

THE LEGEND OF ST. PATRICK

1. Maewyn was a young Christian who lived in Scotland. When he was sixteen, he was captured by Irish pirates. The pirates sold him as a slave.

2. The Irish were not Christians. After six years working for an Irish master, Maewyn was able to run away and leave Ireland. He vowed he would come back to Ireland some day and teach the Christian religion to the Irish people.

3. Maewyn became a priest in the Christian church. Later he became a bishop. In the year 431, the Pope gave him the name Patricius (Patrick). The Pope sent him to Ireland. "Take Christianity to Ireland," said the Pope.

4. Patrick went into each town in Ireland. A man walked in front of him, beating on drums. The drums announced that Patrick was coming into the town.



5. Patrick was very brave. He faced many dangers. The Irish threw stones at him. They put him into prison. But he got out. And he never gave up.

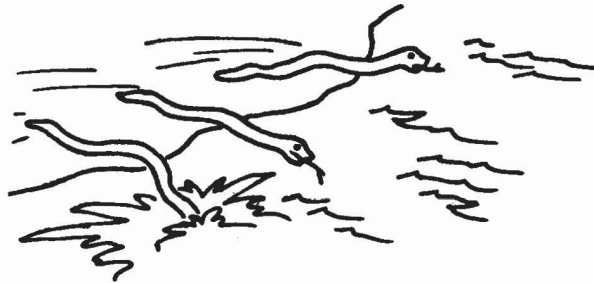
6. He taught people about Jesus Christ. The people became Christians. He baptized them. He started schools and churches.

7. An important idea of Christianity is that there are three parts of God in one: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Irish people could not understand how three could be the same as one. So Patrick used the shamrock to help them understand. With the three leaves of the shamrock, he showed how the three parts made up the whole.



8. Patrick worked in Ireland for forty years. He died on March 17, 493. Many years later, the church made him a Saint.

9. There are many legends of miracles that St. Patrick did. He healed sick people. Some legends tell that he healed dead people too. One story tells that he made snow burn. Another story tells that St. Patrick chased all the snakes out of Ireland by beating on his drum. There are no snakes in Ireland today.



THE LEGEND OF ST. PATRICK: EXERCISES

I. Do you know these words? Find these words in the story. Draw a line under them. Copy the words. Write the meanings.

Scotland	bishop	Holy Spirit
capture	the Pope	shamrock
pirate	beat on a drum	leaf/leaves
sell/sold	announce	legend
slave	brave	miracle
master	danger	heal
vow	throw stones	snake
religion	prison	
priest	baptize	

II. Choose the best answer.

1. Maewyn was a _____. (young Christian boy, Irish pirate)
2. He was captured by _____. (Christians, pirates)
3. He vowed he would bring the Christian religion to _____.
(the Pope, Ireland)
4. The Pope gave Maewyn the name _____. (Patrick, Jesus)
5. A man beat on a _____ as Patrick walked into each
town. (drum, snake)
6. He taught the Irish about _____. (Jesus Christ, pirates)
7. He used the _____ to explain that the three parts of God are
one. (shamrock, snow)
8. There are no _____ in Ireland today. (people, snakes)