A R I N D I R S H Y O A I C
I L A T K E A S S R D H H S I
K D D A L L U I H J C P D R R
C W E A B P P L T E B A V T E
U E N Z Y I T P R O L T D S U
L D C G S L E P L E I R S A L
G O B L E S E I N G N I B F G
V O Q C S L M D N T X C T L V
P P L T R V F Z M K Y K I E P
V E A D S N D U H S I W O B V
L E Q U G R E E N I C T P W L

TRANSCRIPT OF THE VIDEO

It's almost March 17th – St. Patrick's Day – and in the Murray household, Sarah's father and brother – Patrick and Patrick, Jr. –

are busy helping her prepare for the upcoming festivities.

First, they pull out the dance boards. Then Patrick Junior puts on the music.

And Sarah begins to practice.

Sarah Murray is a member of the “Trinity Dancers,” a famous Irish folk dancing troupe in Chicago, Illinois.

She’s won many awards since she began dancing four years ago.

In a few days, she’ll join countless numbers of other people around the country, and throughout the world, who will celebrate their Irish heritage, as well as remember and honor the man for whom the holiday has been named – St. Patrick.

St. Patrick was born in England about 1,600 years ago. His parents had moved there from Rome.

Patrick’s father, an official in the Roman government, was sent to England to help rule that country, which the Romans had defeated many years before.

As the son of a rich and powerful man, Patrick was free from want. His life was peaceful and happy.

But all that changed when he was 14.

From across the sea, from the land of Eire, today known as Ireland, fierce warriors came, hoping to defeat the Romans. And they succeeded.

Thousands of Romans and English prisoners were taken back to Eire to become slaves, Patrick, among them.

He was forced to live as a shepherd in northern Eire. He wasn’t mistreated, but he did feel sad and lonely. As you can imagine, he missed his family and wanted to return home.

As time passed, Patrick’s sadness grew and he turned to prayer.

At the same time, he began sleeping outside, not noticing the cold winds that frequently swept across northern Eire.

And as he slept, he had many dreams. In one of them, he heard a voice say, "Thy ship is ready for thee!"

Patrick felt that the voice was telling him to escape.

And so, at the age of 21, he ran away, towards the sea.

Sure enough, when Patrick reached the shores of eastern Eire, he spied a ship.

He spent the next three days sailing eastward, hoping to find a new and better life on the continent of Europe.

But what he found was not a better life, at all. For wandering tribes of warriors had destroyed villages there and burned crops. Even the great city of Rome, where many of the most powerful people in the world had lived, was destroyed by the tribal warriors.

The world Patrick knew as a small child was gone. The only thing left was his religion, Christianity.

Patrick then decided to devote his life to God. For many years, he lived in European monasteries, places where religious people lead simple lives and study their beliefs.

One day, Patrick heard another voice. It said, "Come, walk among us again."

What could the message mean? Well, to Patrick, God was calling him back to Eire to unite its people through Christianity.

To prepare for that mission, he studied 10 more years. At the end of that time, he was made a bishop, a leader in the Catholic Church.

Because he had lived in Ireland and knew its people, it was decided that he was, indeed, the best person to bring Christianity to the "emerald isle," as Ireland is often called.

So after many years, Patrick returned.

But his job wasn't easy. People threw stones at him and his helpers, and chased them away.

They thought Patrick's ideas were strange and threatening.

Once, he was even put into chains.

But Patrick didn't give up. He had a plan, and after he escaped, he stuck to it.

First, he never tried to stamp out old Irish religious customs. He merely combined them with Christian customs.

Next, he always tried to teach Christian beliefs to the leaders of a community before teaching any of the others. He knew that once the leaders understood Christianity and agreed to practice it, their followers would go along.

Finally, St. Patrick made certain that a church was built before moving on.

The church, along with its priest, would help keep people from falling back to their old ways.

In time, hundreds of churches were built, and Ireland became a Christian nation.

St. Patrick's dream had come true. Ireland became one country under one God, a fact that many Irish-Americans, such as the Murrays, celebrate in many ways as the holiday nears.

One way is by making traditional Irish foods, such as scones, a kind of cake and cookie all mixed together into one sweet, delicious treat.

Another traditional food the Murrays make for St. Patrick's Day is Irish brown bread.

Both the scones and the bread will be part of a large, Irish-style breakfast the family will have with friends, the kind of breakfast Mrs. Murray enjoyed as a farm child in southern Ireland.

Sausages, as well as a kind of Irish bacon called "rashers," and

a spicy meatball called “white pudding sausage” also will be served.

The Murrays always use special placemats on the holiday, those with pictures of famous Irish castles and beautiful landscapes found throughout the island.

Irish crystal is used, too, as is Irish fine Irish pottery.

The Murrays also put the pottery on display in several rooms around the house.

As St. Patrick’s Day approaches, the Murrays discuss ways of life on the “emerald isle,” and remember relatives who still live there.

For the Murrays, it’s also a time to recall their many trips to Ireland.

At the appointed hour, the Meehans, family friends who are also Irish-American, arrive for the Murray’s big St. Patrick’s Day breakfast.

In short order, the feast and friendly conversation begin!

After the meal, Sarah and her mother sing Irish folk songs. Shortly, everyone joins in.

At heritage centers, St. Patrick’s Day celebrations almost always feature folk music.

People of Irish ancestry – and others – often gather at the heritage centers to have a good time when the holiday rolls around.

Children play games, learn about Irish crafts – under adult supervision, if need be – and listen to the music.

Adults chat and pass on stories from the old country.

Elsewhere, traditional Irish foods such as corned beef and cabbage are served to hungry parents and their children.

To many Irish-Americans, however – perhaps even the majority – Irish folk dancing is the most exciting and colorful part of any St. Patrick's Day celebration.

Sarah's dance troupe, the Trinity Dancers, often are featured at holiday programs.

To get ready for the performance, Mrs. Murray puts on Sarah's wig and touches up her makeup.

Then Sarah and her fellow dancers go through a last-minute warm-up and practice under the watchful eye of their teacher and older members of the troupe.

Soon, Sarah's group is on stage. There's Sarah.

As always, the audience shows its appreciation for the dancers' skills and talent.

In addition to programs at Irish heritage centers, big St. Patrick's Day parades are another typical holiday activity.

The spectacles feature government leaders, bagpipe bands, Irish flags, and many symbols of Ireland, such as the shamrock.

The green plant grows throughout the island, and St. Patrick is said to have used it in his sermons to help explain Christianity.

Leprechauns are another symbol of Ireland. These make-believe creatures are said to have magical powers and they could be very mischievous!

Still another symbol of Ireland is a stick called a shillelagh. At one time, shillelaghs were used as clubs in battle. Today, however, they're used as walking sticks.

And of course, as in any great parade, there are lots of eye-catching acts and interesting people to be seen.

There are also many colorful sights. On St. Patrick's Day, many of those sights have a lot of green in them because that color reminds people of the lush, green lands of Ireland.

In fact, a dye that turns green when it hits water is spread on the river that runs through Chicago, Illinois.

The river remains bright green for the entire day.

St. Patrick's Day, then, is a celebration that helps people of Irish heritage, and others, remember the man whom many believe is the most important person in Ireland's history – a man who unified the country under one God.

It's a holiday that people enjoy, whether they're Irish or not, because there's lots of music, dancing, talking, and eating delicious Irish foods.

St. Patrick's Day – it's a wonderful celebration for the Irish and anyone else who enjoys pretending to be Irish for the day.

Web Resources

St. Patrick's Day Arts and Activities

www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/stpatrick/

A large number of St. Patrick's Day art and craft activities geared for elementary students.

The ChildFun Family Website

www.childfun.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=26

A collection of St. Patrick's Day craft activities and songs along with many links to other terrific web sites.

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.

