

- Use a world map to show your students how a map scale can be used to gauge distance. Have your students calculate the number of miles between their home towns and Dublin, Ireland. Extend the activity by asking students to calculate the number of hours a plane trip would take if the plane was traveling 500 miles an hour.
- Presidents Ulysses Grant, John Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Andrew Jackson, James Polk, James Buchanan, Chester Arthur, William McKinley, Woodrow Wilson and Richard Nixon were all of Irish ancestry. Divide your students into groups and assign each group one president. Have each group create a biography sheet on their president. Include any information they can find about the president's Irish heritage and how it might have influenced him.
- Help your students to pack for a trip to Ireland with this weather activity. Use an almanac, encyclopedia or the Internet and have your students research the climate across Ireland. With this information in mind, have your students "pack their suitcases" with the type of clothes that will keep them comfortable and dry for a week-long tour of the country in December.
- Make Irish Potato Candy with your students (recipes are easy to find in cookbooks or on the Internet). Turn candy-making into a math lesson, and demonstrate the importance of careful measurement. Extend the math lesson and have your students double or triple the recipe to feed the entire class.
- St. Patrick's Day is a popular Irish holiday celebrated in the United States. Have your students find out about the origins of the holiday and how it is celebrated in their community.
- Have your students plan an Irish dinner. Research cookbooks or the Internet to find recipes for Irish stew, corned beef and cabbage and of course, a potato dish! Find a recipe for Irish soda bread for dessert. Have your students copy and illustrate the recipes they find, and collect them into an Irish cookbook. With help from parents and friends, you may be able to extend this activity by preparing some of the found recipes for student sampling.

### Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our web site at [www.LibraryVideo.com](http://www.LibraryVideo.com)

- [collections.ic.gc.ca/potato/history/ireland.asp](http://collections.ic.gc.ca/potato/history/ireland.asp)  
Find information on the Great Potato Famine at this web site.
- [www.fi.edu/fellows/owens/mar99/tour/wicklow\\_and\\_dublin.shtml](http://www.fi.edu/fellows/owens/mar99/tour/wicklow_and_dublin.shtml)  
Take your students on a virtual tour of two Irish cities at this web site.
- [www.irelandemb.org/info.html](http://www.irelandemb.org/info.html)  
Find information about the land, people, history and culture of Ireland at this web site supported by the Embassy of Ireland in Washington, D.C.

### Suggested Print Resources

- DePaola, Tomie. *Jamie O'Rourke and the Big Potato: An Irish Folktale*. Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers, New York, NY; 1997.
- Edwards, Pamela Duncan. *The Leprechaun's Gold*. Tegen Books, New York, NY; 2004.
- McDermott, Gerald. *Tim O'Toole and the Wee Folk: An Irish Tale*. Viking, New York, NY; 1990.
- O'Hara, Megan. *Irish Immigrants: 1840-1920*. Blue Earth Books, Mankato, MN; 2002.
- Wojciechowski, Susan. *A Fine St. Patrick's Day*. Random House, New York, NY; 2004.

---

#### TEACHER'S GUIDE

---

Mark Singer, M.S.

Curriculum Specialist, Schlessinger Media

---

#### TITLES IN THIS SERIES

---

- AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE
- ARAB-AMERICAN HERITAGE
- CENTRAL AMERICAN HERITAGE
- CHINESE-AMERICAN HERITAGE
- IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE
- JAPANESE-AMERICAN HERITAGE
- JEWISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE
- KOREAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE
- MEXICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE
- NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE
- PUERTO RICAN HERITAGE
- VIETNAMESE-AMERICAN HERITAGE

Teacher's Guides Included  
and Available Online at:

800-843-3620



Teacher's Guide Copyright 2004 by Schlessinger Media,

a division of Library Video Company

P.O. Box 580, Wynnewood, PA 19096 • 800-843-3620

Executive Producer: Andrew Schlessinger

Programs produced and directed by Alexandria Productions, Inc. K6655

All rights reserved.



## Irish-American Heritage

Grades K-4

The United States has always been a country of immigrants, rich with the customs and traditions of the many countries they represent. *American Cultures for Children* introduces students to the heritage of some of the immigrant groups that make up this diverse land. Through songs, play food, holidays and history, students are provided with an understanding of and appreciation for the cultural differences they see every day in their classrooms and neighborhoods. Everyone has at least one culture to celebrate, and this series gives children a chance to explore their heritage and share it with others.



## Program Summary

*Irish-American Heritage* introduces students to some of the customs and traditions of the people from Ireland who now make their home in the United States. Students learn the location, geography and climate of Ireland, go to the Dublin Horse Show, and visit Blarney Castle. The historical background for the great wave of Irish-American immigration to the United States during the mid-1800s is presented. Students learn to say a few words and count to ten in Irish Gaelic. On a field trip, students travel to Alexandria, Virginia to see the preparations for the Saint Patrick's Day Parade. The Irish folktale, "The Legend of Knockmany" is retold, and the Irish folksong "Oró, Se Do" is sung. In an arts & crafts segment, students are given a lesson in making a harp. Today, over forty million people in the United States claim some Irish heritage, and there are more Irish people in the United States than in any other place in the world, including Ireland!

*Program note: The island of Ireland is divided into two countries: The Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. For the purposes of this program, an Irish person from either of these two countries who immigrated to the United States is considered an Irish American.*

## Vocabulary

**St. Patrick's Day** — A holiday celebrated on March 17 that honors the patron saint of Ireland.

**saint** — A person considered to be holy who is honored by certain religious groups. Patron saints have certain things or places dedicated to them. St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland.

**island** — An area of land surrounded by water that is smaller than a continent.

**Europe** — One of the seven continents on Earth.

**thatch** — A plant material, often straw, used to cover the roof of a building.

**Dublin** — The capital of and largest city in the Republic of Ireland.

**double-decker bus** — A bus with two levels for passenger seating.

**Gaelic** — Any of several related languages of the ancient Celts spoken mainly in Ireland and Scotland. Both Gaelic and English are spoken in Ireland today.

**immigrant** — A person who makes a new home in a country other than his or her own.

**Great Potato Famine** — The name given to the period of time, 1845-1850, when the Irish potato crop failed.

**famine** — An extreme shortage of food.

**feis** — Pronounced "fesh," a traditional Irish festival where a dance competition is the main event.

**hurling** — A traditional Irish game resembling field hockey, played by two teams of 15 players each.

(Continued)

**harp** — A musical instrument with strings stretched across a large open triangular frame that is plucked with the fingers. The harp is an official symbol of Ireland.

**shamrock** — A green plant with leaves that are divided into three parts. It is often used as a symbol for everything Irish.

**leprechaun** — A fairy in Irish folktales. Legend has it that leprechauns must give up their treasure if caught.

## Words in Gaelic

Hello = Cá Bhfuil Tú

Good-bye = Slán Leat

friend = chara

How are you? = Cá Bhfuil Tú

## Numbers in Gaelic

One = Aon

Two = Dhá

Three = Tri

Four = Ceithre

Five = Cúig

Six = Sé

Seven = Seacht

Eight = Ocht

Nine = Naoi

Ten = Deich

## Focus Questions

1. What is a shamrock?
2. Why is Ireland often called the Emerald Isle?
3. What is hurling?
4. What event in Ireland caused many to immigrate to the United States?
5. Name the two languages spoken in Ireland.
6. What is an island?
7. Name the largest city in Ireland.
8. What is a feis (fesh)?
9. How do you say "friend" in Gaelic?
10. What is an immigrant?
11. Count to three in Gaelic.

## Follow-up Discussion

- Potatoes are a popular food. People eat them mashed, baked and fried — and don't forget potato chips! Name all of the different things to eat that you could make from potatoes. Conduct a class survey asking students to name their favorite potato dish. Chart the results to reveal the top three choices.
- Many Irish people left Ireland to find a better home in the United States. Pretend that the year is 1853 and your family is about to make the move from Ireland to the United States. At a family meeting, you are asked if you have questions about the trip and your new home in New York City. What would you want to know about the trip? What would you ask about your new home?
- School children in Ireland learn English and Gaelic. Would it be good to learn two languages in school? Why? Can you think of any problems with learning two languages?

## Follow-up Activities

- Introduce or reinforce the math concept of multiplication as repeated addition and practice the three times table using the shamrock, the traditional Irish three-leaf clover. Provide students with piles of different numbers of three-leaf clovers and have them count by 3's to determine the total number of leaves. Create a chart illustrating the number of clovers and the numbers of leaves. Extend this activity using the lucky four-leaf clover.
- Storytelling is an important tradition in Irish culture. Have your students experience the art of storytelling. Sharpen their listening skills by reading an Irish folktale to your class. After the tale is told, divide your class into several smaller groups and appoint one group member to retell the story from memory. Extend this activity by having students illustrate any part of the story. *Tales from Old Ireland* by Malachy Doyle (Barefoot Books, 2000) has seven Irish folktales that would work well with this activity.
- Leprechauns often play a major part in Irish folklore. Help your students research the legend of the leprechaun and his treasure. Brainstorm with your class methods they would use to catch a leprechaun and trick him into surrendering his treasure. Create a book featuring student ideas. Add the book to your classroom library.
- Help your students to see the different kinds of information that maps can give. Have students find several maps of Ireland. Using these maps as reference, have students create maps showing the major cities, the rivers and lakes, and the countries and bodies of water that surround Ireland.

(Continued)