

Name: _____

Date: _____



Reading Comprehension

ST PATRICK'S DAY



Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. He lived during the fifth century, and is credited with having spread Christianity throughout Ireland. He is remembered for the establishment of churches, schools and monasteries.



Patrick's birth name was Maewyn Succatwas. He was born in Roman Britain. As a teenager, he was kidnapped by Irish pirates, taken to Ireland and kept as a slave for six years where he tended to sheep and pigs. After a daring escape, Maewyn returned to Britain, trained to become a priest and changed his name to Patrick. He eventually returned to Ireland as a missionary, and became a Bishop.



Modern day St Patrick's Day celebrations began in the early 18th century. It is believed that St Patrick died on the 17th of March, hence celebrations are observed on this day annually. It was only after the Irish Rebellion in 1798 that the colour green became associated with the day. Many additional secular traditions have become associated with St Patrick's Day since.

1 What was St Patrick's birth name? _____

2 Was St Patrick Irish? YES NO

3 Why is St Patrick's Day celebrated on 17th March? _____

4 Why do you think Patrick is called Saint Patrick? _____

5 Describe any modern day St Patrick Day celebrations that you are familiar with: _____

Answer key



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- 1 What was St Patrick's birth name? Maewyn Succatwas
- 2 Was St Patrick Irish? YES ☐ NO ☒
- 3 Why is St Patrick's Day celebrated on 17th March? It is believed that St Patrick died on the 17th of March
- 4 Why do you think Patrick is called Saint Patrick? Pupils' answer will vary
- 5 Describe any modern day St Patrick Day celebrations that you are familiar with: Pupils' answer will vary