



the NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!

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Florida Youth Council

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The Florida Youth
Council is a program of
The Family Café

Welcome to the March 2016 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by the Florida Youth Council! For this issue of *The Noodle*, members of the Council were asked to write about Saint Patrick's Day. This topic allowed members to share their thoughts about Saint Patrick's Day

and what it means to them. We hope you will take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to learn about our experiences and enjoy our thoughts and opinions in this March 2016 edition of *The Noodle*!



Family Tradition By Christina Waldron

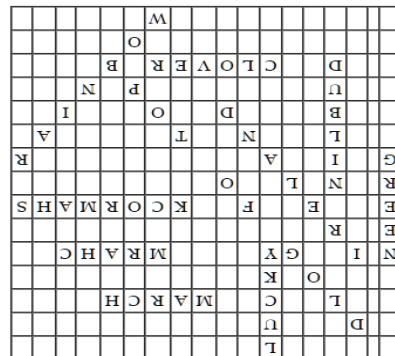
As my ancestors came from Ireland, we have a love for the Irish. On Saint Patrick's Day, we celebrate by having dinner of corned beef and cabbage and attending mass. We wear green shirts and remember our past connection with the Emerald Isle. The immigration began with my great, great, great grandparents and continued for many years. They eventually settled in Louisville, Kentucky, and the majority of my relatives still live there.



A green leprechaun hat with a gold buckle and shamrock decorations.

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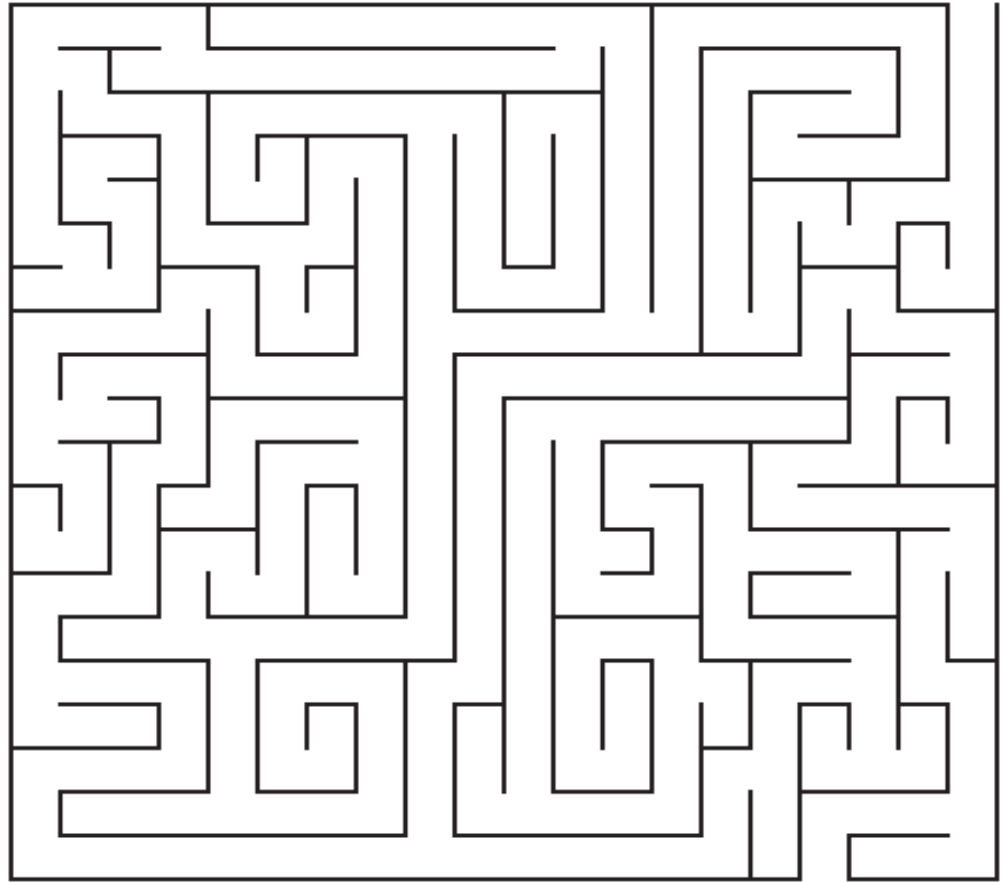
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ANSWERS:-

Saint Patrick's Day Maze

Can you help the leprechaun find his way
to the pot of gold? By: Shevie Barnes





15 Delightful Facts about Saint Patrick's Day **By Chris Regan**

You know you need to wear green on St. Patrick's Day, but what don't you know about Saint Patrick and his big day?

1. WE SHOULD REALLY WEAR BLUE

Saint Patrick himself would have to deal with pinching on his feast day. His color was "Saint Patrick's blue," a light shade. The color green only became associated with the big day after it was linked to the Irish independence movement in the late 18th century.

2. SAINT PATRICK WAS BRITISH

Although he made his mark by introducing Christianity to Ireland in the year 432, Patrick wasn't Irish himself. He was born to Roman parents in Scotland or Wales in the late fourth century.

3. THE IRISH TAKE SAINT PATRICK'S DAY SERIOUSLY

As you might expect, Saint Patrick's Day is a huge deal in his old stomping grounds. It's a national holiday in both Ireland and Northern Ireland.

4. SO DO NEW YORKERS

New York City's Saint Patrick's Day Parade is one of the world's largest parades. Since 1762, 250,000 marchers have traipsed up Fifth Avenue on foot – the parade still doesn't allow floats, cars, or other modern trappings.

5. CHICAGO FEELS LUCKY, TOO

New York may have more manpower, but Chicago has a spectacle all its own. The city has been celebrating Saint Patrick by dumping green dye into the Chicago River since 1962. It takes 40 tons of dye to get the river to a suitably festive shade!

6. IT USED TO BE A DRY HOLIDAY

For most of the 20th century, Saint Patrick's Day was considered a strictly religious holiday in Ireland, which meant that the nation's pubs were closed for business on March 17. (The one exception went to beer vendors at the big national dog show, which was always held on Saint Patrick's Day.) In 1970, the day was converted to a national holiday, and the stout resumed flowing.

7. IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS

Not every city goes all-out in its celebratory efforts. From 1999 to 2007, the Irish village of Dripsey proudly touted that it hosted the Shortest Saint Patrick's Day Parade in the World. The route ran for 26 yards between two pubs. Today, Hot Springs, Arkansas claims the title for brevity – its brief parade runs for 98 feet.

8. THERE'S A REASON FOR THE SHAMROCKS

How did the shamrock become associated with Saint Patrick? According to Irish legend, the saint used the three-leafed plant as a metaphor for the Holy Trinity when he was first introducing Christianity to Ireland.

9. COLD WEATHER HELPED SAINT PATRICK'S LEGEND

In Irish lore, Saint Patrick gets credit for driving all the snakes out of Ireland. Modern scientists suggest that the job might not have been too hard – according to the fossil record, Ireland has never been home to any snakes. Through the Ice Age, Ireland was too cold to host any reptiles, and the surrounding seas have staved off serpentine invaders ever since. Modern scholars think the "snakes" Saint Patrick drove away were likely metaphorical.

10. THERE'S NO CORN IN THAT BEEF

Corned beef and cabbage, a traditional Saint Patrick's Day staple, doesn't have anything to do with the grain corn. Instead, it's a nod to the large grains of salt that were historically used to cure meats, which were also known as "corns."

11. THE WORLD RUNS UP QUITE A BAR TAB

All of the Saint Patrick's Day revelry around the globe is great news for brewers. A 2012 estimate pegged the total amount spent on beer for Saint Patrick's Day celebrations at \$245 million. And that's before tips to pubs' bartenders.

12. IT COULD HAVE BEEN SAINT MAEWYN'S DAY

According to Irish legend, Saint Patrick wasn't originally called Patrick. His birth name was Maewyn Succat, but he changed his name to Patricius after becoming a priest.

13. THERE ARE NO FEMALE LEPRECHAUNS

Don't be fooled by any holiday decorations showing lady leprechauns. In traditional Irish folk tales, there are no female leprechauns, only nattily attired little guys.

14. BUT THE LEPRECHAUN ECONOMY IS THRIVING

Another little-known fact from Irish lore: Leprechauns earned that gold they're guarding. According to legend, leprechauns spend their days making and mending shoes. It's hard work, so you can't blame them for being territorial about their pots of gold.

15. THE LINGO MAKES SENSE

You can't attend a Saint Patrick's Day event without hearing a cry of "Erin go Bragh." What's the phrase mean? It's a corruption of the *Irish Éirinn go Brách*, which means roughly "Ireland Forever."





St. Patrick's Day Quiz **By Megan Germain**

1. What was the shamrock originally used for?
 - A. A teaching tool
 - B. Stew
 - C. Medicine
2. In what city is the "Kelly" river dyed green on St. Patrick's Day?
 - A. Tampa
 - B. Nile
 - C. Chicago
3. What is traditionally eaten on St. Patrick's Day?
 - A. Cake and Ice cream
 - B. Corn beef and Cabbage
 - C. Green Potato's
4. Why do people wear green on St. Patrick's Day?
 - A. It's national color of Ireland
 - B. To keep the leprechauns from pinching you
 - C. For good luck
5. What was St.. Patrick the patron saint of?
 - A. Love
 - B. Luck
 - C. Ireland



Laughingly, lucky Four-Leafed Clover
Is a most atrocious rover;
Doesn't stay long in one place,
Goes and never leaves a trace.

Answer Key:
 1: A
 2: C
 3: B
 4: B
 5: C

Fun with St. Patty's Day

By Josue Tapia



On March 17th of every year we celebrate St. Patrick's Day. It is a day of celebration and remembrance towards Saint Patrick, the foremost patron saint of Ireland. To make this more of an interesting and fun St. Patty's Day, I'm going to give you a couple facts about St. Patrick's Day you might not know.

Facts:

- 1) the Irish spelling for St.. Patrick's day is - *Lá Fhéile Padraig*.
- 2) The actual saint Patrick lived during AD 385-461.
- 3) St. Patrick's Day is also a celebration of Christianity arriving in Ireland.
- 4) According to some legends, St. Patrick used the three-leaved shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity to Irish pagans.
- 5) The first St. Patrick's parade was held in Dublin in 1931.
- 6) The color green has been associated with Ireland since the 1640s when the green harp flag was used by the Irish catholic confederation.
- 7) St. Patrick's first time in Ireland was as a 16 year old slave kidnapped from his home in Great Britain.
- 8) It was formerly a tradition to wear a cross made of paper on St. Patrick's Day.
- 9) There is a legend that states that St. Patrick banished all snakes from Ireland.
- 10) There was an actual battle that took place shortly after the death of St. Patrick for possession of his body.



Those are a few facts based on the patron saint of Ireland. I hope some of these facts help you to have a better idea of the true meaning of St. Patrick's Day. May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow, and may trouble avoid you wherever you go! Happy St. Patrick's Day!



How Do I Become Part of The Florida Youth Council?

The Florida Youth Council is a group of youth (between the ages of 15 and 17) and emerging leaders (between the ages of 18 and 30) with disabilities or special health care needs that live in Florida.

The Florida Youth Council is all about getting youth and emerging leaders involved in self advocacy, peer mentoring and other activities that will improve the quality of life for youth and emerging leaders with disabilities in Florida. The program empowers youth and emerging leaders to decide what issues are important to their generation, to express those issues in their state and local communities, and to develop strategies to solve them.

We are seeking a group of enthusiastic, motivated youth and emerging leaders to participate. If you would like to take a leadership role in advocating for youth and emerging leaders in Florida, please visit The Florida Youth Council website at www.floridayouthcouncil.com. The program is open to application year round. We hope to hear from you soon!

