

# ST. PATRICK'S DAY

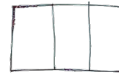
## Reading Comprehension Passages

### Rainbows



You may have seen a rainbow appear in the sky after a rainfall on a sunny day, but have you ever wondered...

### Ireland



Welcome to the Emerald Isle also known as Ireland. This European country received its nickname because of its evergreen land with rolling hills and blossoming vegetation. Slightly larger than the state of New York...

### Leprechauns



Although many stories have been created about them, leprechauns are not real. They are fairies created in Irish folk stories and are most often connected with the holiday Saint Patrick's Day.

According to legend, leprechauns are almost always men who are no taller than two-feet and who wear green clothes and a top-hat. They also usually have red hair. In stories, leprechaun are often unfriendly and very mischievous, or like to cause trouble. According to legend, leprechauns hide a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. If you catch a leprechaun, you can ask him to tell you where his pot of gold is located, but be sure to keep an eye on him! Leprechauns are very tricky and can disappear quickly! Also, if you catch a leprechaun, they can grant you up to three wishes, so think carefully.

Can you think of stories that feature leprechauns?

© Primary Junction

### Saint Patrick's Day



Every year on March 17<sup>th</sup> we celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. Saint Patrick's Day is an Irish holiday celebrated in many countries all over the world to honor the patron saint of Ireland, Patrick.

Although no one is for sure, it is believed that Patrick lived between the years 432 and 461. When he was sixteen years old, he was kidnapped by pirates and taken from The Roman British Isles to Ireland where he was sold as a slave. During this time he turned to religion. After working as a shepherd for six years, Patrick escaped and fled to France.

There Patrick became a priest and decided to return to Ireland after having dreams of the Irish people asking him to come preach to them. In Ireland he preached to many people and often used the shamrock, a 3-leaf clover that is also Ireland's national flower, to stand for things he preached about. This is why shamrocks and the color green are connected to St. Patrick's Day.

Legend has it that Patrick was also responsible for getting rid of all the snakes in Ireland. The story says he stood on a hill and used a wooden staff to drive all the snakes into the sea and banish them from forever entering Ireland again. Although the legend may not be true, it is true that there are no snakes in Ireland.

After thirty years of working as a missionary, Patrick died on March 17, 461. On March 17<sup>th</sup>, people all over the world honor him by wearing green (you might get pinched if you don't!) and having parades. St. Patrick's Day was first celebrated in the United States in 1737. Today the largest St. Patrick's Day Parade is held in New York City.

What will you do to celebrate St. Patrick's Day this year?

© Primary Junction

# THANK YOU!

I hope you and your students enjoy using this Primary Junction resource.

## Terms of Use:

**Licensing Terms:** This download includes a license for one educator only for personal use in his or her classroom. Licenses are non-transferable, which means they cannot be shared or passed on from one teacher to another. If you want to use this resource within a grade level, share it with a colleague, or use it with a school or district, please share the link for each colleague to download individually.

**Copyright Terms:** Every page of this document is copyrighted. This resource may NOT be uploaded to the Internet in any form, including classroom/personal websites or blogs and District or shared servers that those who did not purchase an additional license could access. Uploading the file to the Internet is a direct violation of copyright.

**Distance/Remote/Virtual Learning:** If you are a teacher who is teaching via distance/remote/virtual learning, you may directly share this file with your students through a secure learning platform such as Google Classroom. You may not share this file or make it available to other teachers or any other person who is not your current student.

**My resources cannot be used on Outschoo in any way.**

# ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

This learning resource includes four informational texts about the following topics related to St. Patrick's Day:

- St. Patrick's Day
- Ireland
- Leprechauns
- Rainbows

Each reading passage also comes with a comprehension check and a bubble map graphic organizer. The passages can be used with or without the comprehension checks and graphic organizers.

## **Comprehension checks come in two options:**

- Ten questions on one full page
- Ten questions split across two pages with larger writing space

## **The included bubble map graphic organizers can be used in a variety of ways such as:**

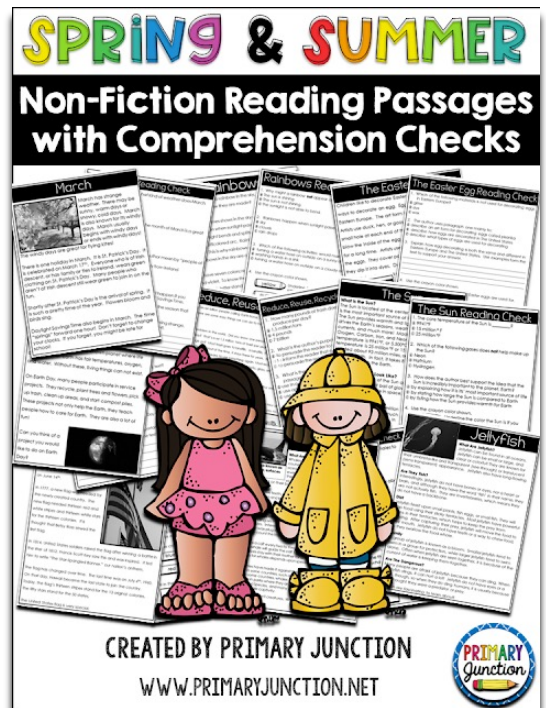
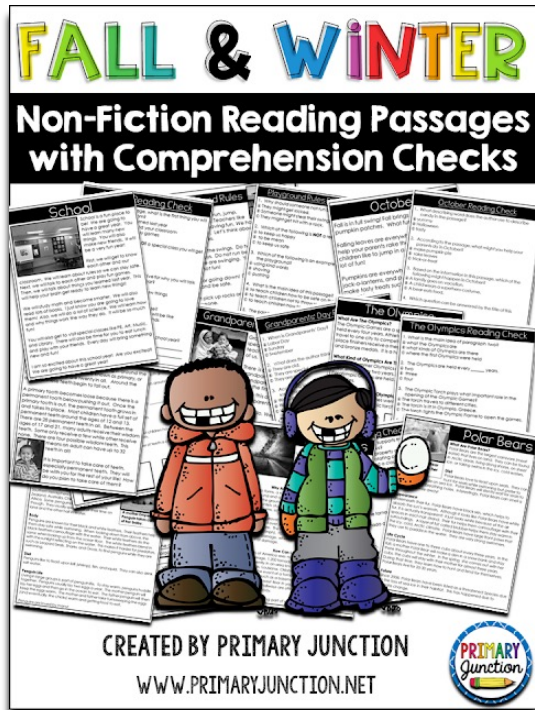
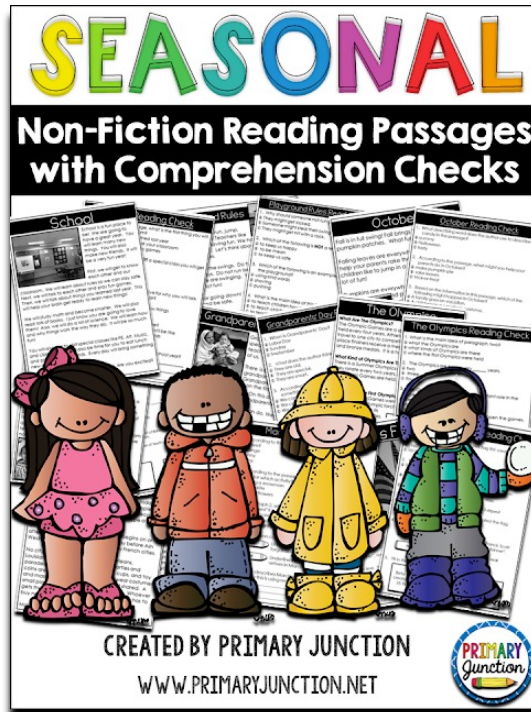
- identify the main idea and key details of a text
- organize information learned from a text

Also included are **website links** you may find helpful to incorporate within your classroom study. Links contain videos about the holiday and important Irish locations, as well as music from popular Irish musicians.

I hope you and your students enjoy this learning resource!

# SIMILAR RESOURCES:

You might also be interested in the following reading passage sets:





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## **Saint Patrick's Day**

### Passage

Comprehension Check Full Page

Comprehension Check Questions 1-5

Comprehension Check Questions 6-10

Bubble Map Graphic Organizer

Answer Key

## **Ireland**

### Passage

Comprehension Check Full Page

Comprehension Check Questions 1-5

Comprehension Check Questions 6-10

Bubble Map Graphic Organizer

Answer Key

## **Leprechauns**

### Passage

Comprehension Check Full Page

Comprehension Check Questions 1-5

Comprehension Check Questions 6-10

Bubble Map Graphic Organizer

Answer Key

## **Rainbows**

### Passage

Comprehension Check Full Page

Comprehension Check Questions 1-5

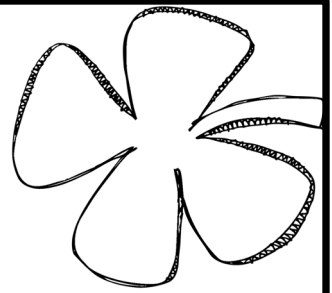
Comprehension Check Questions 6-10

Bubble Map Graphic Organizer

Answer Key

## **Ireland Website Suggestions**

# Saint Patrick's Day



Every year on March 17<sup>th</sup> we celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. Saint Patrick's Day is an Irish holiday celebrated in many countries all over the world to honor the patron saint of Ireland, Patrick.

Although no one is for sure, it is believed that Patrick lived between the years 432 and 461. When he was sixteen years old, he was kidnapped by pirates and taken from The Roman British Isles to Ireland where he was sold as a slave. During this time he turned to religion. After working as a shepherd for six years, Patrick escaped and fled to France.

There Patrick became a priest and decided to return to Ireland after having dreams of the Irish people asking him to come preach to them. In Ireland he preached to many people and often used the shamrock, a 3-leaf clover that is also Ireland's national flower, to stand for things he preached about. This is why shamrocks and the color green are connected to St. Patrick's Day.

Legend has it that Patrick was also responsible for getting rid of all the snakes in Ireland. The story says he stood on a hill and used a wooden staff to drive all the snakes into the sea and banish them from forever entering Ireland again. Although the legend may not be true, it is true that there are no snakes in Ireland.

After thirty years of working as a missionary, Patrick died on March 17, 461. On March 17<sup>th</sup>, people all over the world honor him by wearing green (you might get pinched if you don't!) and having parades. St. Patrick's Day was first celebrated in the United States in 1737. Today the largest St. Patrick's Day Parade is held in New York City.

What will you do to celebrate St. Patrick's Day this year?

# Saint Patrick's Day

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. When is St. Patrick's Day celebrated? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why is St. Patrick's Day celebrated? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What happened to Patrick when he was sixteen? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What happened after Patrick escaped from Ireland? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why is the shamrock linked to St. Patrick's Day? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Explain the legend of Patrick and the snakes of Ireland. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why was the date March 17 chosen to celebrate St. Patrick's Day? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How many years has The United States celebrated St. Patrick's Day? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Where is the largest St. Patrick's Day parade held? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What will you do to celebrate St. Patrick's Day this year? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## **Saint Patrick's Day**

1. When is St. Patrick's Day celebrated? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

2. Why is St. Patrick's Day celebrated? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

3. What happened to Patrick when he was sixteen? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

4. What happened after Patrick escaped from Ireland? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

5. Why is the shamrock linked to St. Patrick's Day? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---



6. Explain the legend of Patrick and the snakes of Ireland. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

7. Why was the date March 17 chosen to celebrate St. Patrick's Day? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

8. How many years has The United States celebrated St. Patrick's Day? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

9. Where is the largest St. Patrick's Day parade held? \_\_\_\_\_

---

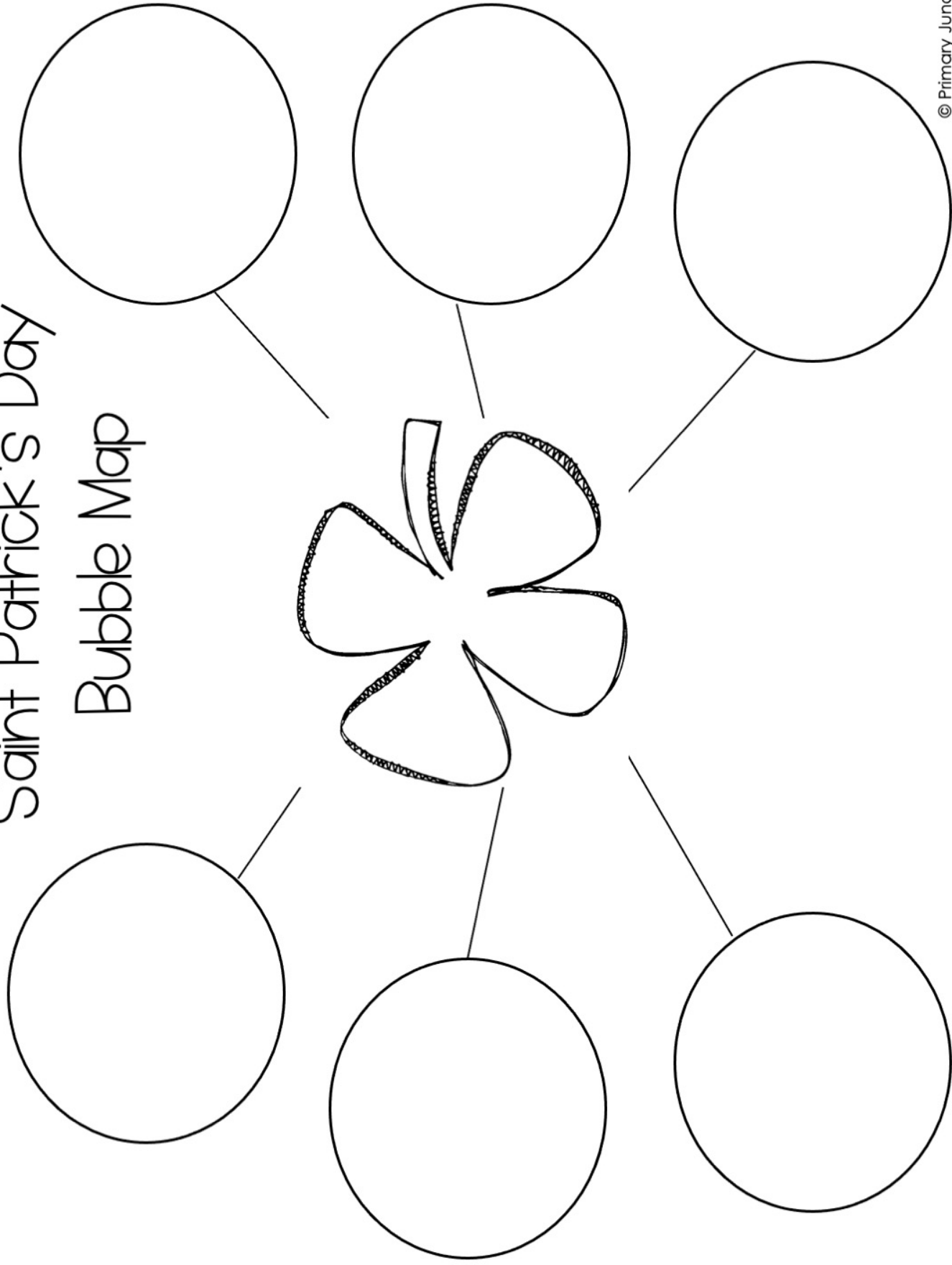
---

10. What will you do to celebrate St. Patrick's Day this year?

---

---

# Saint Patrick's Day Bubble Map

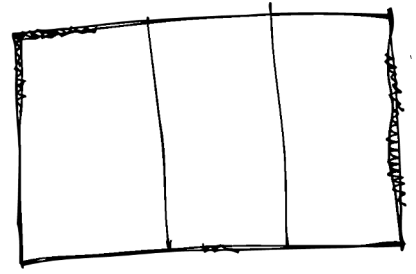


# Saint Patrick's Day

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. When is St. Patrick's Day celebrated? St. Patrick's Day is celebrated each year on March 17<sup>th</sup>.
2. Why is St. Patrick's Day celebrated? St. Patrick's Day honors the patron saint of Ireland, Patrick.
3. What happened to Patrick when he was sixteen? He was kidnapped by pirates and taken to Ireland where he was sold as a slave.
4. What happened after Patrick escaped from Ireland? Patrick became a priest and decided to return to Ireland.
5. Why is the shamrock linked to St. Patrick's Day? Patrick often used the shamrock to represent things he preached about.
6. Explain the legend of Patrick and the snakes of Ireland. Legend says Patrick stood on a hill and used a wooden staff to drive all snakes into the sea and banish them from entering Ireland.
7. Why was the date March 17 chosen to celebrate St. Patrick's Day? Patrick died on March 17 461, so the date of March 17<sup>th</sup> was chosen to honor him.
8. How many years has The United States celebrated St. Patrick's Day? The United States has celebrated St. Patrick's Day since 1737. To find how many years, subtract 1737 from the current year.
9. Where is the largest St. Patrick's Day parade held? The largest St. Patrick's Day parade is held in New York City.
10. What will you do to celebrate St. Patrick's Day this year? Answers will vary but might include ideas such as wearing green, etc.

# Ireland



Welcome to the Emerald Isle also known as Ireland. This European country received its nickname because of its evergreen land with rolling hills and blossoming vegetation. Slightly larger than the state of West Virginia, Ireland is an island located in the Atlantic Ocean west of Great Britain. Over 4.5 million people call Ireland home. Its largest city is Dublin, which is also its capital. The most-spoken languages are Irish and English. With its quickly changing weather, it is a good idea to take a raincoat and umbrella with you when visiting Ireland as clouds and a rainstorm can appear very rapidly.

Ireland is also famous for its music and dance. Irish music often contains instruments such as the pennywhistle, bagpipe, fiddle, flute, and bodhrán, a small drum. Popular musicians from Ireland include U2, Enya, The Corrs, and The Cranberries. Irish dancing usually features a group of dancers who keep their upper body very still and their arms at their sides while making very quick movements with their legs and feet. In 1994 Irish dancing was brought to the world's attention with the theatrical show *Riverdance*. The show features traditional Irish step dancing.

In Ireland many food dishes are made with potatoes. Other dishes include Irish Stew, Fish and chips, which is deep-fried, battered fish with French fries, bacon and cabbage, and Coddle, which is slices of pork sausages with bacon, potatoes, and onions.

If you were to visit Ireland, you might enjoy seeing a game of Gaelic Football or Hurling, Ireland's two most popular sports. If you're not into sports, you might rather enjoy a visit to the Cliffs of Moher. These breath-taking cliffs rise 390 feet above the Atlantic Ocean.

With its beautiful culture and landscape, Ireland is a must-see place!

# Ireland

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. How did Ireland receive its' nickname 'The Emerald Isle'? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Where is Ireland located? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the author's purpose for writing this passage? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why is it a good idea to take a raincoat and umbrella with you to Ireland? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Name two instruments often used in Irish music. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Describe what is unique about Irish dancing. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What food item is often used in Irish dishes? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What is a bodhrán? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Describe what visitors to Ireland can do or see during their trip. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Would you want to visit Ireland? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## **Ireland**

1. How did Ireland receive its nickname 'The Emerald Isle'? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

2. Where is Ireland located? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

3. What is the author's purpose for writing this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

4. Why is it a good idea to take a raincoat and umbrella with you to Ireland? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

5. Name two instruments often used in Irish music. \_\_\_\_\_

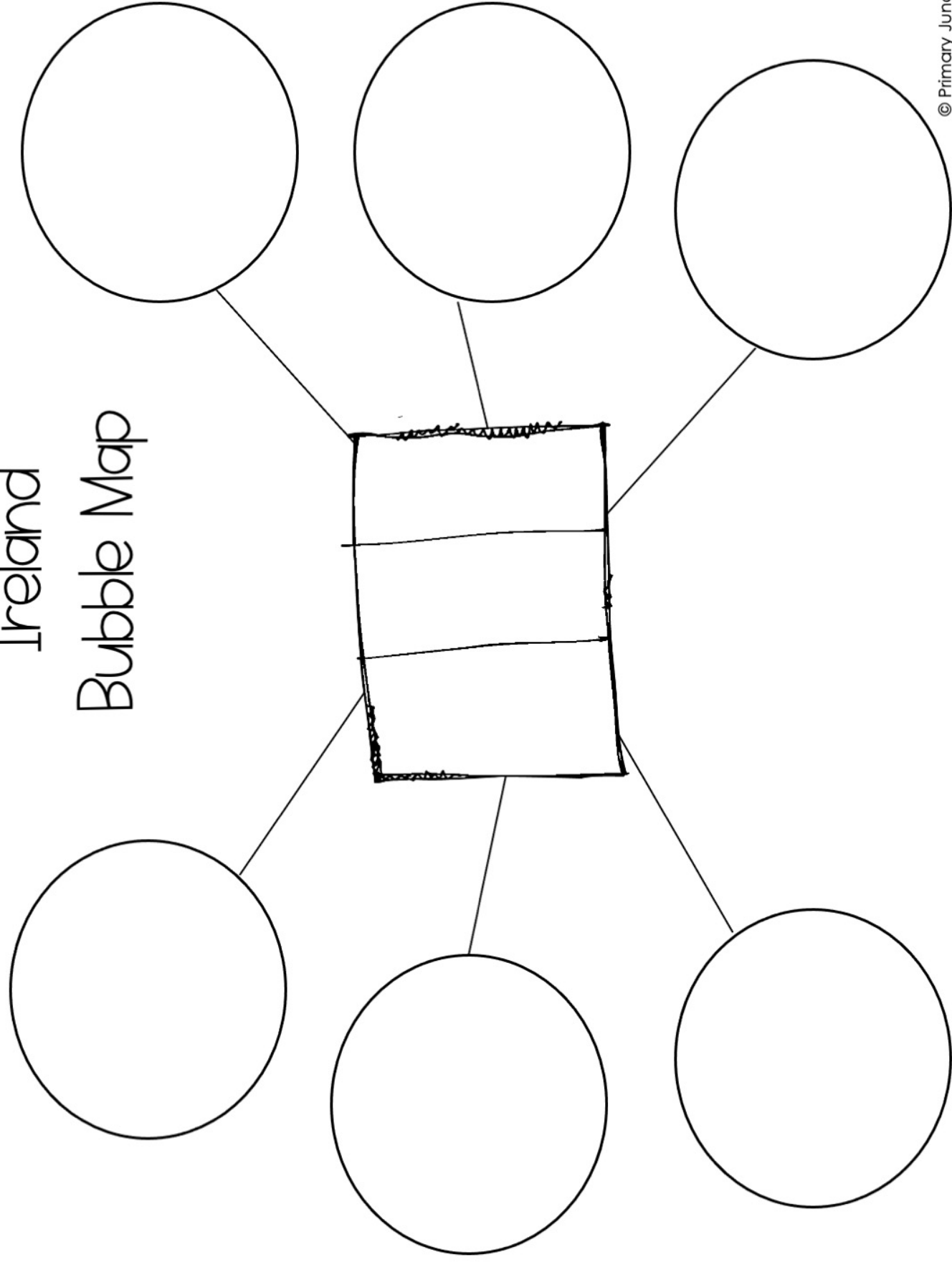
---

---

6. Describe what is unique about Irish dancing. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What food item is often used in Irish dishes? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What is a bodhrán? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Describe what visitors to Ireland can do or see during their trip. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Would you want to visit Ireland? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Ireland Bubble Map



# Ireland

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. How did Ireland receive its' nickname 'The Emerald Isle'? Ireland's evergreen land, rolling hills, and vegetation led to its' nickname.
2. Where is Ireland located? Ireland is located in the Atlantic Ocean west of Great Britain.
3. What is the author's purpose for writing this passage? The author's purpose for writing this passage is to inform the reader about Ireland.
4. Why is it a good idea to take a raincoat and umbrella with you to Ireland? Ireland's weather can change quickly, so clouds and a rainstorm can appear with very little notice.
5. Name two instruments often used in Irish music. Answers may vary but will include the pennywhistle, bagpipe, fiddle, flute, or bodhrán.
6. Describe what is unique about Irish dancing. Dancers keep their upper body and arms still while making quick movements with their legs and feet.
7. What food item is often used in Irish dishes? Potatoes are often used in Irish dishes.
8. What is a bodhrán? A bodhrán is a small drum.
9. Describe what visitors to Ireland can do or see during their trip. Visitors might see a game of Gaelic Football or Hurling or visit the Cliffs of Moher.
10. Would you want to visit Ireland? Why or why not? Answers will vary but should include a yes or no answer supported by evidence from the text.

# Leprechauns



Although many stories have been created about them, leprechauns are not real. They are fairies created in Irish folk stories and are most-often connected with the holiday Saint Patrick's Day.

According to legend, leprechauns are almost always men who are no taller than two-feet and who wear green clothes and a top-hat. They also usually have red hair. In stories, leprechauns are often unfriendly and very mischievous, or like to cause trouble. According to legend, leprechauns hide a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. If you catch a leprechaun, you can ask him to tell you where his pot of gold is located, but be sure to keep an eye on him! Leprechauns are very tricky and can disappear quickly! Also, if you catch a leprechaun, they can grant you up to three wishes, so think carefully.

Can you think of stories that feature leprechauns?

# Leprechauns

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. What are leprechauns? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What holiday are leprechauns connected with? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Describe how leprechauns are often portrayed in stories. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the meaning of the word "mischievous"? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. According to legend, what happens if someone catches a leprechaun? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Explain why it is important to keep an eye on a leprechaun once it has been captured. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the main idea of this passage? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the author's purpose for writing this passage? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. According to legend, where do leprechauns hide a pot of gold? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. If you were granted three wishes by a leprechaun, what would you wish for? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## **Leprechauns**

1. What are leprechauns? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

2. What holiday are leprechauns connected with? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

3. Describe how leprechauns are often portrayed in stories. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

4. What is the meaning of the word "mischievous"? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

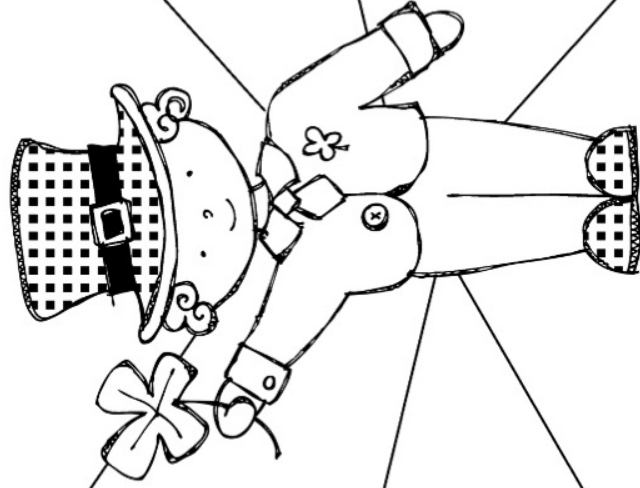
5. According to legend, what happens if someone catches a leprechaun? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

6. Explain why it is important to keep an eye on a leprechaun once it has been captured. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the main idea of this passage? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the author's purpose for writing this passage? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
9. According to legend, where do leprechauns hide a pot of gold? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
10. If you were granted three wishes by a leprechaun, what would you wish for? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

# Leprechaun Bubble Map



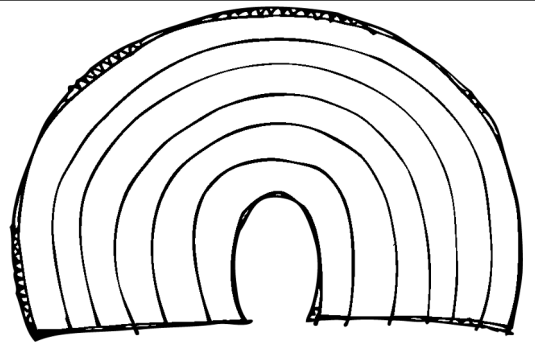


# Leprechauns

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. What are leprechauns? Leprechauns are not real. They are fairies that have been created in Irish folktales.
2. What holiday are leprechauns connected with? Leprechauns are connected to St. Patrick's Day.
3. Describe how leprechauns are often portrayed in stories. Leprechauns are often portrayed as unfriendly and mischievous in stories.
4. What is the meaning of the word "mischievous"? Mischievous means to cause trouble.
5. According to legend, what happens if someone catches a leprechaun? Legend says leprechauns can grant up to three wishes.
6. Explain why it is important to keep an eye on a leprechaun once it has been captured. Leprechauns are very tricky and can disappear quickly.
7. What is the main idea of this passage? The main idea of this text is all about leprechauns.
8. What is the author's purpose for writing this passage? The author's purpose for writing this text is to inform readers about leprechauns.
9. According to legend, where do leprechauns hide a pot of gold? A pot of gold is hidden at the end of a rainbow.
10. If you were granted three wishes by a leprechaun, what would you wish for? Answers will vary.

# Rainbows



You may have seen a rainbow appear in the sky after a rainfall on a sunny day, but have you ever wondered exactly what a rainbow is and how it formed?

A rainbow sometimes appears in the sky immediately after a rain shower when sunlight passes through raindrops in the air. As this happens, the sunlight bends and splits into colors. This appears in the sky as a multicolored arc. As a rainbow appears only when the sun is shining, you will not see a rainbow after every rainfall. Rainbows in the sky always appear opposite of the sun.

Rainbows appear in seven colors: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, and Violet. To help you remember the order of the colors, just remember ROY G BIV. Each letter stands for the first letter of a color in the rainbow.

Did you know you can create a rainbow of your own? If you use a water hose or sprinkler on a sunny day, watch closely as a rainbow may form!

# Rainbows

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. When does a rainbow appear in the sky? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Describe what happens to sunlight after it passes through raindrops.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why might you not see a rainbow after a rainfall? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where do rainbows appear in the sky? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Name the colors of a rainbow. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Explain how 'ROY G BIV' can help you remember the colors of a rainbow. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the main idea of this passage? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the author's purpose for writing this passage? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How can you create a rainbow of your own? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why do you think it is possible to create a rainbow while using a water hose? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## **Rainbows**

1. When does a rainbow appear in the sky? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

2. Describe what happens to sunlight after it passes through raindrops. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

3. Why might you not see a rainbow after a rainfall? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

4. Where do rainbows appear in the sky? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

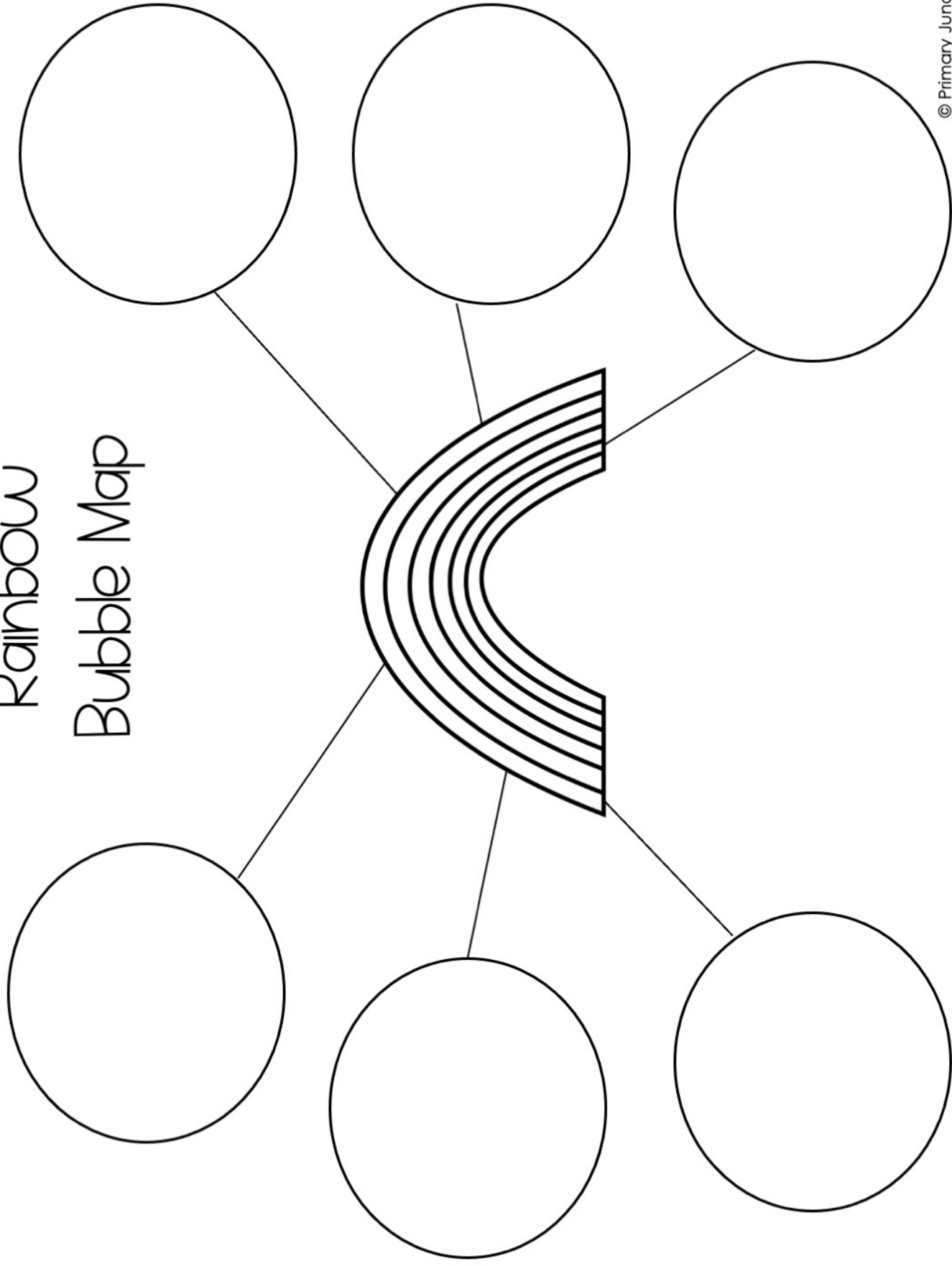
5. Name the colors of a rainbow. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

6. Explain how 'ROY G BIV' can help you remember the colors of a rainbow. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the main idea of this passage? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the author's purpose for writing this passage? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How can you create a rainbow of your own? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why do you think it is possible to create a rainbow while using a water hose? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Rainbow Bubble Map



# Rainbows

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. When does a rainbow appear in the sky? Rainbows often appear after a rain shower when sunlight passes through raindrops in the air.
2. Describe what happens to sunlight after it passes through raindrops. As sunlight passes through raindrops, the sunlight bends and splits into colors.
3. Why might you not see a rainbow after a rainfall? Rainbows only appear when the sun is shining after a rainfall.
4. Where do rainbows appear in the sky? Rainbows in the sky appear opposite of the sun.
5. Name the colors of a rainbow. Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet are the colors of a rainbow.
6. Explain how 'ROY G BIV' can help you remember the colors of a rainbow. Each letter in 'ROY G BIV' stands for the first letter of each color in the rainbow.
7. What is the main idea of this passage? The main idea of this text is all about rainbows.
8. What is the author's purpose for writing this passage? The author's purpose for writing this text is to inform readers about rainbows.
9. How can you create a rainbow of your own? You can create a rainbow of your own by using a water hose or sprinkler on a sunny day.
10. Why do you think it is possible to create a rainbow while using a water hose? When sunlight passes through water drops from a water hose or sprinkler, the sunlight bends and splits into colors.



# Ireland Website Suggestions:

"Lord of the Dance" Instrumental Song Video

"Lord of the Dance" Song Video

"Danny Boy" Song Video

Riverdance – Irish Step Dancing Video

Brain Pop's St. Patrick's Day Video

Discover Ireland Video

Cliffs of Moher Video

Geology of the Cliffs of Moher Video

## **Popular Irish Musicians**

U2's "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For" Song

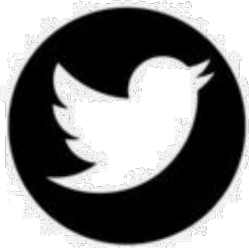
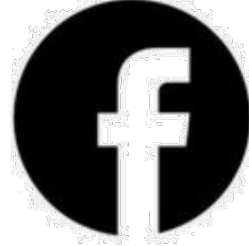
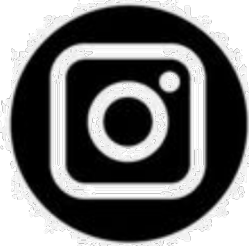
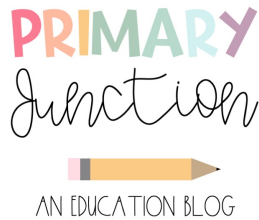
Enya's "Only Time" Song

The Corrs' "Breathless" Song

The Cranberries' "Dream" Song

# CONNECT:

I hope you and your students enjoy using this Primary Junction resource. Please stay connected for other learning resources by joining us on:



# CREDITS

## Clipart and Font Credits:

