

# Saint Patrick's Day

## Who was Saint Patrick?

- St. Patrick was a Christian missionary. He lived in the fifth century. When he was sixteen, he was captured and taken as a slave to Ireland. He lived as a slave for six years before escaping. He joined the church to train as a priest and became a missionary in the north and west of Ireland. Legend has it that St. Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland.

## What do people do on Saint Patrick's Day?

- Saint Patrick's Day (abbreviated to St. Patrick's Day) is on March 17.
- It is an annual celebration of the patron saint of Ireland.
- It is a national holiday in Ireland, and millions of Irish people all over the world celebrate. These celebrations are based on all things Irish and the color green. Many people wear green clothes, eat Irish food and drink the Irish beer Guinness, which many bars also dye green.
- Many people with no Irish connections celebrate and declare themselves Irish for a day.
- One tradition in the United States is to pinch people who are not wearing any green clothes!

## Popular St. Patrick's Day symbols

- Shamrocks  
*Small clover plants*
- Four-leaf clovers  
*Clover plants with four leaves*  
*These are considered good luck*
- Rainbows and pots of gold  
*A superstition says that you can find a pot of gold (a large amount of gold in a cooking pot) at the end of a rainbow*
- Leprechauns  
*Small, magical men that like to play tricks on people. They also hide gold, so it is lucky to find a leprechaun!*