

# That's Interesting!



A worksheet for adults to practise reading, writing, spelling and numbers

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## Saint Brigid's Day



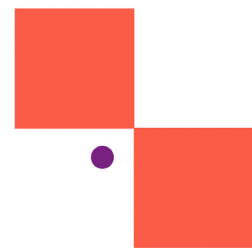
On the first Monday in February this year, the government gave us a new bank holiday in honour of Saint Brigid. Although 1 February was always known as Saint Brigid's Day or "Lá le Bride" in Irish, it was not a bank holiday.

Brigid lived in Ireland around the same time as Saint Patrick, but was never really seen as being as important as Patrick. However, from the many legends we have heard it seems she was a holy woman of great kindness who was not afraid to stand up to the powerful kings and land owners who ruled Ireland at that time.

Brigid, which can also be spelled as Bridget or Brid, was born around the year 450 near Dundalk in Co. Louth. Her father was a rich land owner. As a child, Brigid was known to give away food and other belongings to the poor around where she lived. Her father was furious and sold her as a slave to the king of Leinster.

However, her beauty and kindness won the heart of the king. The king was a pagan and did not believe in God. Brigid taught him about the Christian faith. She made a cross from rushes that were growing in a nearby field. This cross became known as St Brigid's Cross and here in Ireland, people still make them today to place in their homes.





Brigid asked the king of Leinster for some of his land in Kildare on which to build a church. Legend has it that he said that she could have as much land as her cloak would cover. Thinking that her small cloak would only allow her a few feet, a miracle happened. When she spread her cloak out it covered many, many acres of land, which then had to be given to her.

She set up a monastery here for women and men. They taught religion, gave food and shelter to the poor and even set up a school. This is why she became known as “Brigid of Kildare.” It is said that Brigid performed many miracles. She cured people of sickness and disease and some believe that she was able to turn water into beer. The cathedral in Kildare stands today on the land where she set up her monastery. She went on to set up other small monasteries around the country.

The bishop of Leinster, who was called Mel, is said to have made Brigid a bishop, which makes her the first female bishop in history. Legend tells us that instead of saying the prayers over Brigid to make her a nun, he was inspired by God to say the prayer to make her a bishop. Others believe it may have been Saint Patrick who gave her the title of bishop.

Brigid died around the year 525, at age 75. She was buried in Downpatrick in Co Down beside the graves of St Patrick and St Columcille. However, in the 1100's, her skull was taken by three Irish soldiers when they went to fight in Portugal. It is not known why but it is believed that they thought it would protect them. So, the skull of Saint Brigid is buried in a small church outside of Lisbon in Portugal.

## **Christmas Competition winners**

The winners of the €25 Book Voucher in our Christmas Competition are  
Brid from Kilkenny and Colum from Wicklow

**Well done!**

A big thank you to everyone who entered.

# Saint Patrick's Day Quiz



(The questions are all about people and places in Ireland.)

1. There is only one county in Ireland that begins with the letter S.  
Can you name it? \_\_\_\_\_
2. The word "Taoiseach" is the Irish word for a leader. Can you name the current  
Taoiseach? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name the lead singer in the Irish band U2? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the national symbol of Ireland that appears on the back of all Irish coins?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. In what county would you find Killarney? \_\_\_\_\_
6. In what county would you find Tramore? \_\_\_\_\_
7. On what date do we celebrate St. Patrick's Day? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Name the current US president whose ancestors came from Mayo? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What are the 3 colours on the Irish flag? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What green plant do we associate with Saint Patrick's Day? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What is the longest river in Ireland? \_\_\_\_\_
12. In what county would you find Knock airport? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What is the name of the Friday chat show on RTÉ, running since the 1960's?  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. Name the woman who is the leader of the Sinn Fein party. \_\_\_\_\_
15. In what sports stadium do the All-Ireland Finals take place every year?  
\_\_\_\_\_

The answers are on the last page.

# Past tense verbs



A verb is an **action word**.

When we want to use an action word in the past tense we usually add the letters **ed** to the verb.

Example: I **walk** five km everyday. I **walked** 3 km yesterday.  
I **work** 5 days a week. Last week, I **worked** 3 days.

However, for some action words we **do not use ed**. Instead the word changes completely when we use them in the past tense.

Here are some examples:

- think/thought I **think** about you very often. / I **thought** about Amy yesterday.
- buy/bought I **buy** a newspaper every morning. / I **bought** a book last week.
- bring/brought I **bring** sandwiches to work most days. / I **brought** a salad last week.
- drive/drove I **drive** to work one day a week. / I **drove** to work all last week.
- fly/flew I **fly** to Spain every July. / I **flew** to France last year.
- drink/drank I **drink** a lot of water everyday. I **drank** milk for breakfast.
- hear/heard I **hear** the birds singing every morning. / I **heard** the Cuckoo.
- know/knew I **know** how to do that. / I **knew** him years ago.
- find/found I **find** it very cold in winter. / I **found** my missing dog.
- take/took I **take** a little nap every evening. / I **took** a holiday last month.
- break/broke Will **you break** that into small pieces?. / I **broke** my glasses yesterday.
- lose/lost It is not nice **to lose** something. I **lost** my small bag.
- build/built I **build** stone walls. / I **built** a new room last year.
- pay/paid I **pay** my bills every month. / I **paid** my car tax last month.
- grow/grew I **grow** tomatoes every year. / I **grew** peppers last year.
- Understand/understood I **understand** what you are saying. / I **understood** that story.

# Past tense verbs

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Place the **correct past tense action word** in each sentence.

(The first one is done for you.)

1. I **bought** a new pair of runners. (buy)
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ I had more money left. (think)
3. I was very full after I \_\_\_\_\_ too much coffee. (drink)
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ my own lunch with me to the park. (bring)
5. I \_\_\_\_\_ my electricity bill yesterday. (pay).
6. I \_\_\_\_\_ a €10 note on the footpath. (find)
7. My son \_\_\_\_\_ his own house. (build).
8. I \_\_\_\_\_ the baby crying last night. (hear).
9. He \_\_\_\_\_ the window when he kicked the ball at it. (break)
10. I \_\_\_\_\_ she was the right person for the job. (know).
11. She \_\_\_\_\_ all her money out of the bank. (take).
12. He \_\_\_\_\_ a journey of 120km. (drive)
13. We \_\_\_\_\_ to Portugal for a holiday last month. (fly).
14. Tom \_\_\_\_\_ weight when he started walking. (lose)
15. I \_\_\_\_\_ everything I was asked to do. (understand).
16. Mary \_\_\_\_\_ lettuce and tomatoes in her garden last year. (grow).

