

Saint Patrick

What Is a Patron Saint?

A patron saint is a saint who looks after and guides a person or place. Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and is very special to Irish people.

When Was Saint Patrick Born?

We do not know exactly when Saint Patrick was born because he lived such a long time ago. People think that he was born in the 5th century.

What Were Saint Patrick's Family Like?

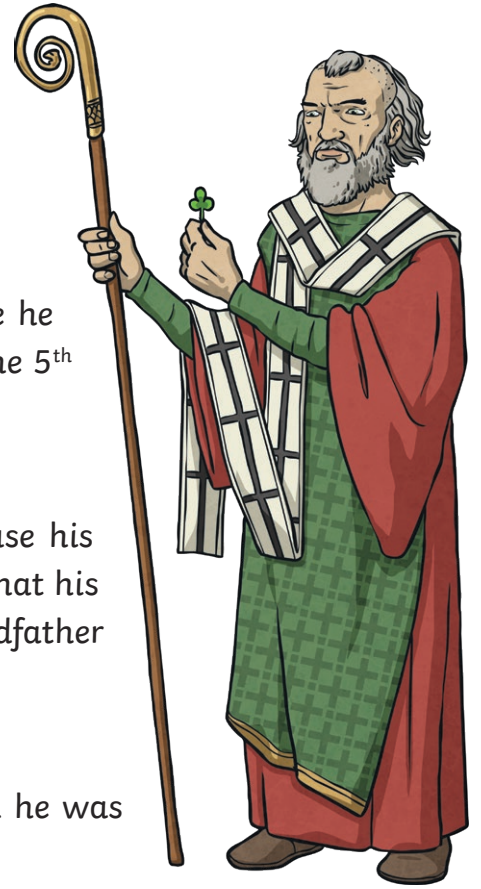
People think that Saint Patrick's family were quite rich because his father had an important job in Ancient Rome. They also think that his family were very religious because both his father and his grandfather had jobs in the church.

Why Did Saint Patrick Go to Ireland?

Saint Patrick was taken to Ireland by a group of pirates when he was 16 years old. He was made to work as a slave.

When Did Saint Patrick Become Religious?

Saint Patrick started to pray when he was a slave. One night, he heard a voice telling him that he would be able to go home soon because a ship was waiting for him. That night, Patrick ran away. He found a ship and sailed away from Ireland. Patrick got to Britain three days later. He walked through the forest for 28 days and started to feel ill because he was so hungry. Patrick prayed that he would find something to eat soon. Suddenly, Patrick found a group of wild pigs in the forest. He knew that his prayers had been answered.



Did You Know...?

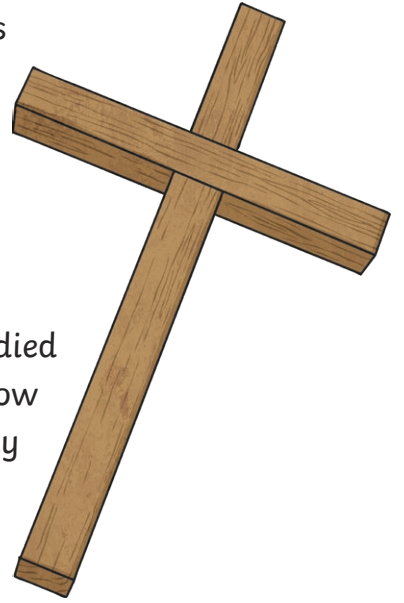
- Saint Patrick used a plant with three leaves (called a shamrock) to teach people about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- Some people believe that there are no snakes in Ireland because Saint Patrick sent them all away!
- It is said that Saint Patrick would talk for so long that his walking stick would grow roots into the ground.

Why Did Saint Patrick Go Back to Ireland?

When Patrick got home, he became a Christian priest. A few years later, he heard a voice telling him to go back to Ireland and help the Irish people. He chose to go back to Ireland and teach people about Christianity. Patrick taught thousands of Irish people about Christianity and built lots of churches across the country.

Why Do People Celebrate St. Patrick's Day?

After teaching people about Christianity for over 40 years, Patrick died on 17th March 461. The people of Ireland have never forgotten how special Patrick was to their country and celebrate St. Patrick's Day every year on this day.



Questions

1. On which date do people celebrate St. Patrick's Day? Tick one.

- ☐ 5th March
- ☐ 16th March
- ☐ 17th March
- ☐ 30th March

2. How old was Saint Patrick when he was taken to Ireland? Tick one.

- ☐ 14
- ☐ 16
- ☐ 18
- ☐ 20

3. What is a patron saint? Tick one.

- ☐ someone who is very special to Irish people
- ☐ a saint who looks after and guides a person or place
- ☐ a saint who has lived in Ireland
- ☐ someone who was taken by a group of pirates

4. What was the name of the plant that Saint Patrick used to teach people about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit? Tick one.

- ☐ roots
- ☐ thorns
- ☐ Irish leaves
- ☐ shamrock

5. Fill in the missing words in this sentence.

One night, he heard a _____ telling him that he would be able to go _____ soon because a _____ was waiting for him.

6. How long did Patrick spend walking through the forest?

7. Why do you think that Patrick felt unwell when he was in the forest?

Answers

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 - ☐ roots
 - ☐ thorns
 - ☐ Irish leaves
 - ☒ **shamrock**

5. Fill in the missing words in this sentence.

One night, he heard a **voice** telling him that he would be able to go **home** soon because a **ship** was waiting for him.

6. How long did Patrick spend walking through the forest?

Saint Patrick spent 28 days walking through the forest.

7. Why do you think that Patrick felt unwell when he was in the forest?

Accept any suitable answer, such as: I think Patrick felt unwell because he had eaten little food and was exercising a lot by walking for many days so he would have been tired.

Saint Patrick

A patron saint is saint who looks after and guides a person or place. Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and is very special to Irish people.

Early Life

Not much is known for certain about Saint Patrick because he lived such a long time ago. He is thought to have been born in the 5th century in a town along the west coast of Britain. His family were thought to be very wealthy and religious but Patrick was not religious himself.

Patrick's Capture and Escape

When Patrick was 16 years old, he was taken to Ireland by a group of Irish pirates. He was made to work as a slave. During this time, he began to pray to God. After six years as a slave, Patrick heard a voice telling him that he would be able to go home soon because a ship was waiting for him. That night, Patrick ran away from where he was being kept. He found a ship and its captain reluctantly agreed to take Patrick away from Ireland.

Did You Know...?

- Some people believe that there are no snakes in Ireland because Saint Patrick sent them all away!
- It is said that Saint Patrick would talk for so long that his walking stick would grow roots into the ground.

The Wild Boar

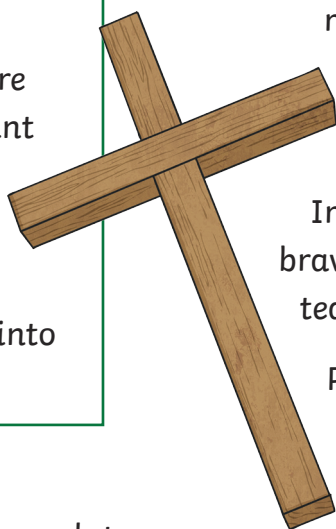
The boat reached Britain three days later. Patrick and the crew all left the ship. They are said to have walked through the forest for 28

days and they began to feel poorly because they were so hungry. Patrick told the ship's crew to put their faith in God. He prayed that they would find something to eat soon. Soon after Patrick had prayed, the crew found a group of wild pigs roaming in the forest. Patrick knew that his prayers had been answered.

Patrick Returns to Ireland

Patrick was so strong in his faith that he became a Christian priest. A few years after returning home, Patrick heard a voice telling him to go back to Ireland and help the Irish people. Patrick knew that many of the people of Ireland were not Christians but he bravely chose to go back to Ireland and teach people about Christianity.

Patrick taught thousands of Irish people about Christianity and built lots of churches across the country. Patrick used things that Irish people already knew about to explain Christianity to them. One example of



this was when Patrick used the shamrock (a plant with three leaves) to teach people about the Holy Trinity.

After teaching people about Christianity for over 40 years, Patrick died on 17th March 461. The people of Ireland have never forgotten how special Patrick was to their country and celebrate St. Patrick's Day every year on this day.



Questions

1. How long was Saint Patrick kept as a slave? Tick one.

- ☐ 28 days
- ☐ five months
- ☐ six years
- ☐ 40 years

2. Draw a line to match the fact to when it is said to have happened.

Saint Patrick was born

when he was 16
years old.

Saint Patrick was taken
to Ireland

17th March 461.

Saint Patrick died on

in the 5th century.

3. Who did Saint Patrick walk through the forest with? Tick one..

- ☐ people from the west coast of Britain
- ☐ the crew from the ship
- ☐ his family and friends
- ☐ a group of Christians

4. On which date did Saint Patrick die? Tick one.

- ☐ 28th March 469
- ☐ 17th March 416
- ☐ 6th March 458
- ☐ 17th March 461

5. How did Saint Patrick leave Ireland?

6. When did Saint Patrick begin to pray to God?

7. Why can people not be certain about the details of Saint Patrick's life?

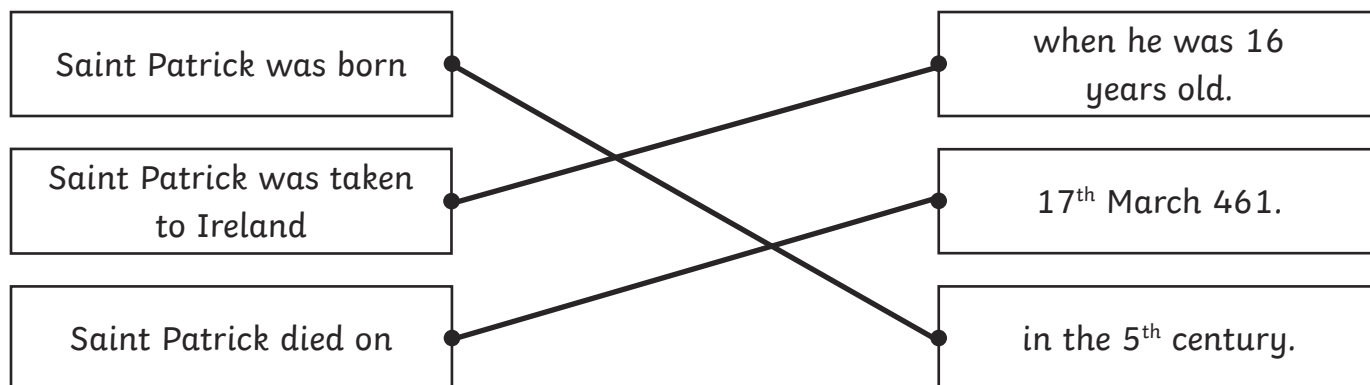
8. Explain why Saint Patrick wanted to return to Ireland.

Answers

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- ☐ five months
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- ☐ 28th March 469
- ☐ 17th March 416
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5. How did Saint Patrick leave Ireland?

Saint Patrick left Ireland on a ship or boat.

6. When did Saint Patrick begin to pray to God?

Saint Patrick began praying to God during his time as a slave.

7. Why can people not be certain about the details of Saint Patrick's life?

People cannot be certain about the details of Saint Patrick's life as he lived such a long time ago.

8. Explain why Saint Patrick wanted to return to Ireland.

Saint Patrick wanted to return to Ireland so that he could teach the people of Ireland about Christianity.

Saint Patrick

Saint Patrick is the **patron saint** of Ireland, known for introducing Christianity to the country.

Early Life

Not much is known for certain about Saint Patrick because he lived such a long time ago. He is thought to have been born in the 5th century in a town along the west coast of Britain. His family were thought to be very wealthy because his father, Calpornius, held a very important title in Ancient Rome. Patrick's grandfather, Potitus, was a Catholic priest and it is thought that his whole family believed in Christianity. However, Patrick was not religious himself.

Patrick's Capture and Escape

When Patrick was 16 years old, he was captured by a group of Irish pirates. He was taken to Ireland where he was made to work as a slave. While Patrick was a slave, he was made to work as a shepherd. During this time, he began to pray to God. After six years as a slave, Patrick heard a voice telling him that he would be able to go home soon because a ship was waiting for him. That night, Patrick fled from where he was being kept and made his way to a **port**, 200 miles away. He found a ship that was almost ready to set sail and, with difficulty, managed to persuade the ship's captain to take him away from Ireland.

The Wild Boar

When the boat reached Britain three days later, Patrick and the crew all left the ship. They are said to have walked through the forest

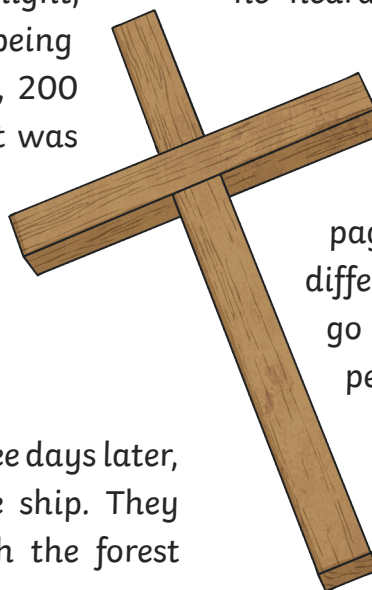
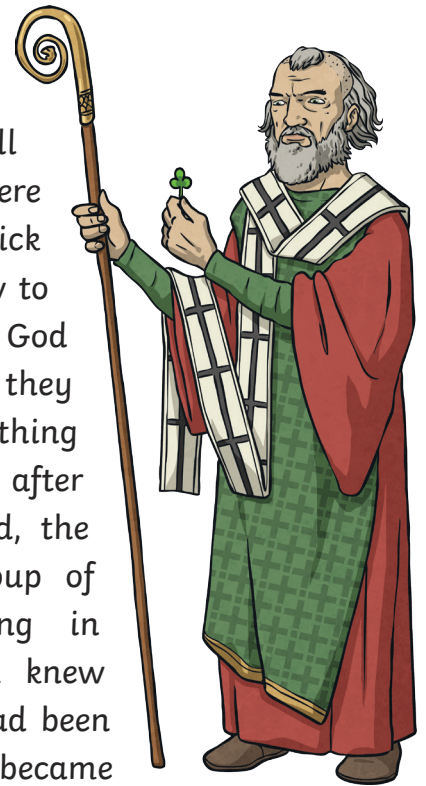
for 28 days and began to feel unwell because they were so hungry. Patrick told the ship's crew to put their faith in God and prayed that they would find something to eat soon. Soon after Patrick had prayed, the crew found a group of wild pigs roaming in the forest. Patrick knew that his prayers had been answered and became stronger in his faith.

Patrick Returns to Ireland

After spending a long time studying, Patrick became a Christian **priest**. One night, a few years after returning home, Patrick said that he heard a voice telling him to return to Ireland and help the Irish people.

Patrick knew that many of the people of Ireland were not Christians; they were known as pagans and they worshipped many different gods. Patrick bravely chose to go back to Ireland and teach the Irish people about Christianity.

Patrick converted thousands of Irish people to Christianity and began building churches across the



country. Patrick was well-known for using things that Irish people already knew about to explain Christianity to them. One of these examples was the shamrock – a plant with three leaves. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Holy Trinity.

After teaching about Christianity for over 40 years, Patrick died on 17th March 461. After his death, Patrick was called a saint because of how holy and religious he had been throughout his life. The people of Ireland have never forgotten how special Patrick was to their country.

Glossary

patron saint – The saint who protects or guides a person or place.

port – A town or city with a harbour where ships are loaded or unloaded.

priest – A person who is allowed to perform religious ceremonies.



Questions

1. 'Patrick converted thousands of Irish people to Christianity...'

What does the word **converted** mean? Tick one.

- ☐ rewarded
☐ changed
☐ covered
☐ painted

2. Match each question to the correct answer.

What was the name of
Saint Patrick's father?

Potitus

What was the name of Saint
Patrick's grandfather?

shamrock

What is the name of a
plant with three leaves?

Calpurnius

3. Name two things Saint Patrick did while he was a slave.

1. _____

2. _____

4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

'When Patrick was _____, he was captured by _____.

He was taken to _____ where he was made to work as a _____.

5. Find and copy a phrase which tells you that Patrick found it hard to convince the captain to take him away from Ireland.

6. Explain why Saint Patrick was brave to go back to Ireland.

7. Why do people celebrate St Patrick's Day on 17th March?

8. Explain why Saint Patrick had a difficult life.

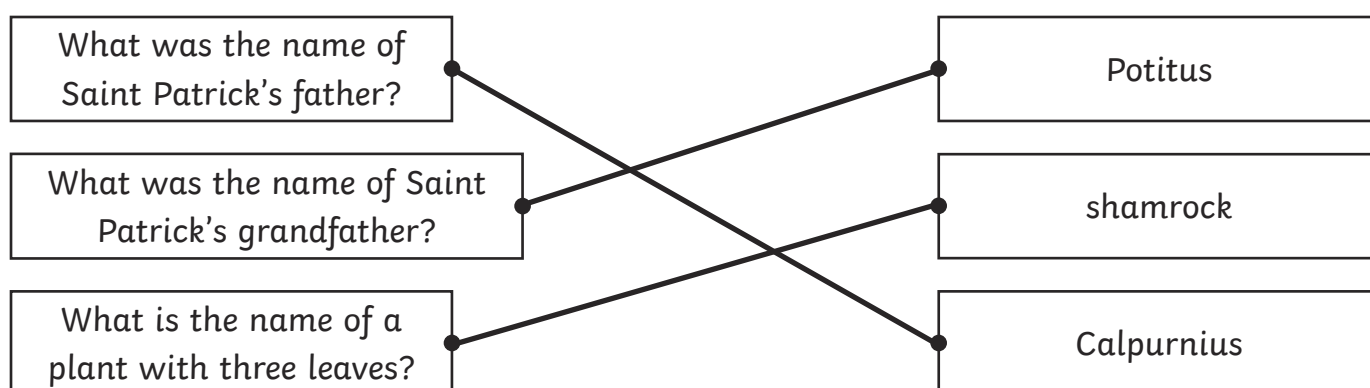
Answers

1. 'Patrick converted thousands of Irish people to Christianity...'

What does the word converted mean? Tick one.

- ☐ rewarded
☒ **changed**
☐ covered
☐ painted

2. Match each question to the correct answer.



3. Name two things Saint Patrick did while he was a slave.

Accept any two of the following. While he was a slave, Patrick: worked as a shepherd; began to pray to God; heard a voice; fled from where he was being kept; persuaded a captain to take him away.

4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

'When Patrick was **16 years old**, he was captured by **a group of Irish pirates**. He was taken to **Ireland** where he was made to work as a **slave**.'

5. Find and copy a phrase which tells you that Patrick found it hard to convince the captain to take him away from Ireland.

with difficulty

6. Explain why Saint Patrick was brave to go back to Ireland.

Accept any suitable explanation, such as: Saint Patrick was brave to go back to Ireland because he had bad experiences there in the past; His captors might find him again and take him back; Lots of people did not share his religious beliefs; Pagans and Christians did not get along.

7. Why do people celebrate St. Patrick's Day on 17th March?

People celebrate St. Patrick's Day on 17th March because it marks the anniversary of

Saint Patrick's death and it would be fitting to celebrate his life on this date.

8. Explain why Saint Patrick had a difficult life.

Saint Patrick had a difficult life because he was captured by pirates; He was forced to work as a slave for six years; He was taken away from his family; He had to walk through a forest for 28 days with no food; He spent his life trying to convert others to his religion.