

# ST PATRICK'S DAY THEMED PROGRAMME



## AIM

Celebrate St Patrick's Day (17th March), one of the world's most celebrated national festivals, with a session themed around Irish culture. Play themed games, get creative and build your knowledge of all things Irish.

## ACTIVITIES

-  3 Leaf Shamrock Biscuits
-  True or False?
-  Lucky or Blessed?
-  Chasing the Snakes Out
-  Potato Bowling & Cabbage Crawl

# ST PATRICK'S DAY

## » INTRODUCTION

St Patrick's Day is a celebration of Irish Christianity, history and culture and it is celebrated by millions of people around the world on the 17th March each year.

St Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland and is remembered for bringing Christianity to Ireland. He was thought to have grown up in Britain but was kidnapped and taken to Ireland as a slave.

Once he was free he became a priest and returned to Ireland to tell people about God.

## ? DID YOU KNOW?

- St Patrick's Day is on the 17th March, the day St Patrick died.
- The colour green is often associated with the celebration seeing many famous buildings and landmarks lit up green.
- St Patrick's Day is celebrated around the world including in the UK, USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Brazil and Argentina.
- 34 million Americans have Irish ancestors. That's more than the 6.6m people that live on the island of Ireland.



GET CREATIVE



15 MINUTES



PREPARATION  
NEEDED

## GET CREATIVE: 3 LEAF SHAMROCK BISCUITS

**Leader Preparation** – The ingredients listed are per person. Leaders will need to ensure there are enough ingredients for each person taking part. You may also wish to pre-weigh the ingredients into bowls, to save time during the activity.

### Getting into the Activity

- 1 Heat the oven to 200c and line a baking sheet with baking paper
- 2 Put the butter in a bowl and beat it until soft and creamy. Then beat in the sugar, then the egg and vanilla extract.
- 3 Now sieve and mix in the flour to create the dough. If the dough feels a bit sticky, add a little bit more flour and knead it in.
- 4 Sprinkle flour over your worktop and roll out the dough to the thickness of two £1 coins.
- 5 Cut out the shamrock shape using the cutter.
- 6 Place the circles of dough onto the baking paper & baking tray and bake for around 8-10 minutes or until golden brown.
- 7 Leave for 5 minutes to cool and then ice the biscuits.

### What you'll need:

- 3 Leaf Shamrock cutter
- 200g Unsalted Butter
- 200g Golden Caster Sugar
- 1 Large Egg
- ½ tsp Vanilla Extract
- 400g Plain Flour
- Mixing Bowl & Spoon
- Baking Tray
- Rolling Pin
- Biscuit Cutter
- Baking Paper
- Green Icing





GET LEARNING



10 MINUTES



READY TO GO

## GET LEARNING: TRUE OR FALSE?

This activity can be run in a variety of ways. Either split into teams or play individually. Nominate one end of the room as 'True' and the other as 'False'. After each statement, ask the children to stand at either end of the room. You can award points for every correct answer or eliminate players after a wrong answer to see who is the last person standing.

St Patrick used the Shamrock which has 3 leaves to explain 3 important things.	True	St Patrick used the Shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity (i.e The Father. The son and the Holy Spirit).
St Patrick chased Snails out of Ireland.	False	St Patrick is said to have chased snakes out of Ireland (although Ireland actually never had any snakes to begin with, this was a metaphor for converting pagans).
It's a tradition to pinch someone who isn't wearing green on St Patrick's Day.	True	No one really knows why – But it's a great way to get people wearing green!
The colour that has always been associated with St Patrick's Day is green.	False	Originally, a sky blue colour symbolized Patrick. It became green in the 18th century Irish Rebellion.
There is an area in Ireland called Muckanagherdauhaulia.	True	It is the longest place name in Ireland!
More people with Irish ancestry live in America than live in Ireland.	True	34 million Americans have family connections to Ireland.
In Chicago, USA, the river is dyed green every year for St Patrick's Day.	True	They have been doing it for over 50 years.
St Patrick's given name was Fredrick.	False	It is said his given name was Maewyn. "Patrick" came from the Latin "Patricius."
At 16, St Patrick was kidnapped and taken to Ireland to be a slave.	True	He was a slave for 6 years before escaping.



GET INTO THE BIBLE



15 MINUTES



IN THE CUPBOARD

## GET INTO THE BIBLE: LUCKY OR BLESSED?

Ask your group if they have ever found a four leafed clover? Do they know what they are meant to bring? Good Luck. Apparently, the chance of finding a four leafed clover is around 1 in 10,000 – so very rare!

Many people associate luck with St Patrick's Day – but we don't need to be 'lucky' because we have God on our side. It's natural to feel lucky when something good happens or you win a competition or prize. But the Bible says that good things always come from God.



Read James 1:17 - " Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father."

**Activity:** Cut out a three leafed clover from green card. In the middle of the clover write 'I am Blessed by God' and ask the group to write or draw all the things in life which they are blessed by God to have. This may include family, friends, pets, food, shelter etc. Remember the 3 leaves were used by St. Patrick to explain the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

Once complete, finish the activity by bringing all these blessings together in a prayer, thanking God for everything he gives us.



GET ACTIVE



15 MINUTES



PREPARATION  
NEEDED

## GET ACTIVE: CHASING THE SNAKES OUT

St Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland has been credited with chasing the snakes from the island. For this game you will need to download and print the 'Chasing the Snakes' Activity Sheet for each member of the group. You could then ask the group to help cut out the snakes or have done this in preparation.

Get the group into teams and give each team or individual a snake. Each team will also need a newspaper. Starting at one end of the meeting space, each team member using the newspaper must fan the snake from one end of the hall to the other, chasing the snakes from Ireland. Mark a line on the floor of the meeting space over which the snakes must go. The player then runs back to their team and the next player goes. The winner is the first team to finish.



GET ACTIVE



20 MINUTES



IN THE  
CUPBOARD

## GET ACTIVE: POTATO BOWL & CABBAGE CRAWL

Some of the traditional foods that are eaten on St Patricks Day are Irish Stew, Corned Beef and Cabbage and Colcannon. Try out some games themed around some of these ingredients:

### Potato Bowl

You will need some large potatoes and 6 plastic water bottles (500ml or 1l in size) for each team or group. Set up the water bottles in a bowling pin formation (3, 2, 1). Split the group into teams. Players bowl the potato to try and knock over the water bottles. You could score this by each player having 2 attempts (bowls) or time how long it takes for each player to knock over all 6 bottles.

### Cabbage Crawl

You will need some cabbage heads and to mark a line on the floor using tape/cones. Split the group into teams and provide each team with a cabbage head. Players must get down on their hands and knees and from behind the start line push their head of cabbage to the finish line marked out using just their head, crawling on their hands and knees. This could be done as an individual head to head or as a team relay.

**GET ACTIVE:  
CHASING THE SNAKES OUT**

