



St. Patrick and the Legend of Caorthánnach

Education Module

Activities Guide

Individual Activities



Follow Along

Use the Follow Along page for students to complete during the slide show. Review the answers afterward to ensure all students understood the material, or use it later as a test.



Word Search

Complete the word search. There are two variations: one medium and one hard. Solutions to both are also provided.

How would St. Patrick say my name?

Using - www.ireland101.com/irishname - have each student look up their given name then share their Irish name with the class. If having an Irish Banquet, each student can create a name badge with their "Irish" name along with pronunciation.

Mixing of Paganism & Christianity

Create a short report on how aspects of paganism are still alive in Ireland today. Have students research blogs, articles, etc. and include them in the report.

Option: Include pictures or drawings



Individual Activities, cont.



Pick a Shamrock

Using a shamrock shape, each student chooses an aspect from the story or from the supplemental materials to draw. Include a caption.

Options:

Using the template, cut out the shamrock and place on green construction paper, or cut out the green construction paper in a shamrock size.

String all the students work together in a banner and put up around the classroom. (see Entire Class Activities)

Follow St. Patrick's Route

Follow the route of St. Patrick as he chases Caorthánach to Lough Derg.

Map out where he went and how long it would have taken to get there. Consider:

- Geography (uphill, flat, no roads, forests, rivers, etc.)
- Mode of travel: on foot, by cart, by horse
- Stopping for rest, food, etc.

How is this different to today? That same trip, how long would it take using today's modes of transportation?

Options:

Create a PowerPoint presentation complete with photos and maps



Creative Writing – A Legend of St. Patrick

Research a legend of St. Patrick and write the story.

Using the internet, resource page included, or other media, lookup and choose a legend on which to write a creative story.

Option: Include illustrations, photographs, or other supplements.



Small Group Activities



Acting/ Story

Divide the class into groups and have each portray a legend of St. Patrick. Students can research online and/or use the resources provided. Act out in front of the class.

Option: Have each group create a short movie complete with characters and costumes. Students can film their movies with smartphones.



Story Word Relay

Give each student the list of vocabulary words from the story with the definitions so they can prepare for the game ahead of time.

Divide the class into teams. Use the Story Word cards in the Supplemental Materials and print a set of cards for each team.

Option One:

Have one student from each team at the board. Call out a word, they must spell it correctly on the board, then move to the desk with the definitions, find the correct definition and bring back to their team. The first team that gets both spelling and definition correct gets a point. Continue until all words have been used. Team with most points win.

Option Two:

Have three stations per team. Station One: Vocabulary Words; Station Two: Definitions; Station Three: Paired cards. The first student from each team will take the first card, move to Station 2 and match the card to the correct definition. Place the paired cards at station three. The next student from each team continues. First team to complete gets 5 points, 2nd 4 points, etc. When all teams have finished, go through each match with the class. Teams get a point for each correctly matched pair.

Option Three: Instead of students doing by themselves, have the team work in a group to decide spelling and definitions, or they can call out help to the student that is “up”.



Small Group Activities, cont.



Diorama of a Scene

Have each group choose one (or more) scenes from the story and create a diorama using a shoebox or other structure. Each group presents their diorama in the order of the story.



Lough Derg Hike

Create a poster based on a virtual hike along the banks of Lough Derg. Each student is assigned one or more categories below to draw, paste pictures, etc. on the poster.

- 1) Animals in the lake
- 2) Animals around the lake
- 3) Plants in the lake
- 4) Plants around the lake
- 5) Terrain around the lake
- 6) What they wear for the hike (based on weather/terrain)

Optional:

- 1) Have a one page write up per student about their area.
 - 2) Have a panel of “experts” in each area answer questions about their findings
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Play Seanchaí (requires purchase or class sponsorship of Irish card game)

In groups of 2-4 students play Seanchaí, an Irish card game available on Celtic Life & Heritage’s website. For a longer event, stage a tournament or add to Irish Banquet activities.

Learn about Irish Culture while having fun! The various suits and basic play can be found on our website. Games may be purchased from our website – or ask for a classroom sponsorship.

<https://www.celticlifandheritage.org/seanchai.html>

Seanchaí (pron. shan-a-kee) means bearer of Old Lore.

Seanchaí presents many aspects of Irish Culture in its various suits:

Warfare, Religion, Landscape/Geography, Shamrocks (flora/fauna), National Treasures, Human Roles, Legends, Stonework, Dark Legends, Faery/Leprechaun



Entire Class Activities



Create a Shamrock Banner

Assign or allow students to pick an aspect of the story presented. Using the template provided, each student illustrates their aspect to include the story line on the shamrock.

String all shamrocks together in succession to create the story of St. Patrick and the Legend of Caorthánnach and display in classroom. Option: Back each story with green construction paper either whole, as banner, or in shamrock shapes.



From Oral to Written Tradition

With the monastic expansion more and more people learned to read and write. Illustrate the difference of oral vs written tradition and the impact of understanding why “source” and “original” information is so critical:

Use the following sentence or create one of your own (can be printed from the resource page)

“St. Patrick was not born a slave, but was captured and became one for part of his life.”

Divide the class into two groups. Each group creates a line or circle away from the other group.

For the first group have the first student write the sentence on a piece of paper, then fold and give the next student in line to copy. Each student transcribes the sentence, folds their paper and hands to the next.

Meanwhile, using the same sentence, have the other group play “telephone”: Whisper into the first student’s ear the sentence. That student then whispers the same line to the student next to them and so on.

When both groups have finished, have the last student in the “oral” group state what they heard, then the last student in the “written” group. Finally, read aloud the original sentence.

What changes occurred? Which was more accurate, oral or written?



Entire Class Activities, cont.

Have an Irish Banquet

Have each student bring either an Irish dish, music, or support products (plates, napkins, etc.). Students can dress up as different characters from the story or other St. Patrick legends.

Create a Play or Movie

Put on a play of the life of Saint Patrick including various legends attributed to him. Or put on a play of St. Patrick and the Legend of Caorthánnach.

Option: Create a movie instead and present to the class, complete with popcorn and drinks.

Completed movie can be also be featured at open house or shared with other classrooms.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Create a parade with masks, costumes, etc. March the parade through other classrooms.