



Around English – activities sheet

VOCABULARY 3

Work in the same groups and complete the sentences below using items from Vocabulary 1 and 2.

1. The Rio de Janeiro carnival is famous for its wonderful
2. I don't know what colour to my hair. What do you think - black or blonde this time?
3. The of Mount Everest is almost 9000 metres above sea level.
4. I have a ten euro note and maybe sixty cents in
5. One day he was at work as usual, the next day he simply Nobody knew where he went.
6. I have a cat and a dog. I love them
7. The eagle is the of several European countries: Germany, Poland and Russia, for example.
8. Quick, come to the window! There's a beautiful in the sky. Look at the colours!

SECOND READING

Five phrases have been taken out of the text, one from each paragraph. Read the text once again and try to decide where they should go.

- Paragraph 1: 'the national colour of Ireland'
- Paragraph 2: 'who like to play tricks on us'
- Paragraph 3: 'top'
- Paragraph 4: 'both north and south of the border'
- Paragraph 5: 'and not only where there are Irish people!'

SPEAKING

Imagine you are going to organise a day celebrating your country and culture, just as St. Patrick's Day celebrates Irish culture. Work in a group and discuss the questions below.

1. What kind of celebration would be best - parades, concerts, speeches, private parties, organised displays or something else?
2. Where would the most important parts of the celebrations be organised?
3. What colours would be used? Would people wear any special clothes?
4. What music would be played? Would you invite any particular group or singer to perform?
5. Who would lead the celebrations? Which people would you say best represent your country?
6. What would you call the day?

Present your ideas to the rest of the class and explain your thinking. Were your ideas similar?

A DAY FOR ALL THINGS IRISH



Lá Fhéile Pádraig - St. Patrick's Day



March 17th - a festival of all things Irish

Every year on March 17th Irish men and women everywhere organise celebrations for *Lá Fhéile Pádraig* - St. Patrick's Day. The colour green is everywhere and the day is a national holiday in both parts of Ireland.

Symbols of Ireland

The colour of Ireland is green but there are many other emblems of the country. The most famous, perhaps, is the shamrock or clover (below). Finding a four-leafed clover is still thought to be very lucky.



Another symbol of Ireland is the leprechaun (right) - magical little old men. According to legend, if you see a leprechaun then it cannot disappear as long as you look at it, but when you look away it can vanish. Leprechauns are usually very rich, but their gold is hidden, buried in the ground at the ends of rainbows.



An Irish Leprechaun

A third symbol of Ireland is the Irish harp (right), which is found on Irish coins, Irish uniforms and, of course, on the black thick beer of Ireland, Guinness.



Who was St. Patrick?

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland.

Historically, he was probably an English missionary who worked in Ireland around 400 A.D - over 1,500 years ago.

According to legend, Patrick converted the Irish to Christianity and performed many miracles. Irish legend says that it is because of Patrick that there are no

snakes in Ireland today. According to this legend, Patrick climbed to the top of Croagh Patrick - a hill or mountain with a peak about 850m high, causing all the snakes to leave the island.

St. Patrick's Day traditions in Ireland

The largest St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Ireland take place in the capital, Dublin, each year, though there are celebrations in many more cities. In Dublin the St. Patrick's Festival lasts five days and is a celebration of Irish culture, the Irish language, Irish food and drink and Irish traditions in art and music. The most important parts of the celebrations are parades with music and dancing. Over half a million people came to

the St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin in 2006, for example.

St. Patrick's Day around the world

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated all over the world. In London there is a parade in Trafalgar Square and in 2008 the water in the fountains there was dyed green. In the United States the biggest St. Patrick's Day parades are in Chicago. The parades are an impressive sight, especially when they cross the river: every year Chicago dyes the water of the Chicago River bright green for the celebrations. Even the river is green on St. Patrick's Day!



The Chicago River