



St Patrick's Day Reading
and Activity Pack
Middle School Grades



name: _____

So, what's the difference between a shamrock and a clover?

clover ----->



shamrocks ----->



Give an educated guess:

name: _____

The History of the Shamrock

The word shamrock is derived from the Irish word “seamrog”—a term used to denote a young clover. Since there are more than 300 species of clover, shamrock has become more of a blanket term to refer to any three-leaf clover.

According to religious lore, Saint Patrick deemed the three leaves of the shamrock to represent the holy trinity of the father, son, and Holy Ghost. As such, in Irish culture, the shamrock connotes association to both Saint Patrick and the Holy Trinity.

Who was Saint Patrick? Patrick was a Romano British minister who arrived in Ireland in 432 A.D. Prior to Saint Patrick’s arrival, the people of Ireland had heard very little about the Christian religion or the gospel. Being the hardcore evangelizer he was, Saint Patrick determinedly traveled the countryside on a mission to convert the people of Ireland to Christianity. It turns out that one of Patrick’s favored metaphorical devices was to use the shamrock as a teaching aid to represent the Holy Trinity. Saint Patrick has been associated with this shamrock ever since.

*Today, celebrations of St. Patrick have spread throughout the world. On St. Patrick’s Day, people typically wear green as a symbol of the Catholic religion in Ireland, while orange represents the protestant population. However, before the days of religious divide, green was taken to be a symbol of the Emerald Isle, a popular nickname for Ireland. St. Patrick’s shamrocks also come into play in this color choice. **



name: _____

The History of the Four-Leaf Clover

The leprechaun has become one of the most beloved Irish symbols of St. Patrick's Day, due to the mythological associations with good luck. Leprechauns have been a popular fairy-like figure in Irish folklore for centuries, although up until the 19th century, they were believed to wear red and not the green color they are so typically associated with today.

*Leprechauns are believed to carry both sacks of gold and a four-leaf clover, both of which are symbolic of luck and prosperity. They are also said to be guardians of the treasures rumored to be left by the Vikings toward the end of the 9th century. At the end of the rainbow, there is said to be a four-leaf clover garden where the leprechauns hide their gold. Therefore the rainbow is also an important symbol associated with the four-leaf clover.**

St. Patrick's Day



name: _____

St. Patrick's Day Fill In The Blank

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1. St. _____ Day is celebrated on March 17.
2. St Patrick was a _____ who lived in the 5th century.
3. A _____ is a clover with three leaves.
4. All shamrocks are clovers but not all _____ are shamrocks.
5. We celebrate St Patrick's Day in America to honor _____ heritage .
6. The colors of the Irish flag are white, _____ , and green .
7. Legend says _____ guard ancient Viking treasure .
8. A four leafed clover is said to be good _____ .
9. St Patrick used the shamrock as a metaphor for the _____ .
10. There are over 300 _____ of clover .

missionary luck orange Trinity
shamrock Irish leprechauns Patrick's
species clovers

name: _____

St. Patrick's Day Scramble



Created on TheTeachersCorner.net Scramble Maker

1. TYRNHASIICTI

2. EVLCRO

3. NUDBLI

4. SNRMDAHE

5. RNADILE

6. IIHSR

7. LRDAYENEG

8. EPALENRCUH

9. OGUODKLC

10. MARCH

11. OISAINMYRS

12. ISTRKTCPA

13. WRBINOA

14. AUDRGINA

15. FOOTODGLP

16. NVESTENTEHE

17. HCKMASRO

- | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|------------|----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|-------|
| seventeenth | potofgold | Irish | Christianity | Ireland | Dublin | goodluck | rainbow | March |
| herdsman | leprechaun | guardian | shamrock | StPatrick | legendary | clover | missionary | |

name: _____

St. Patrick's Day Word Search

Created with TheTeachersCorner.net Word Search Maker

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

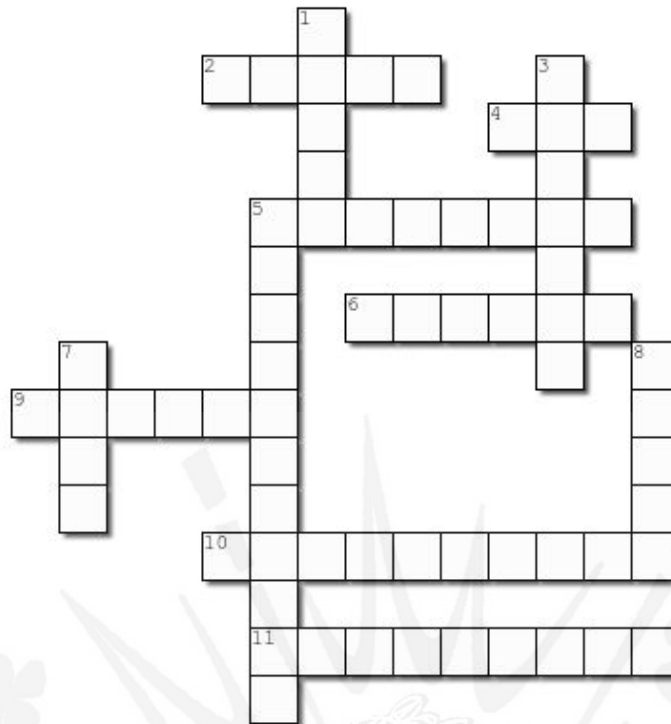
CLOVER
GREEN
JIG
GOOD LUCK
PATRICK
SEVENTEENTH
TRADITION
BLARNEY STONE

DUBLIN
IRELAND
LEGEND
MARCH
PINCH
SHAMROCK
TRINITY

FAIRY
IRISH
LEPRECHAUN
MISSIONARY
SAINT
THREE
POT OF GOLD

name: _____

St. Patrick's Day Crossword



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Pinched Tradition Green Leprechaun Irish Dublin Shamrock Luck Jig March Clover Seventeenth

Across

2. Third month of the year
4. A small Irish dance
5. Clover with only three leaves
6. A plant that usually has three leaves but is lucky to get one with four leaves
9. The capital city of the Republic of Ireland
10. Guardians of gold
11. The word that means customs or beliefs

Down

1. Citizens of Ireland
3. Something you get if you're not wearing green on St. Patrick's Day
5. The date of St. Patrick's Day
7. Something a four leafed clover gives you
8. Color traditionally worn on St. Patrick's Day

