

# Myths in different countries



Name:

Date:

## Myth 1: The Legend of the Snakes

Gather 'round, lads and lasses, for tonight we speak of the great Saint Patrick, whose name you all know well from our grand celebrations. But do you know the tale of how he banished the snakes from our fair land?

Long, long ago, when Ireland was still wild and untamed, serpents slithered across the green hills and valleys. These weren't just any snakes, mind you; they were venomous creatures that brought fear and misery to the people. Their bite could kill a man in moments, and their presence cast a dark shadow over the land.

One day, Saint Patrick, a man of great faith and courage, arrived in Ireland. He saw the suffering of the people and knew he had to act. With his staff in hand and the power of God in his heart, he climbed to the top of a high hill. There, he called out in a mighty voice, commanding all the snakes to gather before him.

The ground began to tremble as the snakes slithered from their hiding places, drawn by the power of Saint Patrick's voice. When they had all gathered, he raised his staff high and drove them towards the sea. The snakes hissed and writhed, but they were no match for the saint's holy power. One by one, they plunged into the cold, dark waters, never to return.

From that day forward, there were no more snakes in Ireland. The people rejoiced, and Saint Patrick became a hero, his name forever remembered in the tales we tell. So, when you see the green hills free of serpents, remember the bravery and faith of Saint Patrick, who saved our land from those fearsome creatures.

## Myth 2: The Tale of the Shamrock

Come closer, young ones, and let me tell you another tale of our beloved Saint Patrick, a story that explains why the shamrock is so dear to us on St. Patrick's Day.

In the days when Saint Patrick walked among us, he faced a great challenge. The people of Ireland were divided in their beliefs, and many did not understand the teachings of Christianity. They worshipped many gods and struggled to grasp the concept of the Holy Trinity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Saint Patrick, wise and kind, sought a way to explain this mystery in a manner that everyone could understand. One sunny afternoon, as he strolled through a meadow, he noticed the abundance of shamrocks growing at his feet. He picked one of the small, three-leaved plants and held it up for all to see.

"Look at this humble shamrock," he said to the gathered crowd. "It has three leaves, yet it is one plant. Just as this shamrock has three parts, so too does God exist as three beings in one—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Separate, yet united, just like these leaves."

The people marveled at the simplicity and clarity of Saint Patrick's explanation. They began to see the truth in his words and embraced the new faith he brought to them. From that moment on, the shamrock became a symbol of the Holy Trinity and a reminder of Saint Patrick's wisdom.

So, every St. Patrick's Day, when you wear a shamrock or see one decorating the streets, remember the clever saint who used this small plant to teach a great truth. And let it remind you of the unity and faith that Saint Patrick brought to our ancestors, shaping the Ireland we know and love today.

**Decide whether these statements are true or false**

**Saint Patrick banished snakes from Ireland using his holy power.**

True  False

**The shamrock is a symbol of the Holy Trinity as explained by Saint Patrick.**

True  False

**Saint Patrick used a four-leaf clover to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity.**

True  False

**Saint Patrick arrived in Ireland carrying a sword to drive out the snakes.**

True  False

**The snakes in Ireland were harmless and not feared by the people.**

True  False

**Saint Patrick climbed to the top of a high hill to command the snakes.**

True  False

**The people of Ireland were divided in their beliefs before Saint Patrick's teachings.**

True  False

**Saint Patrick's explanation of the Holy Trinity using the shamrock was unclear to the people.**

True  False



## **Myths**

Myths are traditional stories that have been passed down **through generations**, often with the purpose of explaining natural or social phenomena. They typically involve **supernatural beings or events** and are set in a time that is often considered to be the **distant past**. Myths are an important part of many cultures and are often used to teach **moral or cultural values**.

One of the key literary characteristics of myths is their use of **symbolism**. Another common characteristic of myths is their use of **archetypes**, or recurring character types that represent universal patterns of human behavior.

Myths are typically told in a **narrative form**, with a clear beginning, middle, and end. They often include a problem or conflict that must be resolved, and the resolution of this conflict often serves as the climax of the story.

**Name the common structure elements present in both myths.**

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**Describe how the setting is used to enhance the mythical quality of the first story.**

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**Explain how symbolism is employed in the second story to convey a deeper message.**

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**Describe the characteristics that make Saint Patrick a mythical hero in both stories.**

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**Write your own myth about the origin of rainbows (max 15 words).**

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