

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 three-leafed 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 God is one entity with three persons: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. The Irish have considered shamrocks as good-luck symbols for centuries, and many other non-Irish people also believe they bring good luck.

The word "blarney" can mean either nonsense or flattering talk. Tradition says that if you kiss the Blarney Stone in Ireland, you will gain the powers of persuasion in you. This is because different legends surrounding the stone say you have to lie down on your back and



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and powers of persuasion. The stone is a small, rectangular stone with a hole in the middle. To kiss it, you have to lie down on your back and use your feet 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. to guide people the the Blarney stone
 - c. find pagans in Ireland
 - d. teach people about religion



2. According to Irish legend, a leprechaun is...
- a. a little man, about two inches tall
 - b. a Irish fairy who makes shoes
 - c. a goldsmith who dresses in green clothes
 - d. a magical creature who collects shamrocks and turns them into gold

3. According



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, according to the article, how do you get a leprechaun to tell you where his gold is?

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- a. keep track of leprechauns
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 - d. **teach people about religion**



2. According to Irish legend, a leprechaun is... **b**
- a. a little man, about two inches tall
 - b. **a Irish fairy who makes shoes**
 - c. a goldsmith who dresses in green clothes
 - d. a magical creature who collects shamrocks and turns them into gold

3. According to Irish legend, what magical effects does the Blarney Stone have?

It gives you powers of persuasion if

owers of

4. Explain why



It is difficult to bend backwards to reach it.

gs, and

5. According to the article, how could you find a leprechaun. Also, according to the article, how do you get 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.