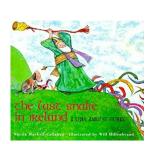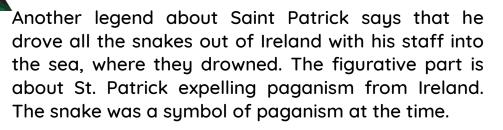Name _____   Date_____

St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is always celebrated on the 17th of March. This is the day Saint Patrick died. It is celebrated as a religious holiday in Ireland. Saint Patrick was a missionary who lived in the 4th century and converted the Irish to Christianity. He is considered to be the Patron Saint of Ireland. The importance of the shamrock, a three-leaf clover, comes from the legend that Saint Patrick used the three leaves of the Shamrock to represent the Triune God of Christianity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Triune means three in one).

Another legend about Saint Patrick says that he drove all the snakes out of Ireland with his staff into the sea, where they drowned. The figurative part is about St. Patrick expelling paganism from Ireland. The snake was a symbol of paganism at the time.

Saint Patrick's Day is now celebrated all around the world. In many cities there are parades. The largest Saint Patrick's Day parade in the world is in New York City with over 150,000 people. In the city of Chicago, the river is turned green in celebration of Saint Patrick's Day. One other important custom for the day is the receiving of a "pinch" if you are not wearing a green piece of clothing.

Remember to wear something green on March 17th!