

LEGENDS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD



Do you know that people in Ukraine decorate their Christmas trees with spiders and spider webs?



Do you know that there are no snakes in Ireland?



Do you know that Poland had a famous dragon?



Do you know that silk was first made 5,000 years ago in China?



Do you know the legend of Robin Hood? - Click and watch :)

THE SPIDERS AND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Once upon a time, there was a poor widow who lived in small house with her children. She had no money to decorate a tree for Christmas, so she was very sad, and she cried all night long. There were some spiders in the house, and they were so sorry for the poor woman that they decided to decorate the tree for her.

Decorate the Christmas tree with spiders and spider webs.

When she woke up on Christmas Day, she saw that her tree was covered in beautiful spider webs. And it looked amazing. The widow and her children were very happy! From then on Ukrainians have been decorating their Christmas trees with spiders and webs. They also believe that spiders bring good luck. Of course, the spiders are not real!



Saint Patrick Video - click and watch!

SAINT PATRICK AND THE SNAKES



Ireland has no native snakes now, but according to legend, there used to be thousands and thousands of them. They were very dangerous, and the people of Ireland were sick and tired of having them around.

One day Saint Patrick, a bishop and a Christian missionary, got really angry with the snakes, so he decided to get rid of them. He did that by beating a drum hard and fast. The snakes could not stand the noise, and they slithered into the sea where they drowned.

That's the legend. However, scientists say that there are no snakes in Ireland because the island never had any snakes.

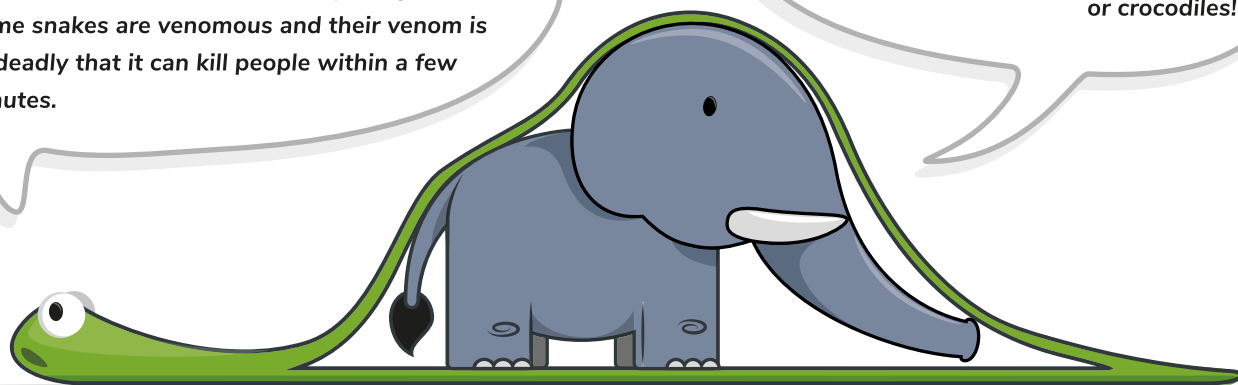
Saint Patrick was a real person and he played an important role in the history of Ireland. He was Roman but when he was 16 years old, he was kidnapped by Irish pirates and brought to the island as a slave. He managed to escape, and then he became a Christian bishop. He loved Ireland and its people, so he decided to return as a missionary to convert the Irish to Christianity. Thanks to Saint Patrick, Ireland became a Christian country, and he became its patron saint.

Decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ireland is a country in Europe. | <input type="checkbox"/> Ireland is the only country in the world which has no snakes. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ireland is an island. | <input type="checkbox"/> All snakes are dangerous. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patrick was an Irish missionary. | <input type="checkbox"/> Dublin is the capital of Ireland. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patrick was kidnapped by English pirates and became a slave. | <input type="checkbox"/> English is an official language in Ireland. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slaves got money for their work and could change their job if they did not like it. | <input type="checkbox"/> Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated in April. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patrick used fire to get rid of the snakes. | <input type="checkbox"/> The shamrock is a symbol of Ireland. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snakes are mammals. | |

There are different kinds of snakes in the world and some of them are really dangerous. Some snakes are venomous and their venom is so deadly that it can kill people within a few minutes.

The world's smallest snake is only 10 cm long and it looks like an earthworm. The largest snakes, pythons, can be 9 meters long and they can eat animals much bigger than themselves, even cows or crocodiles!



THE STORY OF SILK

Click and watch!

Empress Xi Lingshi was the wife of a Chinese Emperor. She was drinking tea under a mulberry tree in the garden next to her palace, when suddenly something fell into her cup. When she was trying to remove it from her tea, she saw it was a cocoon made of shiny thread. The thread was soft and strong and very beautiful. It was made by the mulberry caterpillars, or silkworms, and the Empress had a clever idea. She decided to make a fabric out of it.

She observed the life of the silkworms and soon she had a mulberry forest planted for them so that the worms would have plenty of leaves to eat. She also taught her servants how to collect the cocoons and get the thread to make a beautiful shiny fabric.

And this is how silk was invented. The invention is almost 5,000 years old!

Answer the questions:

What's the name of the country where silk was invented?

What was the name of the Empress?

What was the Empress doing in the garden?

What fell into her cup?

What do silkworms eat?



THE DRAGON OF WAWEL

Click and watch!

Do you know the legend of the dragon of Wawel?

Put the sentences in the correct order.

- ☐ Many brave knights tried to kill the dragon, but they lost their lives.
- ☐ The beast woke up in the morning and it was very hungry, so when it saw the sheep, it ate them up straight away.
- ☐ He bought some sheepskins, he filled them with sulphur and left them in front of the dragon's cave.
- ☐ Many, many years ago, when Krakow was still the capital of Poland, the country was ruled by King Krak who lived with his daughter in a castle on the Wawel hill.
- ☐ Finally, a young shoemaker named Dratewka had a clever idea, so he went to the king and told him that he wanted to kill the dragon.
- ☐ Krak was a good king and his people loved him.
- ☐ The king also gave him half of his kingdom and they all lived happily ever after.
- ☐ Very soon, the dragon felt a terrible burning in its stomach. It ran to the Vistula River and started drinking.
- ☐ The people of Krakow were very happy. King Krak kept his word and Dratewka married his daughter, the princess.
- ☐ However, one day an evil dragon settled in a cave right next to Wawel. It was a terrible monster. It breathed fire and smoke, and its body was covered in scales. And worst of all, it was always hungry; it ate lots of sheep and goats.
- ☐ It drank a lot of water, but its stomach was still burning! Eventually, the dragon's belly exploded with a loud bang. The monster was dead!
- ☐ Everybody was afraid of the dragon, and the king did not know what to do. Finally, he promised his daughter's hand and half of his kingdom to the man who would kill the monster.

