

Name: _____

Symbols of St. Patrick's Day



By Mikki Sadil

What do shamrocks, leprechauns, and the Blarney Stone have in common? They are all symbols of St. Patrick's Day, which is celebrated on March 17th. The shamrock is the common name for several different kinds of clovers native to Ireland. Legend tells us that when St. Patrick was converting pagans into Christians during the 5th Century A.D., he used the shamrock as a symbol to illustrate the doctrine of the Trinity, the idea that



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down on your back, have someone hold on to your legs, and bend backwards as far down as you can to reach the stone. That's quite a feat!



The name leprechaun comes from an old Irish word "luchorpan" which means "little body." A leprechaun is an Irish fairy who looks like an old man. He is no taller than 2 feet, usually dressed like a shoemaker wearing a cocked hat and a leather apron. Legend says leprechauns are unfriendly, aloof, live alone, and spend their days making shoes. Each one also has a pot of gold. You can track down a leprechaun by the sound of his hammer, and if you catch him and threaten to not let him go, he might tell you where the gold is. But you must keep your eyes on him every second, because leprechauns are very tricky and can easily distract you. When that happens, he vanishes and you'll never find the pot of gold!

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1. St. Patrick used a shamrock to...
 - a. keep track of leprechauns
 - b. guide people to the Blarney Stone
 - c. find pagans in Ireland
 - d. teach people about religion



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- _____
- _____
4. Explain why it would be difficult for many people to kiss the Blarney Stone.

5. According to the article, how could you find a leprechaun? Also, how do you get a leprechaun to tell you where his gold is?

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a leprechaun to tell you where his gold is?

**You can find a leprechaun by listening for the sound of his
hammer. You can get him to tell you where the gold is by
threatening to not let him go.**