

Golden Opportunities

The Irish say that if you catch a leprechaun and keep your eye on him, he must lead you to a pot of gold! Read all of the following activities. Choose ____ coins to complete. See how much gold you can collect with your knowledge of St. Patrick's Day!

Due date: _____

1. St. Patrick is the reason for this March holiday. Research ten facts about his early life. Draw a picture illustrating the facts. Create a jigsaw puzzle by cutting the picture into interlocking pieces. Share your puzzle with a friend.

2. One legend about St. Patrick says that he drove all the snakes out of Ireland. Choose a breed of snake found in the United States to research. Include such information as the size, characteristics, habitat, and diet of the snake. Report your findings on a life-sized drawing of the snake.

3. Research five symbols associated with St. Patrick's Day. Choose from shamrocks, leprechauns, harps, shillelaghs, gold coins, hats, clay pipes, and the color green. Draw and cut out a sample of each symbol. Research why each is a part of this March holiday. Record your findings on the appropriate cutout.

4. Ireland was the first country in Europe to grow potatoes as a major crop. Prepare your favorite dish made with potatoes, and bring it in for the whole class to enjoy. Be sure to bring in a copy of the recipe to share with your classmates.

5. Read about the life of St. Patrick. Draw and cut out each of the letters that spell his name. On each letter write an adjective that describes him. Add a sentence telling why you chose that adjective. Connect the letters by hole-punching the tops and stringing them together with a piece of yarn.

6. One legend about St. Patrick states that the sun didn't set for 12 days and nights after his death. Pretend you are a reporter and write a newspaper article reporting the details of this astounding event.

7. The Irish flag is divided into three equal vertical sections of orange, white, and green. Divide a piece of white paper into three equal parts. Research the meaning behind each of these colors and record it in the appropriate section; then color each section of the flag.

8. Although St. Patrick was not born in Ireland, it became his adopted country. Draw and label a map of the Emerald Isle. Include information about its size in square miles, population, major cities, bodies of water, and resources. Add a compass rose and a key to your map.

