



Who Owns St. Patrick's Day?

Read the passage and answer the questions. (CEFR B1–B2)

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

1 For centuries, March 17 was a quiet religious day in Ireland, and from 1927 to 1961 pubs were not even allowed to sell alcohol on that day. The loud, green celebration that most people know today was largely shaped abroad, especially by Irish immigrants in the United States. For communities that faced poverty and discrimination, a public parade was a way of claiming respect and showing political strength.



2 In the 1990s, the Irish government decided to bring the celebration home and turn it into a tourism event. Dublin's own festival, which began in 1996, now lasts several days and attracts visitors from all over the world. Since 2010, Tourism Ireland's Global Greening campaign has lit more than 300 landmarks in about fifty countries in green, which gives a small country a big global presence for one day.

3 However, the global party also raises questions. Some Irish people complain that the day is reduced to green beer, cartoon leprechauns, and the stereotype of the drunken Irishman. For many Irish people living abroad, however, wearing green is still a quiet way of remembering home. Others argue that anyone who joins in with respect can share the day, so the question of who owns a national festival remains open.

Comprehension

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) The Irish government wants to stop the Global Greening campaign. (B) St. Patrick's Day has always been a loud party in Ireland.
- (C) The modern St. Patrick's Day was largely shaped abroad, and its growth raises the question of who owns it. (D) Only Irish people should wear green on March 17.

2. What was true in Ireland from 1927 to 1961?

- (A) Pubs were not allowed to sell alcohol on March 17. (B) The Global Greening campaign began.
- (C) The Dublin festival lasted several days. (D) Irish immigrants held the first parade in Dublin.

3. According to the passage, what has the Global Greening campaign done since 2010?

- (A) It has turned rivers in fifty countries green. (B) It has lit more than 300 landmarks in about fifty countries in green.
- (C) It has paid immigrants to hold parades. (D) It has sold green beer in more than 300 cities.

4. What can we infer about Irish immigrants in the United States in the past?

- (A) They were the richest group in American cities. (B) They did not want to show their Irish identity.
- (C) They started the Global Greening campaign. (D) They were not always treated with respect.

5. In paragraph 3, the phrase "reduced to" in "the day is reduced to green beer, cartoon leprechauns, and the stereotype of the drunken Irishman" is closest in meaning to

- (A) made bigger by (B) made into something simpler and less meaningful
- (C) protected by (D) translated into

6. What is the writer's attitude toward the question "Who owns St. Patrick's Day?"

- (A) The writer believes only the Irish government owns it. (B) The writer thinks the festival should return to being a quiet religious day.
- (C) The writer presents several views and leaves the question open. (D) The writer argues that tourism has completely ruined the day.



Vocabulary, Paraphrase & Summary

Match the words with the definitions. Then rewrite and summarize.

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|-------------------|---|
| 1. abroad | a. the state of being very poor |
| 2. immigrant | b. treating a person or group unfairly because of who they are |
| 3. poverty | c. a famous building or place that is easy to see and recognize |
| 4. discrimination | d. the fact of being noticed or having an influence in a place |
| 5. landmark | e. a fixed and too simple idea about what a type of person is like |
| 6. presence | f. to make something smaller or simpler, sometimes losing its important parts |
| 7. stereotype | g. in or to a foreign country |
| 8. reduce | h. a person who comes to live in a new country |

Paraphrase — say it in your own words

1. “For communities that faced poverty and discrimination, a public parade was a way of claiming respect and showing political strength.”

Hint: Start with "Poor immigrants who were treated unfairly" and use "used parades to".

2. “Since 2010, Tourism Ireland's Global Greening campaign has lit more than 300 landmarks in about fifty countries in green, which gives a small country a big global presence for one day.”

Hint: Split it into two sentences. Use "So" at the start of the second one.

3. “For many Irish people living abroad, however, wearing green is still a quiet way of remembering home.”

Hint: Start with "But many Irish people in other countries" and use "think of".

Summary

Summarize the passage in about 50 words.



Debate & Opinion Essay

Prepare for a debate. Then write your opinion (100–150 words).

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Motion: A national festival belongs to everyone who celebrates it, not only to people from that country.

FOR 賛成

- The loud, green St. Patrick's Day was shaped abroad by immigrants, so people outside Ireland already helped create it.
- Ireland itself invites the world to join through the Global Greening, so sharing the festival is part of its purpose.
- When people join with respect, they learn about another culture and build friendship between countries.

Add your own reason:

AGAINST 反対

- When outsiders celebrate without knowing the history, the day can be reduced to green beer and stereotypes.
- A national festival carries a people's history and religion, so they should have the main voice in how it is celebrated.
- Companies and tourists can change a festival for profit, and the people whose culture it is may lose control of it.

Add your own reason:

Opinion	<i>I believe / I think that ...</i>
Reason 1	<i>First, ... For example, ...</i>
Reason 2	<i>Second, ... In fact, ...</i>
Counter	<i>Some people say ... However, ...</i>
Conclusion	<i>In conclusion, ...</i>