

## St. Patrick and the Story of Saint Paddy’s Day: Word Search Puzzle



### Find each capitalized word in the puzzle above.

The man now known as **SAINT PATRICK** was born with the name Patricius (Latin for “noble”) in what is now Great Britain, circa 387 CE. When Patrick was about 14 years old, he was captured off the coast by Irish raiders. Patrick was kept as a **SLAVE** in Ireland for six years before his escape. As a slave, Patrick prayed and promised that if he gained his freedom, he would return to Ireland to **CONVERT** the Irish **PAGANS** to **CHRISTIANITY**.

Patrick kept his word. Back in Britain, Patrick became an ordained bishop. He returned to Ireland and worked to convert the Irish people to Christianity. Many **MIRACLES** are attributed to Patrick. He is credited with “driving the **SNAKES** from Ireland.” In reality, there were never snakes in Ireland, and the story stems from a serpent- or worm-centered religious cult that Patrick helped to eradicate.

Patrick is even more famous for using the three-leaved **SHAMROCK** to explain the Christian concept of the **TRINITY**. This is the religious idea that Christianity is **MONOTHEISTIC** (rather than polytheistic) because the father (God), son (Jesus), and holy spirit are three parts of a single deity (God).

Patrick died on March 17, 493 CE. Within a few centuries, he was widely accepted as a **PATRON SAINT** of Ireland.

As Irish **EMIGRANTS** left Ireland for destinations around the world, they brought their culture—and stories of Saint Patrick—with them. The first St. Patrick’s Day **PARADE** in the United States took place in **BOSTON**, Massachusetts, in 1737. The world’s largest St. Patrick’s Day parade is held each year in **NEW YORK CITY**.

Although St. Patrick’s Day is technically a religious holiday, it has come to be a **SECULAR CELEBRATION** of Irish **CULTURE** and **HERITAGE**. In line with the Irish tradition of **HOSPITALITY** and friendliness, everyone is invited to be “**IRISH FOR A DAY**.” This “**WEARING OF THE GREEN**” can mean anything from a shamrock on one’s lapel, to items of green-colored clothing, to dressing up as a mythological **LEPRECHAUN**.