

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)

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| <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!

