



by **Stella López del Moral**



St Patrick's Day Lesson Planning

① Warm Up (a quick look into the exercise to introduce some cultural differences)

✓ Read the following Irish Festival Customs. Compare them with the Spanish celebrations on St Santiago's Day. Are they the same? Answer the questions.

Irish Festival Customs



- The name “Ireland” comes from ninth century Scandinavian invaders.
- Saint Patrick has his own colour - Saint Patrick's Blue. Green came into use in the 19th century.
- Saint Patrick's symbol is the shamrock.
- Saint Patrick's Day is a legal holiday in Ireland. Schools, post offices, and banks are closed.
- Mass is attended in the morning followed by a parade nearly everywhere. Saint Patrick's Day is the start of a three-day period of devotion.
- Bread and fish are popular foods for the day. Guinness is, of course, a drink of major importance.
- Saint Patrick's Day plays and concerts are performed in the afternoon.
- Major hotels have musical line-ups .

Spanish Festival Customs:

1. What's the origin of the name “España”?
2. Does St. Santiago have a special colour of his own?
3. What's his symbol?
4. Do you have to work or go to school on 25th July?
5. Do Spaniards usually go to mass on that day?
6. What's the difference between a “parade” and a “procesión”?
7. What's the special food for the day?
8. Do you do anything special?
9. What's a “line-up”?

Useful addresses to search for the information you don't know:

<http://encarta.msn.com/>

<http://www.longman-elt.com/dictionaries/webdictionary.html>

<http://www.sispain.org/english/language/>



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<http://www.aboutspain.net/spain/info.festivals.asp>



② Extensive reading exercise. Scanning

✓ Go to this page and read what Hana, Graeme and Laura tell you about St Patrick's day. Find five new things about the celebrations.

<http://www.worldkids.net/clubs/kci/saintpat.html>

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

③ Cultural awareness

✓ Irish people speak an ancient language called "gaelic". Go to this page and find out how to say "thank you", "please", and what your name is.

<http://www.maths.tcd.ie/gaeilge/lessons/lesson1.html>

④ Reading to prompt language

✓ Read the following recipe of Irish coffee and write your own recipe of a typical Spanish dish.

Irish Coffee was invented in the 1940's by chef Joe Sheridan at Foyne's restaurant in County Clare. It was introduced at the Shannon airport as a pick-me-up for travellers. It became very popular and he took his recipe to the United States where it is now served in restaurants and pubs. Mr. Sheridan's version is made with Irish Mist liqueur. Legend says the recipe for Irish Mist is 1,200 years old and is the Heather Ale of Celtic Folklore. Heather is a sacred flower.

Sheridan's Irish Coffee: Heat a stemmed whisky glass by running it under hot water. Add 1 cup of hot coffee and 1 1/2 ounces of Irish Mist liqueur. Top with whipped cream. (4)

Whisky Version: Pour coffee in a heated glass. Add three sugar cubes and one jigger of whiskey. Add whipped cream to top.



Some more useful sites to have a look at Irish culture and St Patrick's Day:

<http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/stpatricksdays/main.html>

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/7134/Green/fgireland.htm>

<http://usacitylink.com/lucky/default.html>

Aims and details about the activity:

Level: Intermediate

Skills: Reading (extensive and scanning) and writing

Objectives:

- ♣ To promote **cultural awareness** by comparing foreign and home traditions, namely Irish and Spanish traditions and their patron saints respectively.
- ♣ To encourage interest in Irish culture and different aspects such as:
 - **History:** by means of the story of the saint
 - **Language:** an insight into "gaelic"
 - **Traditions:** food, recipes and symbols
- ♣ To foster **reading comprehension** and **reading skills** at different levels using different techniques: **extensive and intensive reading**, and **scanning** using the cultural topic as a source of motivation.
- ♣ To use reading to prompt language in a **semi-controlled writing exercise**.

This activity has been designed by Stella López del Moral as part of a project in the course Computers And English Teaching: Internet, Word Processors and Authoring Programs and is hosted in Isabel's ESL Site <http://www.isabelperez.com/>