

ST. PATRICK'S DAY



CFE 3298V

OPEN CAPTIONED
UNITED LEARNING INC.
1995
Grade Levels: 3-8
10 minutes

DESCRIPTION

Animated story of St. Patrick's life tells that he was kidnapped and taken to Ireland when he was fourteen. Though he escaped, he later returned to bring Christianity to the island. Every March 17, St. Patrick's Day, people of Irish descent celebrate his life with special foods, dances, and parades. These celebrations feature symbols such as leprechauns, shillelaghs, shamrocks, and the color green.

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

- To dramatize the story of St. Patrick's life.
- To examine the St. Patrick's Day traditions of an Irish family.
- To demonstrate the Irish custom of coming together as a community to celebrate holidays.
- To identify significant Irish symbols such as leprechauns, shillelaghs, the shamrock, and the color green.

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Read the CAPTION SCRIPT to determine unfamiliar vocabulary and language concepts.
2. Investigate nonfiction texts and encyclopedia entries pertaining to St. Patrick's Day.
3. Generate a list of facts and personal experiences regarding St. Patrick's Day.
4. Teach the terms: *customs*, *traditions*, *heritage*, and *celebration*. Guide the discussion to relate these terms to the video content.
5. Prepare simple cutouts of St. Patrick as a baby, young man, at mid-life, and as an older man. Briefly introduce his life.

DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.

2. Pause to review and discuss each facet of the Irish family's holiday celebration. Share personal experiences.

3. Review the animated sequence of St. Patrick's life.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Why is March 17 a special day for Clare and Conor Kennedy? What are they doing to prepare for this day?

2. Why was St. Patrick honored with a holiday?

3. Describe the fierce warriors that came to capture Patrick and took him as a slave. Tell about his sad experience.

4. Why did Patrick sleep outside? What happened during these evenings? To what did this lead?

5. Why were so many European cities already burnt when Patrick arrived?

6. Explain these statements: "The world Patrick knew as a child was gone. The only thing left was his religion, Christianity."

7. Why did Patrick devote his life to God and move to a monastery? What was his experience like?

8. Patrick studied ten years before he returned to Ireland. Discuss this, and explain what happened when he finally returned.

9. Outline the three important steps Patrick took to share his Christianity. Explain why very simple plans are important when presenting new ideas.

10. Many Irish Americans celebrate the union of Ireland as one country under one God. Describe these aspects of Irish heritage:

a. Enjoying traditional Irish foods such as Irish soda bread, cabbage with Irish-style bacon, colcannon, and scones.

b. Remembering the homeland, ancestry, and the remaining relatives.

- c. Admiring Irish craftsmanship, such as the skill used to make Waterford crystal and Belleek china.
 - d. Frequenting heritage centers.
 - e. Performing Irish folk dances.
 - f. Attending St. Patrick's Day parades.
11. Describe the many symbols of Ireland in more detail. Share personal stories or complete projects regarding:
- a. The shamrock
 - b. A leprechaun's magic
 - c. The accordions, bagpipes, and marching bands
 - d. A shillelagh
12. What is fascinating about the Chicago River on St. Patrick's Day? Are there any similar local customs?

Applications and Activities

1. Invite a guest to demonstrate Irish folk dances, or visit a nearby cultural center. Relate personal and multicultural experiences that compare.
2. Encourage "Our Heritage" family projects. Request family videos, photographs, diaries, or visits from grandparents. Parallel the video's sharing of Irish customs and traditions.
3. Research the recipes for Irish soda bread and the other dishes described in the video. Prepare an Irish feast.
4. Investigate the many cultures represented in class. Select one special family holiday recipe to include in a Classroom Cultures Cookbook.
5. Investigate the Irish limerick, which allegedly grew in fame from Irish social gatherings where the refrain "Will you come up to Limerick" was sung.
6. Compose limericks, diamond poems, or cinquains to describe the video content.
7. Cut shamrock shapes from potatoes and use to stamp stationary. Write friendly letters to the young St. Patrick. Encourage him through his struggles.

8. Create a time line to reflect St. Patrick's life. Include pictures and captions. Produce similar time lines to share personal developments.

9. Share personal accomplishments for which one might be honored in the future. Imagine posthumous eulogies or acceptance speeches for humanitarian awards.

10. Teach the terms *biography* and *autobiography*. Relate the written information about St. Patrick and his life. Publish a biography about his service and devotion.

11. Write first-person accounts of a day spent with St. Patrick. Dress in costume to deliver presentations.

12. Imagine diary entries of St. Patrick at different ages. Write personal reflections in response to St. Patrick's suffering.

13. Research how a day becomes a public holiday, and how a person becomes a saint.

14. Further research the symbolic significance of Irish items such as the shamrock or the shillelagh. Design simple posters to depict findings.

15. Research and simulate the process of coloring the Chicago River green. Investigate similar traditions in Boston, New York, and other large cities.

WEBSITES

Explore the Internet to discover sites related to this topic. Check the CFV website for related information (<http://www.cfv.org>).

CAPTION SCRIPT

Following are the captions as they appear on the video. Teachers are encouraged to read the script prior to viewing the video for pertinent vocabulary, to discover language patterns within the captions, or to determine content for introduction or review. Enlarged copies may be given to students as a language exercise.

[Irish music playing]

[music stops]

(male narrator)
It's almost March 17th,

Saint Patrick's Day,

[Irish music playing]
and Conor Kennedy is helping
his sister Clare prepare.

As a prize-winning
Irish folk dancer--

she's even won several national
championships in her age group--

Clare will participate
in a number of holiday programs.

She'll join countless other
people around the country

and throughout the world

who will celebrate
their Irish heritage,

as well as
remember and honor

the man for whom the holiday
has been named:

Saint Patrick.

Saint Patrick was born in
England about 1,600 years ago.

His parents had moved there
from Rome.

Patrick's father, an official
in the Roman government,

was sent to England
to help rule that country,

which the Romans had defeated
many years before.

As the son
of a rich and powerful man,

Patrick was
free from want.

His life was
peaceful and happy.

But all that changed
when he was 14.

From across the sea,
from the land of Eire--

today known as Ireland--

fierce warriors came,
hoping to defeat the Romans.

And they succeeded.

Thousands of Roman
and English prisoners

were taken back to Eire
to become slaves--

Patrick among them.

He was forced to live
as a shepherd in northern Eire.

He wasn't mistreated,

*but he did feel
sad and lonely.*

*As you can imagine,
he missed his family*

*and wanted
to return home.*

*As time passed,
Patrick's sadness grew,*

and he turned to prayer.

*[wind howling]
At the same time,*

*he began sleeping outside,
not noticing the cold winds*

*that frequently swept
across northern Eire.*

*And as he slept,
he had many dreams.*

*In one of them
he heard a voice say,*

*"Thy ship is ready
for thee."*

*Patrick felt that the voice
was telling him to escape,*

*and so at the age of 21,
he ran away toward the sea.*

*Sure enough,
when Patrick reached
the shores of eastern Eire,*

he spied a ship.

*He spent the next three days
sailing eastward,*

*hoping to find a new and better
life on the continent of Europe.*

*But what he found was not
a better life at all,*

*for wandering tribes of warriors
had destroyed villages there*

and burned the crops.

Even the great city of Rome,

*where many of the most powerful
people in the world had lived,*

*was destroyed
by the tribal warriors.*

*The world Patrick knew
as a small child was gone.*

*The only thing left was
his religion, Christianity.*

*Patrick then decided
to devote his life to God.*

*For many years, he lived
in European monasteries,*

*places where religious people
lead simple lives*

and study their beliefs.

*[men singing
religious chant]*

*One day Patrick heard
another voice.*

*It said, "Come.
Walk among us again."*

What could the message mean?

*Well, to Patrick, God was
calling him back to Eire*

*to unite its people
through Christianity.*

*To prepare
for that mission,*

*he studied
ten more years.*

*At the end of that time,
he was made a bishop,*

*a leader
in the Catholic Church.*

*Because he had lived in Ireland
and knew its people,*

*it was decided that he was,
indeed, the best person*

*to bring Christianity
to the Emerald Isle,*

as Ireland is often called.

*So after many years,
Patrick returned,*

but his job wasn't easy.

*People threw stones
at him and his helpers*

and chased them away.

*They thought Patrick's ideas
were strange and threatening.*

*Once he was even
put into chains.*

But Patrick didn't give up.

He had a plan,

*and after he escaped,
he stuck to it.*

*First, he never tried to stamp
out old Irish religious customs.*

*He merely combined them
with Christian customs.*

*Next, he always tried to teach
Christian beliefs*

*to the leaders before teaching
any of the others.*

*He knew that once the leaders
understood Christianity*

and agreed to practice it,

*their followers
would go along.*

*Finally, Saint Patrick made
certain that a church was built*

before he moved on.

The church,

along with its priest,

*would help keep people from
falling back to their old ways.*

*In time, hundreds
of churches were built,*

*and Ireland became
a Christian nation.*

*Saint Patrick's dream
had come true.*

*Ireland became one country
under one God,*

*a fact that many Irish-Americans
such as the Kennedys*

*celebrate in many ways
as the holiday nears.*

*One way is by making
traditional Irish foods*

*such as Irish soda bread
on the week of the celebration.*

*[accordion and band
playing Irish music]*

[no audio]

*Soda bread is, of course,
only one traditional food*

served at holiday meals.

*Mrs. Kennedy always makes
cabbage and Irish-style bacon,*

*which are typical foods
in western Ireland,*

*where the Kennedys
come from.*

*The family always has
colcannon, too.*

*It's a tasty combination of
potatoes, onions, and cabbage.*

*Another food often served
on Saint Patrick's Day*

*is corned beef
with cabbage.*

*Scones, a kind
of cake and cookie*

*all mixed together in one sweet,
delicious treat,*

*are almost always served
for dessert on the holiday.*

*But Saint Patrick's Day
is more than a time
to eat traditional foods.*

*It's also a time to discuss ways
of life on the Emerald Isle*

*and to remember relatives
who still live there.*

*For the Kennedys,
the holiday is a time, too,*

*to remember their trips
to Ireland.*

*(Mrs. Kennedy)
Oh, here we are.
What's happening here?*

*(Conor)
Uh, Dad's looking
over the edge.*

*(Mrs. Kennedy)
Sallie's Gap in County Wicklow.*

*Do you remember Daddy
driving around here?*

*(Kids)
He was talking to the sheep.*

Whose house is that?

*(narrator)
It's also when the family's
Irish Waterford crystal*

*and Irish Belleek china
are taken out of the cabinet*

*and then set on the living room
mantel place*

*so everyone,
including visitors who come by,*

*can appreciate the beauty
of fine Irish craftsmanship.*

*[fiddle and piano
playing Irish jig]*

Families of Irish ancestry

*often gather at heritage centers
to celebrate together.*

*[people chatting,
Irish music playing]*

They talk, trade stories,

eat Irish food,

*and listen to folk music
from the old country.*

Too-ra loo-ra li

Too-ra loo-ra loo-ra

Hush, now don't you cry

Too-ra loo-ra loo-ra

[playing Irish reel]

*Usually, folk dancing is
the most exciting part
of the program.*

[Irish band playing]

[audience clapping along]

*In addition to programs
at Irish heritage centers,*

*colorful Saint Patrick's Day
parades are another typical
holiday activity.*

There are government leaders,

bagpipe bands,

lots of Irish flags,

*and many symbols of Ireland--
such as the shamrock.*

*The green plant grows
throughout the island,

and Saint Patrick is said
to have used it in his sermons

to help explain Christianity.*

*Leprechauns are another
symbol of Ireland.*

*These make-believe creatures
are said to have magical powers,

and they could be
very mischievous.*

*A stick called a shillelagh is
still another symbol of Ireland.*

*At one time shillelaghs
were used as clubs in battle.*

*Today, however, they're used
as walking sticks.*

*And of course,
as in any great parade,*

*there are lots of unusual
sights among the marchers

and among the onlookers.*

*On Saint Patrick's Day,

some of those sights have
a lot of green in them*

*because that color reminds
people of the lush,
green lands of Ireland.*

*In fact, the river that runs
through Chicago, Illinois,

is even dyed green
for the entire day.*

*Saint Patrick's Day, then,
is a celebration*

*that helps people of Irish
heritage, and others,*

*remember the man
who many believe*

*is the most important person
in Ireland's history,*

*a man who united the country
under one God.*

*It's a holiday that people enjoy
whether they're Irish or not,*

*because there's lots of music,

dancing, talking,*

*and eating
delicious Irish foods.*

Saint Patrick's Day.

*It's a wonderful celebration
for the Irish*

*and anyone else who enjoys
pretending to be Irish*

for the day.

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and captioning of this video*

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PH: 1-800-572-5580 (V).

*[accordion and band
playing Irish music]*

