

The Legend of Saint Patrick

INTRODUCTION

This worksheet about the legend of St Patrick can be used either on its own, or for preparing one or both of the worksheets about St Patrick's Day in this issue of New Standpoints: Soda Bread p. 31-32 and St Patrick's Day in Chicago p. 33-34. Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, died on March 17, AD 461. By the late 7th century, he had become a legendary figure. March 17 has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since. Though originally a Catholic saint's day, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into more of a secular holiday in Ireland and America. This oral production activity is Level A2.

PROCEDURE

1. SPEAKING

Show the class the photo of the statue of St Patrick and let them react. Who is this man? He is a religious man, a priest. He is wearing a cape and a hat with a cross. You can see a lake or the sea behind him. He has a white beard and a staff. He is holding something in his right hand (this will become clear in a second.)

Then show them the picture of people celebrating St Patrick's Day. Help them make the connection between the shamrock-shaped sunglasses and the object in the statue's hand. Give them the word "shamrock".

Tell the class they are going to find out more about this man and divide them in half. Pupils in Group A read a card containing information about St Patrick and prepare to answer questions from Group B. **TASK 1.** Questioning being more difficult, put the more confident students in Group B. Help them prepare their questions as needed. In Group A, make sure



pupils can pronounce: Irish, kidnapped, escaped, converted and Christianity, and help them get ready to answer Group B's questions.

Have the whole class recap what they have learned about Saint Patrick. **TASK 2**

Solution

Task 2: 1. St Patrick was born 2. he was kidnapped by Irish pirates. 3. escaped; He became a priest 4. converted the Irish to Christianity 5. people celebrate St Patrick's Day



WORKSHEET

STUDENT WORKSHEET

TASK 1 GROUP A

Name: Saint Patrick
Born in England in 383 - Died on March 17th, 461
Age 16 (399): Kidnapped by Irish pirates. A slave in Ireland.
Age 22 (405): Escaped to France. Became a priest.
Age 38 (421): Returned to Ireland. Converted the Irish to Christianity.
Symbol: The Shamrock



GROUP B

Ask Group A questions about this historical figure and fill in the box.

Name: _____
Date of birth and death: _____
At age 16, he: _____
At age 22, he: _____
Achievement/Activity in 421: _____
Favourite object and reason: Tick the right answer and complete.
 1. the Bible 2. a shamrock 3. a flute

TASK 2

Begin or finish these sentences with information about St Patrick.

1. _____ in 383 AD.
2. When he was a young boy, _____.
3. Later in 405, he _____ to France.
_____ in France.
4. When he returned to Ireland in 421, he _____.
5. Today, _____ on March 17th.

