

St Patrick's Day: A Global Irish Celebration

B1 | Adults / Teens | Reading + Vocabulary + Discussion | 50-60 minutes

BEFORE YOU READ

Talk with a partner. Can a national celebration become meaningful in other countries? Why?

1. Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- | | | |
|----------------|-------|---|
| 1. heritage | _____ | A. an object or image that represents an idea |
| 2. parade | _____ | B. traditions and history passed from earlier generations |
| 3. diaspora | _____ | C. who a person or group feels they are |
| 4. symbol | _____ | D. a public march with music or vehicles |
| 5. participate | _____ | E. take part in an activity |
| 6. identity | _____ | F. people from one country living in many others |

2. Read the article. The bold words are the vocabulary from Activity 1.

1. St Patrick's Day is celebrated on 17 March. It began as a religious day in Ireland, connected with Saint Patrick. Today it is also a public celebration of Irish **heritage**, music, food and culture.
2. Large cities such as Dublin, New York and Chicago hold a **parade**. People may wear green, listen to Irish music and watch dancers or marching bands. The shamrock is a well-known **symbol** of the day.
3. The celebration became global partly because of the Irish **diaspora**. Over many years, Irish people moved to countries around the world. Their families and communities kept traditions alive and invited other people to **participate**.
4. For some people, the day is about national **identity**; for others, it is simply a fun cultural event. Both ideas can exist together, but it is helpful to learn something about Ireland rather than only wearing green for a party.

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UNDERSTAND, DISCUSS AND WRITE

3. Comprehension. Answer in complete sentences. Use the article to help you.

1. When is St Patrick's Day?

2. What does the day celebrate today?

3. What is a parade?

4. Why did the celebration become global?

5. What does the article suggest people should do?

4. Discuss. Talk in small groups. Give reasons and examples.

- Can you enjoy a culture that is not your own?
- What symbols represent your country?
- Why do people move to new countries?
- Should a celebration be serious, fun, or both?

5. Homework: Write an explanatory paragraph.

Write 120-150 words about a cultural event in your town or country and explain what it represents.

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ANSWER KEY AND TEACHING NOTE

Vocabulary matching

1. heritage - B
2. parade - D
3. diaspora - F
4. symbol - A
5. participate - E
6. identity - C

Comprehension answers

1. When is St Patrick's Day?

It is on 17 March.

2. What does the day celebrate today?

It celebrates Irish heritage, music, food and culture.

3. What is a parade?

It is a public march with music or vehicles.

4. Why did the celebration become global?

Irish diaspora communities kept traditions alive around the world.

5. What does the article suggest people should do?

They should learn something about Ireland as well as enjoy the event.

Teaching note

Compare matching answers before reading. Accept other article-supported comprehension answers; discussion and homework answers vary. Discuss customs respectfully, distinguishing religious, cultural and personal traditions.