

Name: _____

Leprechauns

The Irish pride themselves on being great storytellers, and many of the stories they tell are about the giants and fairy folk who—according to legend—inhabited the island of Ireland long ago.

Perhaps the best known character in all of Irish folklore is the Leprechaun. Leprechauns, or “wee folk”, are tiny fairies, who work as cobblers, making shoes for the other fairies. They are often depicted wearing a green coat, a red cap and a leather cobbler’s apron.

Leprechauns are kept quite busy replacing worn out shoes. For, you see, fairies love to dance and wear out a pair of shoes in no time at all. The fairies pay for their new shoes with gold coins, which the Leprechauns store away in a big pot and bury in a secret hiding place.



According to Irish legends, if you are lucky enough to catch a leprechaun, you can bargain with him to give you his pot of gold in exchange for his freedom. However, dealing with a leprechaun can be tricky. Chances are that he'll get the best of you, and you'll end up empty-handed.

You are going to read a story about a fellow who was lucky enough to catch a leprechaun. After you finish reading the story, answer the following questions:

1. The reading says that “leprechauns are often *depicted* wearing a green coat, a red cap, and a cobbler’s apron.” What does the word “*depicted*” mean?
2. In the story, what makes Patrick O'Donnell think that the little man he has found is a leprechaun? Explain.
3. What did Patrick do so that he would be able to recognize the bush where the leprechaun’s gold was buried?
4. How did the leprechaun outwit Patrick?