

# St. Patrick's Day Ideas



# Poems for St. Patrick's Day

## Catch Him If You Can

*(Tune: The Muffin Man)*

Oh, have you seen a leprechaun,  
Leprechaun, leprechaun?  
Oh, have you seen a leprechaun,  
Who comes from Ireland?  
Among the shamrocks he may hide,  
He may hide, he may hide.  
Among the shamrocks he may hide,  
So catch him if you can!

## I'm a Little Leprechaun

*(Tune: I'm a Little Teapot)*

I'm a little leprechaun dressed in green.  
The tiniest man that you've ever seen.  
If you ever catch me, so it's told.  
I'll have to give you my pot of gold!

## The Leprechauns are Marching

The Leprechauns are marching,  
They're marching down the hall,  
They're marching on the ceiling,  
They're marching on the wall.  
They're marching two by two,  
And now it's four by four,  
You say you still can't see them?  
Move back! Here come some more!  
The leprechauns are marching,  
I think it's three by three.  
Just close your eyes and try now  
To visualize with me.  
You say you still can't see them?  
Perhaps you'll need to go,  
Across the sea to Ireland,  
Where people say it's so.  
Amidst the Irish mist,  
The Irishmen insist,  
That though you cannot see them,  
They really do exist!

Near a misty stream in Ireland in the hollow  
of a tree  
Live mystical, magical leprechauns who are  
clever as can be  
With their pointed ears,  
and turned up toes  
and little coats of green  
The leprechauns busily make their shoes  
and try hard not to be seen.  
Only those who really believe have seen these  
little elves  
And if we are all believers  
We can surely see for ourselves.  
.....Irish Blessing

## St. Patrick's Day

A little merry sunshine  
A little wind at play  
And lots and lots  
And lots of green  
All for St. Patrick's Day.

The dear little shamrock  
Has come from far away  
To whisper his message  
Of St. Patrick's Day.



Today is your lucky day  
Or so I've been told.  
The leprechauns have spoken,  
They've sent a pot of gold.

### St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick came from Ireland  
A country trimmed with green  
It has the shamrocks and the pipes  
Those leprechauns you've seen  
Those leprechauns will trip you  
You'll fall flat on your face  
They'll tickle your nose and sour the milk  
Then find a hiding place!

### St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is here, you see,  
We'll pick some shamrocks, one, two, three,  
We'll count the leaves and look them over,  
And maybe find a four-leaf clover,  
I'll sew green buttons on my vest,  
Green for St. Patrick's Day is the best,  
I'll wear a green hat, very high,  
And dance a jig-at least I'll try!

### Five Wee Leprechauns

Five wee leprechauns  
    scurrying by my door  
One jumped away,  
    then there were four  
Four wee leprechauns,  
    climbing in my tree  
One hid in the grass,  
    and then there were three.  
Three wee leprechauns,  
    just a busy few  
One went for a pot of gold,  
    then there were two.  
Two wee leprechauns  
    having lots of fun  
One hopped over the rainbow  
    then there was only one.  
One wee leprechaun  
    with all his work done -  
He slipped off for a nap,  
    then there were none.

### St. Patrick's Day Song

*"Mary Had a Little Lamb"*

I'm looking for a leprechaun,  
Leprechaun, leprechaun.  
I'm looking for a leprechaun.  
Do you know where he's gone?  
He wears a suit that's made of green,  
Made of green, made of green.  
He wears a suit that's made of green  
Do you know where he's gone?

At the end of the rainbow  
    he hides his gold,  
Hides his gold, hides his gold.  
At the end of the rainbow  
    he hides his gold.  
Do you know where he's gone?

If you see a leprechaun,  
Leprechaun, leprechaun.  
If you see a leprechaun,  
Please tell me where he's gone!

St. Patrick's day is with us,  
The day when all that's seen  
To the right and left and everywhere  
Is green, green, green.



May you always have.....  
Walls for the winds  
A roof for the rain  
Tea beside the fire  
Laughter to cheer you  
Those you love near you  
And all your heart might desire.

*--An Irish blessing*

## Making Shamrocks!

The word 'shamrock' means 'little clover'. The traditional shamrock has three leaves - but finding one with four leaves is considered very lucky.



*An Irish blessing to take with you today:  
May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow  
And may trouble avoid you wherever you go.*

Talk about the shamrock, and the lucky four-leaf clover. Take the class outdoors for a clover hunt. Give each student a zip-lock bag and tell them to collect lots of clover leaves. Who can find a four-leaf one? Have the students bring their clovers back to the classroom. You will have clover leaves of many sizes so lay the leaves out on the desk top in order of size.

Lay a piece of wax paper on the desk and lay the clover leaves down in an interesting pattern. Put another sheet over top and press with an iron.

### A Shamrock Headband

Have the children cut out and decorate two shamrock shapes. Then they cut out a long strip of green paper that will fit around the head. Attach the shamrocks to green pipe cleaners and then onto the headband.

Make a shamrock collage - cut out only green bits from magazines and glue onto a shamrock shape.

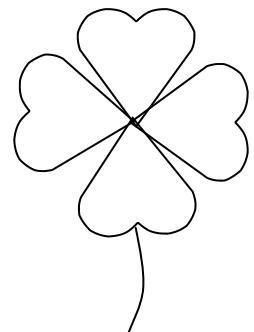
Make shamrock prints. You will need one half of a green bell pepper for each child. Cut each bell pepper in half and scoop out the seeds. Dip the halves into green paint and press onto paper to make shamrock prints. You can use green paint and a paint brush to make stems.

### Shamrock Rubbings

Have the students go out and pick a few clover leaves. Put them vein-side up on the desk and cover it with paper. Hold this paper down firmly as it is rubbed with the side of a wax crayon piece.

**Hearty Shamrock:** Cut three or four hearts from green construction paper. Form shamrock by gluing points of hearts together on a piece of paper. Draw stem.

**Growing Shamrock:** Cut a shamrock shape from terry cloth. Moisten shamrock. Sprinkle with alfalfa seed. Keep moist. Set in dark place. Allow several days for the seeds to grow. Set in the sunlight for the shamrock to turn green.



Cut a shamrock shape out of the middle of a black square of construction paper. This will be your frame. Children glue green squares of tissue paper onto a piece of waxed paper. Glue the frame over the waxed paper when it is completely covered with green tissue paper. Trim off excess. Hang in a sunny window.

### **Lucky Clover Bookmark**

"Although it would be nice to use a four-leaf clover for this craft, the more common three-leaf variety will do very well. The bookmark will be lucky, in that it will help prevent you from losing your place when you stop reading!

Here's what to do: Put your clover between 2 sheets of paper, and press between the pages of a heavy book. In a few days, when the clover has dried, take it from between the pages of paper. Cut a strip from some coloured construction paper, and carefully glue your clover to the top end. You can also laminate your bookmark to make it last longer."



**Shamrock Prints:** cut green bell peppers in half (across, not from top to bottom), clean out the seeds, dip the cut side into some green paint, and press onto a piece of paper. Voila, shamrock prints! Stamp onto heavy white paper to create unique St. Patrick's Day cards or postcards. For added variety, mix green and white paint to create different shades of green. Wet paint may be sprinkled with salt or glitter to add sparkle.

Consider painting in layers, with each layer being a different shade of green. Allow project to dry between layers. Use salt or glitter on just one of the layers for an interesting effect.

Make a shamrock...glue on googly eyes and they write Erin Go Braugh (Ireland Forever) - one word on each leaf.

**Shamrock People:** Cut out a minimum of one shamrock from green paper for each child. The children glue the shamrocks onto construction paper. Provide the children with magic markers to decorate the shamrocks with features to make them look like a person.

**Glowing Shamrocks:** You will need shamrock cut outs, glue and salt. Give each child one shamrock cut out. The children spread glue over the entire shamrock and then sprinkle salt on top. The result is a sparkling, glowing shamrock.

**Filter Paper Shamrocks:** You will need a filter paper cut into the shape of a shamrock for each child. You will also need a dropper and food coloring. Mix yellow food coloring with water in baby food jars. Mix blue food coloring with water in another set of baby food jars. Let the children experiment with putting the colored water onto the shamrocks using the droppers. They will make green in the places where the yellow and blue overlap.

Trace shamrock shapes onto heavy white paper. Carefully cut out, then paint green and sprinkle with salt. After shamrocks have dried, they will have a shimmery appearance. You may punch holes in the tops of these then use yarn or ribbon to tie them to a clothes hangar for a simple mobile, or you may hole punch them, string them on separate 24" ribbons, tie, and give to friends as St. Patrick's Day necklaces.



**Shamrock Collage:** Cut out green colours from magazines and glue onto the shape of a shamrock.

## **Green, Green, Green!**

"We have a green snack - green vegetables with a green dip, granny smith apples and kiwi fruit."

If you have snow - go outdoors and paint green pictures on the snow.

Have the students make pictures using green glitter, crayons, pens, paint, yarn, tissue or crepe paper, or other mediums - but just green! Talk about all the different things that are green, and make a green list. There are many different shades of green, too. Learn how green is made and try mixing different amounts of yellow and blue to make different shades of green.

Make green pictures - use just green paint to paint a picture, or fingerpaint with green, or only use green crayons to make a picture.

Make the colour green. Show the children how to make green by combining blue and yellow. They can do this by mixing paint or colouring with a blue crayon and then colouring with yellow over top of the blue.

"If you're looking for a St. Patrick's Day art idea, think about letting the kids mix 'green' into many shades of green. Add a little yellow, for spring green. Add a little blue, for blue-green. Add a little red, for brownish green. And so on. Add white for lighter green. Then they can make prints or paint with all shades of green ... not really doing St. Patrick's Day theme symbols or anything, just looking at green in its many forms. To set up a mixing station, use film canisters and small brushes, or small paper cups. Encourage them to mix small amounts of each shade.

Here's green homework! Send home a letter to your families asking them to locate five things in their house that are green. Have the children write what they found that is green.

## Wearing the Green

*Who can wear the most green on St. Patrick's Day? Who is wearing green today?*

Who is Wearing Green Today?

Green Today, Green Today?

Who is Wearing Green Today?

All Day Long

(Child's Name) is Wearing Green Today

Green Today, Green Today?

(Child's Name) is Wearing Green Today?

All Day Long

"One of my students told me that when he was in Kindergarten the leprechaun took every green crayon and the class couldn't use green all day."

**Green Popcorn Pictures:** Use tempera powder paint on popped popcorn and create some interesting popcorn pictures.

**Green Day:** The week before St. Patrick's Day, send home a letter letting the parents know that you will have a 'Green Day'. Then on St. Patrick's Day, everyone dresses in green to celebrate. Give each a paper shamrock shape to wear.

**Create the Color Green:** Show the children how to make green by combining blue and yellow. They can do this by mixing paint or colouring with a blue crayon and then colouring with yellow over top of the blue.

**Noodle Necklaces:** Supply the children with pasta noodles that have been dyed green, or use many different colors for a rainbow necklace, and yarn. Have the children thread the noodles onto the yarn to make a necklace.



## Leprechaun Tricks!

"Talk about the Irish lore of the mischievous Leprechaun. Find a leprechaun doll in a toy store or card shop. Have your class name the Leprechaun and keep him in the room as your lucky mascot during the month of March. It's especially fun if the Leprechaun plays harmless pranks during the night, such as hiding the reading books or leaving a small little treat on the desks (with a little help from the teacher, of course). Cut out little footsteps and tape them to the floor."

"I put up a rainbow in the classroom when the children are not there, and a 'pot of gold' made of an ice cream bucket covered in black paper. On the pot is a note from the leprechaun saying that he has lost his gold. I have hidden a lot of gold chocolate coins around the classroom, and we all go looking for it! When they think they have found it all and put it back in the pot, we all share it."

"We will make a leprechaun trap. I ask them for ideas on a trap - last year we made a giant hat. I made the hat out of black butcher paper and they decorated it with shamrocks. While I made the hat, they wrote letters to the leprechaun saying what their wishes were going to be when we caught him. We suspended the hat over a chair and the leprechaun was supposed to stand on the chair and pull the string to make the hat fall over him and the chair (it was a REALLY big hat). On St. Patrick's day last year, the children came in and were crushed to find the trap not sprung but when we came back from assembly, the trap was sprung!! Because they had seen me all the time at the assembly, they KNEW it wasn't me. It was the secretary who also messed up the room a bit and left some cupcakes with a note that said "Good try, you almost caught me!" My ESL children were completely mystified...."

"Some years I go 'all out' for St. Patrick's Day. When the kids get to school, there are little green footprints all over the room and the room is a mess. Things are all out of place. There is glitter dust, green confetti and green Easter grass around the room. There is usually a note from the leprechaun. I have also left the green pudding. Another thing is to get little (doll) kitchen furniture from a dollar store and put out with mini food - French toast and cinnamon bun cereals, mini chocolate chips, etc. I give the kids a week to build leprechaun traps at home to bring in the night before. I have also put out foil coins for the kids from the leprechaun. I tied a string to the window latch and left the window open just a crack. The kids were sure that it was how he escaped. After all this - it takes a while to get them settled down again, but it's so much fun!"





"For St. Patrick's Day, we make a Leprechaun Finder! We make 2 outlines of a magnifying glass kind of thing (like a hand held mirror) out of oak tag or green construction paper, and cut them out. Then, before we glue the two pieces together, we place a piece of green cellophane between the two pieces of paper. Then, we recite the poem:

Leprechaun little,  
Leprechaun green,  
C'mon out,  
Where you can be seen!

My classes seem to get a kick out of it. For some reason, my students always seem to like to talk about leprechauns.

And then, I make a BIG DEAL out of locking the classroom door when I am taking them to their 'special class' and I tell them that I don't want anyone coming into the room while I am on my prep working. After I take them to their class, I sneak back to the room and make a mess, and then I leave either chocolate gold coins or pennies, that I have washed really well) all around the room. When I pick them up from their special class, I make a big deal about how busy I was, etc., and that I never made it back to the room. When I unlock the classroom door and they see the room, they go NUTS! It gets crazy, but they really seem to love it, and you would not believe how many of my students confess to actually SEEING the little leprechaun run down the hall, or crawl out of the window, etc. It's a scream!"

"I like to make the leprechaun traps with my students and I have the leprechaun mess up the room a little and leave some chocolate gold coins and green shamrock shaped confetti. I buy a sheet of small shamrock stickers and stick these near the traps. I have a tiny leprechaun shoe that I leave in one of the traps.

The leprechaun leaves a note beside each trap, making fun of it - how easy it was to get the 'bait', etc."



## **For the Parents - Make a Leprechaun Trap at Home!**

1. Gather together all kinds of materials to make the perfect leprechaun trap, such as small boxes, bags, spools, anything shiny, straws, yarn, string, paper cups, plastic spoons, pieces of wood, cardboard.
2. Design the trap. Sketch out your plan. Decide how to attract a leprechaun and eventually catch him! Be clever, smart and tricky!
3. Build the trap. Use nails, glue, or string to make your trap 'leprechaun tight!' Don't make it too big - remember you're catching a leprechaun, not a giant.
4. Be ready to explain how your trap works. You will use your trap to demonstrate.
5. Bring your trap to school.

Hint: Leprechauns are tricky fellows - they like shiny things. They are also naughty and often disobey signs.

## Leprechaun Foot Prints

Obtain a very long piece of white paper, about six feet long is nice. Then have each child walk across the paper after a teacher has painted their feet green. It could be messy, so be prepared!

Family activity: design a leprechaun trap. We put these out on the 16th, hoping to catch a leprechaun. On the 17th, each trap is 'tripped' and there is a gold coin (chocolate) left behind. Each child gets a special 'Leprechaun Trap Designer' certificate (created by me on the computer).



**Make leprechaun ladders:** Cut straws into 1" lengths (clear straws are the best). Reproduce about a dozen small shamrocks for each child with a small x marked in the middle of them. They can either poke through this X with a pencil or punch it with a paper punch. Give them a length of green yarn - about 18". Before giving this to them, dip one end of each in Elmer's glue and let it dry, so that the yarn has a 'sewing' end. Put a knot at the end of the yarn that has no glue. The kids start with a shamrock and alternate with a length of straw. These are for leprechauns to climb on.

**Make leprechaun magic:** You can do this as a whole class. I did it for each child. Have enough baby food jars so that each child has one. Put 1 Tablespoon of Jello brand INSTANT pistachio pudding mix in each jar. (This will be white, which is what you want. Some cheaper brands are green.) I put these in a box with a container of magical leprechaun potion - milk - and enough mini-spoons (like those used for samples at an ice cream store) for each child. The tricky leprechaun leaves this with a note. Pour two Tablespoons of milk into each jar. The children are directed to put on the lid, hold with both hands, and shake. (We predict what will happen first.) It turns green! Then they taste it. It's always a surprise. Make sure no one in your class is allergic to nuts before doing this."

"I think Grade Two kids still want to believe in magic! I have them make Leprechaun traps at home. They bring them to school and explain how they work, etc. This also can be a writing assignment as they explain their traps. We then leave them to see if the trap works. I make the traps look like the leprechaun did appear, making each trap look like it failed. The Grade Two teachers make little green hats from Styrofoam cups and paint them green. We put one in each trap, with a little note saying something like 'You almost caught me', etc. The kids really enjoy it."

"There will be some Grade Two kids that will question the leprechaun, but they will still enjoy it and perhaps wonder - especially if you make up a good story. I like to mess up the room a little, and it's fun to use green chalk to draw little footprints over the room. They get a big kick out of this. I also leave a note and a little pot of gold wrapped coins...once they see the chocolate they don't care whether they believe or not!"

## More Leprechaun Traps

"We made the Leprechaun traps last year, and they were a RIOT. I had the children make them at home, and bring them in. When the kids came in two days before St. Patrick's, the games and manipulatives were all over the floor, and there was a message in green chalk on the chalkboard. "We had fun with your games. If you ever catch us we will grant you a wish. What would you wish for?" The kids wrote back letters and told them not to leave a mess, and what their wish was. The next day all the books were in the floor and notes taped in various places throughout the room. I painted one little foot print on each desk, and dripped a little green paint (so they had to wash their desks, which needed washing anyway). The message on the chalkboard said "We don't like to clean up messes. We just like to have fun. We read your letters. They are good!" The Leprechauns left 3 stories for us to read. Before they went home the night before St. Patrick's, they set their traps up around the room. Most were boxes propped up with rulers. They had written all kinds of things on them (gold in here, arrows pointing the way, come inside, etc.) They had strings across them, tape to get stuck on, etc. The most creative was a plastic cereal bowl with Lucky Charms cereal. The 'milk' was marshmallow cream which is very sticky - so he would get stuck. After they left, I put a note on each one, such as: Nice try, wise guy; missed me; you'll never catch me; you missed me, bumblebee; etc., and sprinkled a little gold glitter. The note on the chalkboard said: Nice try, but your traps didn't work. We're going back to Ireland. Your room was fun. You are nice, so we left you a treat. See you next year." The treat was green apples (Granny Smith apples) and green lemonade; a baggie of Lucky Charms, a small eraser, and play money, and a sticker of \$100. We had some little cookie boxes from a box factory in town, so I put everything in individual boxes with their name on it, and they had to find their own box scattered about the room somewhere. They were so excited! I locked the door, and pretended to be running late when they came in, so that we all discovered the messes, etc., together. They really believed it all, and they were so serious about their traps. It was quite funny!"

"We write what would happen if we caught the leprechaun. Will he take us to his pot of gold? Where might the pot of gold be hidden?"

"I love when St. Patrick's Day is on a Monday....I have the children make leprechaun traps at home the previous week. On Monday, they come into the room and find their traps with a piece of gold (gold wrapped chocolate coins) and a note from the leprechaun (the notes are written by their 6th grade buddies). There is also a pot that contains a white powder -- with a note saying that this is magical leprechaun food that they would like to share with us, just add milk and see the magic appear (it is pistachio pudding that when you add milk it turns....green). We then share our letters and our magical treat."

"The little green men knock over chairs and generally mess up the room. They leave behind St. Patrick's Day pencils and sprinkle shamrock confetti on each desk. When they come into class on the 17th, I have Irish music playing! It's a nice tradition."

"This is a cute project for St. Patrick's Day. I bought a cute little leprechaun hat headband. I took a picture with my digital camera of each of my students wearing the headband and holding a black plastic cauldron from Halloween. I printed off the pictures and had the students cut them out. They put gold glitter on the top of the cauldron so that it looked like a pot of gold. I had them watercolour a rainbow and cut it out. They glued the rainbow on 12 x 18 construction paper and then put their photo at the end of the rainbow.

Then they wrote a story: 'What I would do if I found a pot of gold.' This was added to the project. It looks great. A couple of my students REALLY look like leprechauns!"

"I have been doing the leprechaun traps for years and it is something that my students talk about for years to come. The traps are done at home. It is an optional activity. Traps are set the afternoon before March 17. I am usually in the room when the students arrive, but on March 17 I act as if I am running late and the children see me unlock the door and I go in with them. The room is a mess, courtesy of the leprechaun. There is a note on the board from the leprechaun saying how he almost got caught, messed up their room as he was playing and that he is hiding in the room watching them today. He will only come out if they are quiet. I pretend to see him peeking at us all day. The students also begin to 'see' him. I pretend to catch him but he escapes through a previously torn hole in the bag. The students are wild but it is fun!"

"My birthday is on St. Patrick's Day so I too do a lot of stuff about leprechauns. I tell my class that I have a special leprechaun that comes to visit me for my birthday....I haven't actually seen him but he always plays tricks on me. Last year my class designed a trap (just a box and stick) and put fake jewelry and green food and lucky charms cereal in it. One little girl brought a mirror in so that the leprechaun would see his reflection and think it was another leprechaun. Great thinking! Another student and his dad made one at home out of a box painted green and a little trap door. We write notes and draw pictures for the leprechaun. After about 2 days of waiting, I start taking the food and leaving a tiny letter (font 4) that is written with an Irish tone 'yer lads and lasses'. I even take a picture of the trap saying the leprechaun can't be photographed. I've made tiny green velvet booties and will leave them by our couch as well as gold foot prints on our painting easel. I have a cast iron crock pot full of shamrock sugar cookies and gold coin chocolates that I hide in our room. Last year my class went crazy for two weeks and though it was hard to calm them down it was fun watching them write the letters on their own, plan the trap, and say they actually heard and saw the leprechaun!"

**Leprechaun Ladders** - You will need green construction paper, straws and strings. On St. Patrick's Day the leprechaun is very mischievous. He upsets chairs while children are outside playing, walks through the jello, and dyes the mashed potatoes light green. To help him keep out of mischief we make leprechaun ladders for him to play on. String shamrocks alternately with snips of straws. Hang from ceiling or windows.



"We had a great time making potato head leprechauns. I found happy face St. Patrick's Day stickers, and we used those for the face. The kids made accordion type arms and legs, made a hat by folding a small square of paper, and decorated and added to their leprechauns with feathers, small pom poms, construction paper... They used unopened brads to attach anything to the potato. It was a great project!"

Using black, green, gold, and white paint, paint a leprechaun face on a white styrofoam cup. Allow cup to dry completely (overnight, if possible). Punch a small hole in the bottom of the cup to allow for drainage. Put about a 1/2 inch of aquarium gravel in the bottom of the cup, then finish filling to within a 1/2 inch of the top with potting soil. Plant grass seed, water it, cover the cup with plastic wrap, and set on newspaper in a sunny spot. Once seeds begin to sprout, remove plastic. Water as needed. Within a couple of weeks, you will have a leprechaun with a head full of 'live' hair. Cut and shape hair as desired.



## Irish Potatoes

1. Measure how many potatoes long you are. (You can make construction paper potatoes or use real potatoes)
2. Weigh the potatoes. Estimate the weights. Put the potatoes in order of how heavy you think they are and then see if you are right.
3. Plant potatoes and record the changes or what happens. Put toothpicks into a potato and sit it in a small cup with the bottom sitting in water. Where are the 'eyes'?
4. Have baked potatoes for lunch one day, discuss the different ways we eat potatoes, and graph them.
5. Discuss how people in different lands use potatoes. (some only feed them to their livestock)
6. For art make potato people, potato stampers.
7. For language write your favourite potato recipe and post it in your classroom or make a big book with them.

- Weigh potatoes. After the first few, can the children fairly accurately estimate the weight?

- Have the children measure how many potatoes long they are. Estimate first. Is this a good way of measurement? Why?

- Graph the favourite ways of eating potatoes.

- Scoop out some of the top of the potato before you give it to the children. Let the children make a face with pipe cleaners, yarn, toothpicks and eyes. When they have finished add soil and grass seed, and when the grass grows the potato has hair.

- For art, make potato people and potato stamps.

"Each child brings a small potato to school, and we peel and cook them to make mashed potatoes. The trick is: out of the view of the kids, after draining the cooked potatoes, I slip green food colouring under the potatoes so that when we pour in the bit of milk, a magical thing happens!"

"I have each of my students bring in a potato. There are many different activities we do with these potatoes. We sort the potatoes in various ways - size, colour, shape, etc.

We find the length and width.

We discuss the circumference and measure it, around the middle and around the ends.

Which potato is the largest? Smallest? Most interesting shape?

We find the weight on a balance scale, and then see which potato weighs the most. Is it the largest?

Graph the favourite way to eat a potato (french fries, mashed potatoes, baked potato, fried potatoes, etc)



We talk about the number of 'eyes' on the potatoes, and discuss why the eyes are there. I often bring a potato that has begun to grow sprouts from the eyes. Then we put one potato in a plastic baggie and leave it to watch the eyes sprout. Do smaller potatoes have less eyes?

The potatoes can be used for stamping. I cut the potatoes in half, and the students use the plastic knives to carve them. Then they are dipped into paint and stamped.

### **Potato Prints**

Cut a large potato in half. You will need a cookie cutter that will fit on the potato half. Press the cookie cutter into the flat side of the potato. Then, using a knife, cut the potato around the outside of the cookie cutter, leaving a shaped potato stamp. Supply the children with the potato stamps, different coloured paints, and paper. Have the children dip the potatoes in the paint and press them firmly onto the paper. If the potatoes are not cut evenly the shapes will not appear clearly.

### **Make Potato Soup**

9 potatoes, peeled and diced, 6 stalks of celery, sliced, 2 small onions, chopped, 3 cups water, 2 teaspoons salt, 3 chicken bullion cubes, dissolved in 1/2 cup boiling water, 6 cups milk, 1/2 cup flour, 1 stick margarine or butter

Directions: Combine the potatoes, celery, onion, water, and seasonings in a large pan. Bring to a boil. Cover and cook until tender, about 30 minutes. Combine a small amount of milk and flour until smooth. Add this mixture and the rest of milk to the potato mixture. Stir in the butter. Cook and stir over medium heat until the soup thickens. This recipe will make about 3 quarts of soup or 24 1/2 cup servings. Serve the soup in styrofoam cups.

## Games for St. Patrick's Day

**Shamrock P.E.** Players stand behind the starting line in groups of 3, their backs to each other. Their hands should be joined. At signal, the groups (Shamrocks) race to a goal and then back to the beginning. If they let go of hands, they must drop out of the race. The first (Shamrock) to complete the race is the winner. Lots of fun to play.

### **Gold, Gold, Who's got the Gold**

A child is chosen to be the Leprechaun and hides his eyes as a gold coin is given to another child to hide behind his back. The Leprechaun then has three chances to guess which child has their gold coin. (All children hide their hands behind their backs to pretend they have it.)



**Pot of Gold Toss:** You will need a laundry basket and at least three yellow bean bags. Let the children take turns tossing the 'gold' into the laundry basket.

### **Play Leprechaun, Leprechaun, Where's Your Gold?**

Leprechaun, Leprechaun, where's your gold?  
Somebody stole it, they are bold,  
Under the rainbow, behind a tree  
Find your gold as quick as can be!

You can sing this song to the tune of I'm a Little Teapot. Teach the song to the children and put the words in a pocket chart. After the children know the words, have someone point to each word as the class sings the song. Ask children to point to words and letters in the song that they recognize.

**Play hot potato!** - Play 'Hot Potato'. A soft ball or bean bag is designated the 'hot potato', or use a real potato. Gather the children in a large circle. While the music plays, pass the potato very quickly around the circle. When the music stops, the person holding it must toss it to someone across the circle.

<http://www.primarygames.com/holidays/st.patricksday/games.htm>  
These are on-line computer games for kids....

# Through the Curriculum

<http://www.mrsmcgowan.com/march/script.htm>

Here's a great readers' theatre script!

"We make a book on St. Patrick's Day, each student writing a page. The writing begins... 'I am lucky because....' When they are done I type them onto a template page I made on the computer, with a pot of gold and a rainbow across the top and a leprechaun and shamrock. Then the page is printed off and the student colours it. When all the pages are done I put them together with a binding comb. We read the book together and then it goes in the class library."

[http://www.robinsonschools.com/wes/teachers/1/corn/Pot\\_of\\_Gold.htm](http://www.robinsonschools.com/wes/teachers/1/corn/Pot_of_Gold.htm)

This is a cute idea for St. Patrick's Day with art and writing goals. A great bulletin board display

Leprechaun's treasure dlog  
They save it in this tpo  
Leads you to a pot of gold wobniar  
St. Patrick's country dnalerI  
Everyone is this on March 17 hsirI  
Irish plant kcormahs  
Colour for March 17 neerg  
Have this on St. Patrick's Day nuf



"The children are asked to write five sentences describing why they are lucky. They read this list on their special sharing day and it is posted in a bulletin board. Of course they are writing these on shamrock shaped paper! They have been asked to illustrate their reasons around the edge of the shamrock. Very cute!"

## Map Activities

Have students look at and study a map of Ireland. After a certain period of time have students put the map away.

Instruct them to:

- Draw an outline map of Ireland.
- Colour Ireland green. Colour Northern Ireland orange.
- Draw in the major cities and the rivers.
- Write in the names of the oceans and seas that border Ireland.

## Research

1. Find out how the shamrock became the symbol for the country of Ireland.
2. Who was St. Patrick and why is he the patron saint of Ireland?
3. Find out the folk history of leprechauns.



"In your math centre, put out a jar filled with pennies or candy coins to resemble gold coins. Estimate how many coins are in the 'pot of gold'. Place the pot at the end of a large laminated rainbow. If you laminate the rainbow, the estimates can be written on the rainbow using a wipe-off pen. Group the pennies or candy coins by tens, and count to check your estimates."



"I try to satisfy my students' needs to celebrate the holidays, and tie it in with my curriculum. In our district we have a book to follow for our math. If I follow the book only, then measurement is always left for the end of the year, and it is a one shot deal. I begin measurement at the beginning of the year and review it each month with holiday math activities. I do this for all the major holidays or seasons and the children love it. For example, this St. Patrick's Day I will be setting out five centres for the students to rotate through.

Station 1 = The Lucky Horse Shoe Toss. Toss a rubber horse shoe, estimate how many metres it will take to reach the spot where it landed, then measure to find out how close you were to your estimate.

Station 2 - Gold grab - I have a bunch of gravel that I spray painted gold placed in a small black cauldron that I pick up around Halloween time. Students estimate and weigh how many unifix cubes a handful of gold will weigh.

Station 3 - Shamrock line-up. Children take a handful of shamrock shaped rubber erasers, line them up in a straight line, and estimate how many centimetres long their line is.

Station 4 - Shamrock Squeeze - Soak a large shamrock-shaped sponge in a bottle of 'pixie juice' (water with green food colouring). Squeeze out and estimate and measure how many tablespoons (or ml) of pixie juice they have.

Station 5 - Leprechaun Jump - Toss a soft leprechaun doll, estimate and measure how many small sticks it will take to reach the leprechaun - how far he jumped.

These activities are great because I also recruit parents to come in and manage each station. It gives them a chance to see what their children are learning and an insight into how well their own child in performing.

The activities are not really hard to create. Just let your imagination run. Once I have them created, I just store the materials for the following year. It is a way to celebrate the holidays and still create a learning situation."

Writing prompt...You found a leprechaun and he gave you three wishes. How would you spend them? Tell why. Add details that make your choices interesting. Give each student 3 chocolate filled gold coins for each of their wishes and after you see they have written about each wish with interesting details, they can eat the coin!"

"We will take a tour of our school and write down everything we find that is green. We turn those into a class book titled *A Wee Bit O'Green at \_\_\_\_\_ School.*"

**Lucky Charms Graphing:** Give each child a ziplock bag of lucky charms cereal and a napkin. The children sort the lucky charms by shape. Let them count how many they have of each shape. Give the children a graph paper. Draw the shapes at the bottom and have them graph each shape. Have the children identify which shape has the most, least, equal, etc.

**Shamrock Sequencing:** Cut out shamrocks of different sizes from green paper. Put them in your math center for children to put in order from largest to smallest or smallest to largest.

### **Graphing the Green**

What colour comes to mind when you think of St. Patrick's Day? Green of course! So celebrate the holiday and the colour by graphing the answers to questions like these:

1. I am wearing green.
2. The house I live in is green.
3. My favorite colour is green.
4. I like green beans.
5. My family has a green car.
6. I have a green pencil.
7. My winter coat is green.
8. I like green Jell-O.
9. I have used a green crayon.
10. I know a word that rhymes with green.



**<http://spunsilk.pair.com/treasure.html>**

A leprechaun story you can read to your class.

"All the children have name tags for St. Patrick's day and I add an O' to the front of their last name on the tags. The tags are a simple shamrock with eyes glued on and a little smile.

"I always do a green day graph. The boy and girl who is wearing the most green wins the title of Mr. and Mrs. Leprechaun for the day.

I have a huge chart of little cartoons of shirt, pants, tights (thus boy and girls) hair ornaments, socks, shoes, jewelry, skirt, jumper, sweater, etc. I have it on grid paper. They choose what they have from the icon paper, colour it green, cut it out and come and paste it on a huge graph that has the items at the base and the count up the side - the most popular green thing graph. Then they do it again and we have the greenest person graph. This is the only time in the year I separate boys from girls. They glue each of their items above their name and we can see the winner. I always emphasize the purpose of a graph

1) a graph is a picture we can see of the relationships of numbers

2) it helps us better understand a lot of data and keep it in our heads

3) it makes understanding a lot of data easier (we don't have to count each thing we can look at the side and read how much)

(This is for bar graphs relationships, line graphs show changes over time and I do them later.)

These graphs get as big a sheet of posterboard. The kids love it!"

"We do a writing activity that has to do with pretending they are a leprechaun or have an encounter with a leprechaun."

### Story Writing

Where would a witty leprechaun hide his pot of gold? Give me seven places to look! What might happen if you caught a leprechaun?

### Spelling

"On Saint Patrick's Day we write our spelling words on art paper with a white crayon using heavy lines. Then we watercolour green over the top and the words appear like magic."

### Write Green Poetry

Read the examples to the children. Then have them name green things to complete each poem following this outline:

Green is \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Green is a flower bed,  
Leaves, stems, and buds.

Green is a picnic in the grass,  
Pickles, green apples, and artichoke hearts.

Green is a vegetable stew,  
Peas, cabbage, and spinach.

*I read this poem to my class and have them draw the picture as I read:*

Leppy, the leprechaun is my name,  
And being a prankster is my game,  
Now, you may want to play a game, too.  
Draw my picture as I talk to you.  
I've a green pointed hat on my head.  
My nose is fat, my eyes, they are blue:  
My scarf is red and my cheeks are too.  
I've got big, black eyebrows and blue eyes,  
Thin little legs,--and arms skinny size.  
A bigger grin than mine, you'll not see.  
No happier guy is there than me.  
And though I'm only as big as your thumb,  
With my apron on, I make things hum.



What do I look like now that we're through?  
Well, mostly my looks are up to you.

## For Older Students

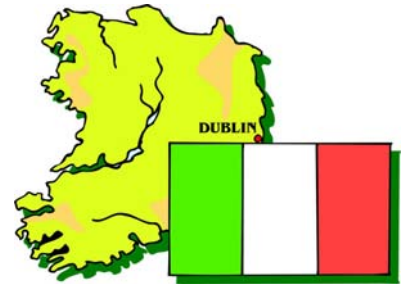
Learn about Ireland. Research facts about this country.

Learn the story of St. Patrick. Did he really chase the snakes out of Ireland?

Draw the flag of Ireland.

Read books about the leprechaun and other Irish folk tales.

Why is the potato important to Ireland?



## Odds and Ends

<http://www.busyteacherscafe.com/images/marchbb3.jpg>

A great bulletin board!

"I put up a rainbow in the classroom (at noon if I don't have a prep period) and a 'pot of gold' ice cream bucket covered with black paper) with a note from 'the leprechaun' saying he has been looking for his gold. I have also previously hidden a bag of the gold-covered chocolate coins. The kids then look for the leprechaun's gold and share it. Lots of fun."

"We do an art theme on rainbows that begins on St. Patrick's Day and ends in April - April showers works with rainbows, too. We learn about the colour spectrum and the colour wheel, and make many different rainbows with different mediums."

"I encourage my kids to wear something green for this special day. I give each a paper shamrock to wear. I call them all O' before their name - O'Smith, O'Robertson, etc., to make them Irish for the day."

"I write for them all their first and last name and put O' before the last name regardless of what it is, for example, Mrs. O'Belmont, Dana O'Obrian, Max O'Schmitz. They get the biggest kick out of the simplest things - aren't they great?! We also do green graphs of our pieces of clothing, wear as much green as possible and have a little contest with that."

"Have the students write their names with an O' in front of it. Do that first thing in the morning, and then call each other Ms. O'smith or whatever all day long. If a student already has O' in the front of his last name, put another one. Call them lads and lassies and have them all wear as much green as they can... then you can graph the person with the most green."

"We always make 'Magic Pudding'. I use the pistachio pudding mix, take it out of the box and put it in a sandwich bag. I hang it on the blackboard with a note in green chalk telling that the leprechaun left them a magic surprise...just to add milk and stir."

I use green paint on a plate and put footprints from the window to the blackboard using the side of my closed fist and toeprints made from the tips of my fingers. I make sure I am not in the classroom when they arrive...then I ask them WHAT they have been doing..."

"My teaching partner and I think it's a great time to spring clean our room, so while our students are out for P.E. or library, one of us completely trashes the room---and I mean trash it! We pull everything out of our manipulatives tubs, turn tables, pull everything out of their cubby holes, etc.... We always leave the window open, to give the hint how the leprechaun got away. We then spend the rest of the afternoon cleaning our room!"

"I have parents sneak in when we are out and leave notes from the Leprechaun. The notes are clues to the pot of gold."

**Make Scones:** "Bake scones. It is very simple...2 cups self-rising flour, 1/2 cup milk, 3 tbs. butter or margarine and a dash of salt. Bake @425 F for 12-15 min. I had the children take turns scooping the flour (I use a 1/2c. or 1/4 cup measuring cup so I could 'stretch' the turns). The children loved squishing all the ingredients together. Flour up a very clean table or pastry board and let them each have some dough for rolling and kneading. We cut our scones with different shaped cookie cutters. It's a terrific snack, and can be topped off with 'green' milk by adding a few drops of green food coloring.

**Biscuit Shamrocks:** You will need one canned biscuit for each child. Give each child a biscuit. Show them how to pull it into four separate pieces. Roll three pieces into balls and put them together to form a shamrock. Roll the fourth piece into a short snake and use it to make the stem. Sprinkle the tops with green sugar sprinkles. Bake according to package directions.

<http://www.dltk-holidays.com/patrick/mpaperlep.htm>

Here is a leprechaun craft activity with templates.

Make leprechaun hats!

<http://www.kidsdomain.com/craft/stpathat3.html>

