



Danny's Celtic Kids

"Ireland is where strange tales begin and happy endings are possible"

Newsletter Issue 1 June 2003



Danny's Corner

Hi kids. It's been awhile since we saw each other in Galveston. I had a great time there and hope you did, too.

I have been busy doing lots of different things. I just got back from a trip to Ireland where I led a group of people to the cities of Dublin, Belfast, Derry, and Donegal. Ask an adult to help you find these cities on a map of Ireland so you can see where I was.

I am very excited about getting this newsletter started. There will be lots of interesting things to learn and do. I know you will have fun with it.

It is so important for all of us to learn about and understand the different kinds of people and cultures that share out planet Earth with us. When you get to know people, they become your friends which is good because no one wants to go to war against their friends. Friends help each other and take care of each other.

If you have any suggestions about what you would like to learn about or what should be in upcoming newsletters, please let me know. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this newsletter.

See you soon!

Danny



A Traditional Irish Blessing

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



The Shamrock

The shamrock is Ireland's national and traditional plant.

To the ancient Celtic people, three was the most sacred and magical number. They believed that shamrocks were sacred plants because each leaf had three lobes.

There is a legend in Irish history that Saint Patrick used a shamrock to teach the Irish people about the existence of the Holy Trinity, the Three in One- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The legend states that one day while he was preaching, he reached down and picked a shamrock from the grass at his feet and showed it to the people standing around him. He said, "See how this wildflower has three leaves united on one stalk? Will you then believe that there are indeed three persons and yet one God?"

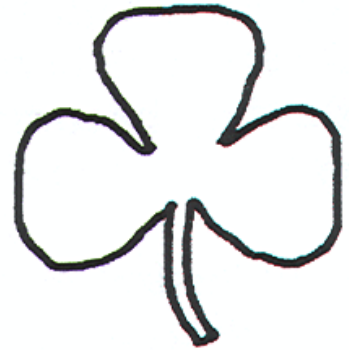
It is because of this legend that the shamrock has been so closely identified with Ireland and Saint Patrick's Day, March 17th.

Make a Shamrock Greeting Card

You will need:

Green pipe cleaners
White or colored Paper
Glue

- Take the pipe cleaners and twist them into the shape of shamrocks.
- Fold a sheet of paper in half to make the greeting card.
- Glue the pipe cleaner shamrocks to the front of the card.
- Write a message for someone special on the inside pages of your greeting card and be sure to sign your name.



Let's learn some Irish!

seamróg (pronounced- shame roge) *a shamrock*

tá (pronounced- law) *is*

tá sé (pronounced- law shay) *it is*

Tá sé seamróg — *It is a shamrock.*



What could this be?

Connect the dots and see what appears. Be sure to color the drawing.





Dear Danny.....

From Lisa in Indianapolis, Indiana

“Is Irish a real language? Do you speak it?”

Yes Lisa, Irish is a real language. It is a very old language. Once a long time ago, it was the only language spoken in Ireland. When people started speaking English, the Irish language almost disappeared except in the western part of the country where I grew up.

Irish was the first language I learned to speak. I learned to speak Irish when I was little, just like you learned English. Because Irish was my first language, when I dream, most of the people in my dreams speak Irish.

From Karen in El Paso, Texas

“What instruments do you play? Do you have a favorite?”

Karen, I play a 6 string and a 12 string guitars, the penny whistle, the harmonica, the mandolin, and the accordion. I started learning how to play when I was a little boy in Ireland. I don't really have a favorite instrument, I just love to play music.



Test Your Knowledge of Ireland

Which of the following is correct?

1. Ireland is an island. This means it is:
 - a. surrounded by water
 - b. surrounded by trees
 - c. surrounded by leprechauns
 - d. surrounded by other countries

2. The patron saint of Ireland is:
 - a. Saint Patrick
 - b. Saint Brigid
 - c. Saint Larry
 - d. Saint Brendan

3. People in Ireland long ago lived in:
 - a. trees
 - b. tents
 - c. thatched cottages
 - d. libraries

4. The special boats used in the West of Ireland are called:
 - a. currachs
 - b. steamships
 - c. liners
 - d. rowing boats

5. Saint Patrick is famous for bringing the following to Ireland:
 - a. leprechauns
 - b. thorn trees
 - c. fairies
 - d. the Christian faith

6. The colors on the Irish flag are:
 - a. pink, yellow, green
 - b. black, blue, orange
 - c. green, white, blue
 - d. green, white, orange

Answers to Test Your Knowledge of Ireland



Get your copy of Danny's book and music CD for kids.

You can purchase them at www.CelticNationsWorld.com in the Celtic Shop.



***The Monster Picnic* CD \$15.00 plus shipping and handling
Thirteen songs to delight children of all ages.**



***The Loch Ness Monster's Story* \$15.00 plus shipping and handling
A story of the Loch Ness Monster family and their adventures.**

Danny's Celtic Kids Newsletter is a not-for-profit publication.

The newsletter is available at no cost on the websites www.CelticNationsWorld.com and dannyoflaherty.com.

We invite everyone to print a copy for themselves or for a friend. We also invite teachers to give copies to their students.

Be sure to check www.dannyoflaherty.com to see about having Danny bring his wonderful program of music and fun to your school.