



THE MAN, THE LEGEND, THE HOLIDAY

# SAINT PATRICK

A ONE-WEEK UNIT STUDY FROM  
YOUR FRIENDS AT KNOWLEDGE QUEST

Dear Homeschool Parent,

March is the perfect month to study the life of Saint Patrick and we are excited to offer you this free 5-day unit study on his life and his adopted country, Ireland.

There are two ways to schedule this unit study into your school day:

1. You can spread it out by doing 2-3 lessons each week, or
2. You can take the week off from some of your traditional textbooks and dig right into the life of Saint Patrick over the span of a single week.

You are the teacher and can choose your own schedule, but either of those two options should work well for you (suggested schedules listed below).

Feel free to pick and choose from these activities we have listed or do them all. Read through all five lesson plans before starting so that you can determine whether you need any supplies from the store and so you can download the free biography and maps from our website.

No matter how you choose to schedule your St. Patrick unit study, we hope that you have wonderful learning moments together with your children. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to send an email to us: [helpdesk@knowledgequestmaps.com](mailto:helpdesk@knowledgequestmaps.com). We'll do our best to get back to you promptly. In the words of an old Irish blessing...

*May God hold you in the palm of His hand until next we meet again.*

Be blessed!

Terri Johnson  
Knowledge Quest, Inc.

## Suggested Scheduling Options

### Option 1: One-Week Plan

#### **Day 1 – Monday, March 12**

Lesson 1 – Read biography about St. Patrick and conduct some research

#### **Day 2 – Tuesday, March 13**

Lesson 2 – Science, nature and craft activities for a GREEN day

#### **Day 3 – Wednesday, March 14**

Lesson 3 – Timeline and mapping activities to place St. Patrick in historical context

#### **Day 4 – Thursday, March 15**

Lesson 4 - Make a lapbook\* and/or write a report

#### **Day 5 – Friday, March 16**

Lesson 5 – Finish reports/lapbooks\*. Cook up an Irish dinner on Saturday, March 17.

### Option 2: Two-Week Plan

#### **Wednesday, March 7**

Lesson 1 – Read biography about St. Patrick and conduct some research

#### **Friday, March 9**

Lesson 2 – Science, nature and craft activities for a GREEN day

#### **Monday, March 12**

Lesson 3 – Timeline and mapping activities to place St. Patrick in historical context

#### **Wednesday, March 14**

Lesson 4 - Make a lapbook\* and/or write a report

#### **Friday, March 16**

Lesson 5 – Finish reports/lapbooks\*. Cook up an Irish dinner on Saturday, March 17.

\* If you decide to have your children create lapbooks, here are some links on how to get started with your project:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qlys-dZzrI>

<http://heartofwisdom.com/scrapbook/tutorial-step-by-step-simple-lapbook/>



# St. Patrick Unit Study

## Lesson 1

March is definitely a transition month. The weather changes, winter sports come to a close, tired homeschooling parents begin to burn out, and students get bored and restless as they long for a spring break... March is a great month to mix things up a bit and do something different - for a week, at least!

This month we bring you a unit study that you can add to your studies or replace them altogether for a fun and lighthearted change. Take some time to enjoy each other and this lifestyle we call "homeschooling". Feel free to pick and choose from these activities we have listed or do them all. Read through all 5 lesson plans early in the month so that you can determine whether you need any supplies from the store. Have fun!

### Day 1

Read a biography of St. Patrick. There are several sources that you can find by searching online or taking a trip to the library. We are rather biased in our recommendation of a good biography on the life of St. Patrick because we publish one in our book, [What Really Happened in Medieval Times](#). Written by Jennaya Dunlap, this story is geared towards 3rd through 8th graders and can be read in one sitting and downloaded from the link below. For a longer historical, though fictional, book on the life of St. Patrick, you can read ***Flame Over Tara*** by Madeleine Polland.

[Download the biography of St. Patrick here.](#)

On this day, begin to do some research using either the Internet\* or your library's card catalog. Pick a topic for a report which can be in the form of a paper (for older students), or a lapbook (for younger students). Some topics for research could be St. Patrick's Day Traditions, Irish Legends & Folklore, History of Ireland, Celts, Potato Famine, Immigration of the Irish, etc. Our kids enjoyed researching and writing about the Potato Famine in Ireland.

Today is just research day, so print out interesting pictures, articles, etc. and tuck them inside a file folder so that you can begin using them on Day 4.

---

\*We always recommend that you provide parental assistance when using the Internet.



# St. Patrick Unit Study

## Lesson 2

### Day 2

Today, you are encouraged to have a green day! To make this fun and educational, we'll do some activities surrounding the color of green. Here are some ideas:

1. Flip through old magazines and cut out pictures to make a green collage. This can be done as individual pictures on standard printer paper or as a group poster on large poster board.
2. Take a walk, gathering and naming as many things in nature that are green that you can find. Also, you can collect green leaves, ferns and grasses to press and label for your nature notebooks (start one if you don't have one). Or find a quiet spot outside and draw a scene highlighting the things which are green, using several shades of green if you have them (crayons, pastels, colored pencils, etc.).
3. If you have young children, read *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss and then make this meal using some food coloring to dye your eggs green. If your children are older, plan a green meal, which includes lots of veggies and other foods which are green. Brainstorm with each other for ideas. Perhaps this is a good day to try pistachio pudding!
4. Experiment with color. Pour water into a clear glass. Let your students add drops of blue and yellow food coloring to create various shades of green. Record the number of drops to make the colors. Add some white daisies to your green water mix and watch what happens!
5. Make green flubber! Here's the recipe:

Flubber is a polymer made by a chemical reaction. Polymers are very long chains of repeating units. When the two solutions are combined, polyvinyl acetate chains (a polymer from the white glue) are linked together in a 3-dimensional arrangement by borate ions (from the Borax) and other chemical bonds. This produces the thick, sticky polymer called Flubber.

## How to Make Flubber:

### Collect Your Ingredients

---

3 cups Warm Water  
2 cups Elmer's White Glue  
20 Mule Team Borax, available in the grocery store laundry section.  
Food Coloring and Glitter (optional)



---

## The Steps

---

- **Step 1:** In a large container combine and mix:
  - 1 ½ cups very warm water
  - 2 cups Elmers white glue
  - A few drops of food coloring and/or glitter if using clear glue

**This combination must be completely mixed**

- **Step 2:** In a small container combine and mix:
  - 1 1/3 cups very warm water
  - 2 level tsp 20 Mule Team Borax. Adults, please do this step\*.

**The Borax must be completely dissolved.**

- **Step 3: Combine the glue and borax mixtures:**

Mix well using your hands until all the liquid is absorbed. You may need to squish, mix, and break up the flubber to get it fully combined. Store the flubber in a plastic, air-tight container at room temperature. For best results, measure precisely and mix well as noted above.

If kept in an airtight container, the Flubber will keep for up to 2 weeks.

This recipe makes enough Flubber for six children.

---

## Notes About Safety

---

\*Adults, please keep the box of powdered borax out of the reach of children.

Vinegar dissolves Flubber from carpet, hair, furniture, clothes, and pets.

---

\*We always recommend that you provide parental assistance when using the Internet.

This unit study is a 5-part study provided for you by Knowledge Quest, Inc. –  
[www.KnowledgeQuestMaps.com](http://www.KnowledgeQuestMaps.com). Contact [helpdesk@knowledgequestmaps.com](mailto:helpdesk@knowledgequestmaps.com) if you need any assistance.



# St. Patrick Unit Study

## Lesson 3

### Day 3

Today, we learn a little more about the history and geography of Ireland using some map and timeline activities.

If your students keep a running timeline of events that you study together, add some significant dates from Ireland's history today. If this is not an exercise that you regularly have your students do, then pull out a clean sheet of paper and create either a horizontal timeline or vertical list of events. This timeline can be added to the report or lapbook which your students will be assembling later in the unit study (Lesson 4). Here are a few key events that you can add, but also check out these two sites listed below for an indepth timeline of Ireland's history.

c.600 BC Celts begin to arrive in Ireland, from central Europe.

c.100 BC Arrival of the Gaels

200 Beginnings of High Kingship at Tara

432 Arrival of St. Patrick to help convert pagan Gaelic Kings to Christianity

795 The Vikings begin raiding Ireland

1002 Brian Boru becomes High King of Ireland

1166 Rory O'Connor becomes High King of Ireland

1177 King Henry makes his son John Lord of Ireland

1394 King Richard II leads an army to subdue Ireland.

1556 Queen Mary sends English people to settle land confiscated from Irish rebels in Laois and Offaly. Mary is the first monarch to successfully 'plant' English settlers in Ireland.

1593-1603 The Nine Years War

1610 The first Protestant settlers arrive

1660 Charles II becomes king

1740-1741 A severe famine affects Ireland

1807 Famine in Ireland

1845-1849 The potato blight causes a potato famine. Perhaps as many as 1 million people die. Many more emigrate. The population of Ireland falls dramatically. The famine is at its worst in the West and Southwest of Ireland.

1919-1921 The War of Independence. The IRA fights a guerrilla war against the British.

1972 'Bloody Sunday' in Derry. Fourteen people are killed when the British 1st Parachute Regiment opens fire on demonstrators.

1998 The Good Friday Agreement is signed

For a more extensive timeline of events, visit <http://www.localhistories.org/irishtime.html> or <http://www.rootsweb.com/~fianna/history/>.\*

To learn a little about the geography of Ireland, we suggest you look at some maps of Ireland. Linked below are two maps which you can print out for your students to color.

[Map 1 - St. Patrick](#)

[Map 2 - Ireland Divided](#)

Tip: For more world history outline maps like these, such as Map Trek and TimeMaps, check out Knowledge Quest's map products. To explore timeline options, including wall timeline, book timelines and timeline software, see our timeline products available [here](#).

<https://knowledgequestmaps.com/maps-and-timelines/>

---

\*We always recommend that you provide parental assistance when using the Internet.

This unit study is a 5-part study provided for you by Knowledge Quest, Inc. – [www.KnowledgeQuestMaps.com](http://www.KnowledgeQuestMaps.com). Contact [helpdesk@knowledgequestmaps.com](mailto:helpdesk@knowledgequestmaps.com) if you need any assistance.





## St. Patrick Unit Study

### Lesson 4

#### Day 4

Listen to some Irish music today (Tip: Pandora\* is a good source for music) as your students begin to assemble their lapbooks or write their report. Writing is a complex skill, but to simplify the process here, have your older students read back through the material they collected on Day 1 and begin to highlight points of interest that relate to their main topic. Then have them write an outline or rough draft for their report. The final draft may be written tomorrow in their best handwriting or typed on the computer.

For the lapbooks, follow the instructions on this website\* - [www.scrapbookingtolearn.com](http://www.scrapbookingtolearn.com) and use the maps and pictures they have created this week. Also include recipes (see Lesson 5), vocabulary, drawings of St. Patrick, leprechauns, photographs of activities, etc. Be creative. For a colorful shamrock to include, follow these directions. Using some green construction paper, fold lengthwise and cut out three or four hearts. Glue hearts onto white paper, points together to form a shamrock and then glue on a stem cut from the green construction paper or use a green pipe cleaner.



Isn't it convenient (and beautifully simple) that green clover have tiny heart leaves? Your kids can make a shamrock with 3 or 4 leaves.

---

\*We always recommend that you provide parental assistance when using the Internet.

This unit study is a 5-part study provided for you by Knowledge Quest, Inc. – [www.KnowledgeQuestMaps.com](http://www.KnowledgeQuestMaps.com). Contact [helpdesk@knowledgequestmaps.com](mailto:helpdesk@knowledgequestmaps.com) if you need any assistance.



## St. Patrick Unit Study

### Lesson 5

#### St. Patrick's Day

Today is St. Patrick's Day! On this day, the 17th of March, in the year 461, St. Patrick died after a life of dedication bringing the Gospel of Christ to Ireland.

If they haven't done so already, have your students finish up their reports and/or lapbooks. Embellish them with green trim (ribbons, buttons, colored pencils, even glitter glue) or with illuminations drawn from hand. Khan Academy\* presents a short lesson on illuminated manuscripts from the middle ages here - <http://archives.pacscl.org/leaves/exhibit/gallery/bibles/index.html>. Click through the lessons on the left-hand side of your screen.

This evening (or better yet, Saturday evening), enjoy an Irish boiled dinner of corned beef, potatoes, carrots and cabbage. Bake a loaf of Irish Soda Bread. A simple recipe with only 4 ingredients can be found at the [Grits and Pincones website](#).\* Top off your meal with cupcakes frosted with green frosting (use food coloring to achieve the desired shade of green).

To conclude our unit study, here is an old Irish blessing that I leave you with:

***May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back,  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
The rains fall soft upon your fields and,  
Until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.***

More exciting history and geography studies next month! See you then!

---

\*We always recommend that you provide parental assistance when using the Internet.

This unit study is a 5-part study provided for you by Knowledge Quest, Inc. – [www.KnowledgeQuestMaps.com](http://www.KnowledgeQuestMaps.com). Contact [helpdesk@knowledgequestmaps.com](mailto:helpdesk@knowledgequestmaps.com) if you need any assistance.