St Patrick's Day trivia questions and answers

50 questions in 5 rounds. The answer key is on the last page.

Round 1: Saint Patrick

1. Where was Saint Patrick born?

A. Ireland
B. Roman Britain
C. Rome
D. Egypt

2. About how old was Patrick when Irish raiders took him to Ireland?

A. 8
B. 25
C. 40
D. 16

3. What work did Patrick do while he was a slave in Ireland?

A. Fisherman
B. Shepherd
C. Blacksmith
D. Soldier

4. On which date is Saint Patrick's Day?

A. March 17
B. March 7
C. March 27
D. April 17

5. Which animals does legend say Patrick drove out of Ireland?

A. Wolves
B. Rats
C. Eagles
D. Snakes

6. Which plant is said to have helped Patrick explain the Holy Trinity?

A. Shamrock
B. Thistle
C. Daffodil
D. Rose

7. What is the title of Patrick's own short account of his life?

A. Táin Bó Cúailnge
B. Confessio
C. Book of Kells
D. Annals of Ulster

8. In which century is Patrick usually dated?

A. The 2nd century
B. The 8th century

C. The 11th century
D. The 5th century

9. In which county is Downpatrick, the town traditionally linked to Patrick's burial?

A. Cork
B. Down
C. Galway
D. Kerry

10. Which mountain in County Mayo do pilgrims climb in honour of Patrick?

A. Carrauntoohil
B. Slieve Donard
C. Croagh Patrick
D. Benbulbin

Round 2: Irish history

11. In which year did the Great Famine begin in Ireland?

A. 1845
B. 1798
C. 1880
D. 1916

12. In which year was the Easter Rising?

A. 1906
B. 1912
C. 1926
D. 1916

13. In which year was the Irish Free State established?

A. 1922
B. 1916
C. 1937
D. 1949

14. Which people founded a settlement at Dublin in the 9th century?

A. Romans
B. Normans
C. Greeks
D. Vikings

15. Which High King died at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014?

A. Hugh O'Neill
B. Daniel O'Connell
C. Brian Boru
D. Michael Collins

16. Which Irish leader was nicknamed The Liberator?

A. Daniel O'Connell
B. Michael Collins
C. Charles Stewart Parnell
D. Wolfe Tone

17. Who was the first President of Ireland?

A. Éamon de Valera
B. W. T. Cosgrave
C. Douglas Hyde
D. Seán Lemass

18. Who became Ireland's first woman President?

A. Mary Robinson
B. Mary Harney
C. Maureen O'Hara
D. Nuala O'Faolain

19. In which year did Ireland join the European Economic Community?

A. 1957
B. 1965
C. 1973
D. 1981

20. In which year was the Good Friday Agreement signed?

A. 1988
B. 1998
C. 1994
D. 2005

Round 3: Irish culture, music and food

21. Which meat is used in a traditional Irish stew?

A. Pork
B. Duck
C. Lamb or mutton
D. Venison

22. Colcannon is mashed potato mixed with what?

A. Peas and mint
B. Apples
C. Smoked fish
D. Cabbage or kale

23. Which instrument is a traditional Irish frame drum?

A. Tabla
B. Djembe
C. Timpani
D. Bodhrán

24. How are the bellows of the uilleann pipes worked?

A. With the mouth
B. With a foot pedal
C. With a hand crank
D. With the elbow

25. Which musical instrument is the national symbol of Ireland?

A. Harp

B. Fiddle
C. Bagpipes
D. Accordion

26. Who founded the Guinness brewery at St James's Gate, Dublin, in 1759?

A. John Jameson
B. Arthur Guinness
C. Arthur Wellesley
D. Jonathan Swift

27. Riverdance first appeared in 1994 as an interval act at which event?

A. The Olympic Games
B. The Eurovision Song Contest
C. The World Cup final
D. The Grammy Awards

28. Which Dublin band is fronted by Bono?

A. U2
B. The Cranberries
C. Westlife
D. The Corrs

29. Which Irish poet won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1995?

A. Seamus Heaney
B. Oscar Wilde
C. James Joyce
D. Patrick Kavanagh

30. James Joyce's Ulysses is set over one day in which city?

A. Dublin
B. Cork
C. Belfast
D. London

Round 4: Ireland geography

31. Which river flows through the centre of Dublin?

A. Shannon
B. Lee
C. Liffey
D. Boyne

32. Which is the longest river in Ireland?

A. Shannon
B. Liffey
C. Boyne
D. Lee

33. In which county are the Cliffs of Moher?

A. Kerry
B. Donegal
C. Clare

D. Antrim

34. What is the highest mountain in Ireland?

A. Croagh Patrick
B. Carrauntoohil
C. Slieve Donard
D. Errigal

35. In which county is the Giant's Causeway?

A. Down
B. Antrim
C. Sligo
D. Mayo

36. In which county is Blarney Castle, home of the Blarney Stone?

A. Cork
B. Limerick
C. Waterford
D. Wexford

37. How many counties are there on the island of Ireland?

A. 26
B. 28
C. 36
D. 32

38. Which city is the capital of Northern Ireland?

A. Derry
B. Armagh
C. Belfast
D. Lisburn

39. Which is the largest lake in Ireland and Britain?

A. Lough Derg
B. Lough Corrib
C. Lough Ree
D. Lough Neagh

40. Which ocean lies off the west coast of Ireland?

A. Pacific Ocean
B. Indian Ocean
C. Atlantic Ocean
D. Arctic Ocean

Round 5: Traditions around the world

41. Which river does Chicago dye green every year for Saint Patrick's Day?

A. The Hudson River
B. The Mississippi River
C. The Chicago River
D. The Potomac River

42. On which New York avenue does the St Patrick's Day parade march?

A. Broadway
B. Fifth Avenue
C. Madison Avenue
D. Park Avenue

43. Which Caribbean island is known as the Emerald Isle of the Caribbean and keeps March 17 as a public holiday?

A. Jamaica
B. Barbados
C. Cuba
D. Montserrat

44. In the United States, what are people playfully given if they do not wear green on March 17?

A. A fine
B. A song
C. A haircut
D. A pinch

45. In Irish folklore, what does a leprechaun guard?

A. A magic harp
B. A silver crown
C. A pot of gold
D. A hidden well

46. What is Saint Patrick's Day called in the Irish language?

A. Lá Nollag
B. Oíche Shamhna
C. Lá Fhéile Pádraig
D. Lá Fhéile Bríde

47. Which Georgia city holds a large parade each year and dyes its fountains green?

A. Atlanta
B. Savannah
C. Augusta
D. Macon

48. What does the Taoiseach traditionally present to the US president around March 17?

A. A bowl of shamrock
B. A barrel of Guinness
C. A bottle of whiskey
D. A harp

49. Which spirit goes into a traditional Irish coffee?

A. Rum
B. Irish whiskey
C. Brandy
D. Vodka

50. Which country has the most people who report Irish ancestry?

A. Canada
B. The United States
C. Australia
D. England

Answer key

Round 1: Saint Patrick

1. B. Roman Britain (His family was Romano-British; he reached Ireland as a captive.)
2. D. 16 (He was held as a slave in Ireland for about six years.)
3. B. Shepherd (He minded sheep, as he wrote in his own Confessio.)
4. A. March 17 (It is the traditional date of his death.)
5. D. Snakes (Ireland had no snakes after the last ice age, so the story is a legend.)
6. A. Shamrock (The three leaves on one stem are said to have been his example.)
7. B. Confessio (It and his Letter to Coroticus are the only two writings known to be his.)
8. D. The 5th century (Exact dates for his life are uncertain.)
9. B. Down (A granite slab at Down Cathedral is marked Patrick.)
10. C. Croagh Patrick (Thousands climb it on Reek Sunday, the last Sunday of July.)

Round 2: Irish history

11. A. 1845 (A potato blight destroyed much of the crop.)
12. D. 1916 (It began on Easter Monday, 24 April 1916.)
13. A. 1922 (It followed the Anglo-Irish Treaty of December 1921.)
14. D. Vikings (Their longphort stood by the Black Pool, Dubh Linn in Irish.)
15. C. Brian Boru (His forces won the battle, but he was killed in his tent.)
16. A. Daniel O'Connell (His campaign led to Catholic Emancipation in 1829.)
17. C. Douglas Hyde (He took office in 1938 and had founded the Gaelic League.)
18. A. Mary Robinson (She was elected in 1990.)
19. C. 1973 (It joined on 1 January 1973, together with the United Kingdom and Denmark.)
20. B. 1998 (It was signed on 10 April 1998.)

Round 3: Irish culture, music and food

21. C. Lamb or mutton (Potatoes, onions and carrots go in the pot with it.)
22. D. Cabbage or kale (It is a classic dish for Halloween in Ireland.)
23. D. Bodhrán (It is played with a short double-ended stick.)
24. D. With the elbow (The word uilleann comes from the Irish for elbow.)
25. A. Harp (It appears on Irish euro coins.)
26. B. Arthur Guinness (He signed a lease on the site for 9,000 years.)
27. B. The Eurovision Song Contest (That year's contest was held in Dublin.)
28. A. U2 (The band formed in Dublin in 1976.)
29. A. Seamus Heaney (He was born in County Derry.)
30. A. Dublin (The day is 16 June 1904, now celebrated as Bloomsday.)

Round 4: Ireland geography

31. C. Liffey (Its Irish name is An Life.)
32. A. Shannon (It runs for about 360 kilometres.)
33. C. Clare (They rise to about 214 metres above the Atlantic.)
34. B. Carrauntoohil (It stands in County Kerry at about 1,040 metres.)
35. B. Antrim (It is made of about 40,000 basalt columns.)
36. A. Cork (Kissing the stone is said to give the gift of the gab.)
37. D. 32 (Twenty-six are in the Republic and six in Northern Ireland.)

38. C. Belfast (The Titanic was built there by Harland and Wolff.)
39. D. Lough Neagh (It lies in Northern Ireland and covers about 392 square kilometres.)
40. C. Atlantic Ocean (The Wild Atlantic Way coastal route runs along it.)

Round 5: Traditions around the world

41. C. The Chicago River (The custom began in 1962.)
42. B. Fifth Avenue (The New York parade dates back to 1762.)
43. D. Montserrat (Irish settlers arrived there in the 17th century.)
44. D. A pinch (The habit is a children's game, not an Irish custom.)
45. C. A pot of gold (Leprechauns are said to be shoemakers.)
46. C. Lá Fhéile Pádraig (Lá Nollag means Christmas Day.)
47. B. Savannah (Its first parade was held in 1824.)
48. A. A bowl of shamrock (The custom dates from 1952.)
49. B. Irish whiskey (The drink is credited to Joe Sheridan at Foynes airport, County Limerick.)
50. B. The United States (Tens of millions of Americans report Irish roots.)