



The Daily Post-Athenian **Newspapers In Education** Lu Shep Baldwin, NIE Coordinator nie.dailypostathenian.com

Name: _____



St. Patrick's Day

The person who was to become St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Wales about AD 385. His given name was Maewyn Succat. He was given the name Patrick at his baptism or when he became a priest.

When he was 16, he was captured, taken to Ireland and sold as a slave. He was a shepherd for six years. While in captivity he began to have visions, and during one of the visions he became aware of a rescue ship and escaped to France. Eventually he returned to Ireland as a missionary, determined to convert Ireland to Christianity. He used the three-leaf shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same thing. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day. Tradition has it that he drove all the snakes, a pagan symbol, from Ireland into the sea where they drowned. This is perhaps a metaphor for driving pagans from

Ireland since biologists believe there were no snakes in Ireland at this time.

Though he met resistance from the traditional Celtic spiritual leaders, and was arrested several times, he persisted, travelling throughout Ireland and establishing many monasteries. He also set up schools and churches which would help him in teaching the Irish about Christianity.

His mission in Ireland lasted 30 years, and he retired to County Down. He died on 17 March, 461 CE, and that day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since. The holiday in the U.S. is a secular, or non-religious one, and is celebrated with parades and everything green, including green beer, and in Chicago, a green river. In Ireland, it is a religious holiday, similar to Christmas and Easter.

Based on material from
www.alphabet-soup.net/hol/sphist.html and
www3.kumc.edu/diversity/ethnic_relig/stpats.html

In the news:

St. Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the idea of the Trinity. Go for a hunt for threes. Clip out numbers divisible by three or things associated with the number three (e.g. March is the THIRD month of the year, a triangle has THREE sides) and paste them in the space below.