

PREVIEW

GRADE LEVEL 2ND–4TH

ST. PATRICK'S DAY READING PASSAGES

KEEP SCROLLING TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!

YOU WILL LOVE THESE BECAUSE



Ready to Use Passages

Includes well-structured nonfiction articles saving teachers time on research. The mix of folklore, traditions, and real-world applications keeps students interested while they learn.

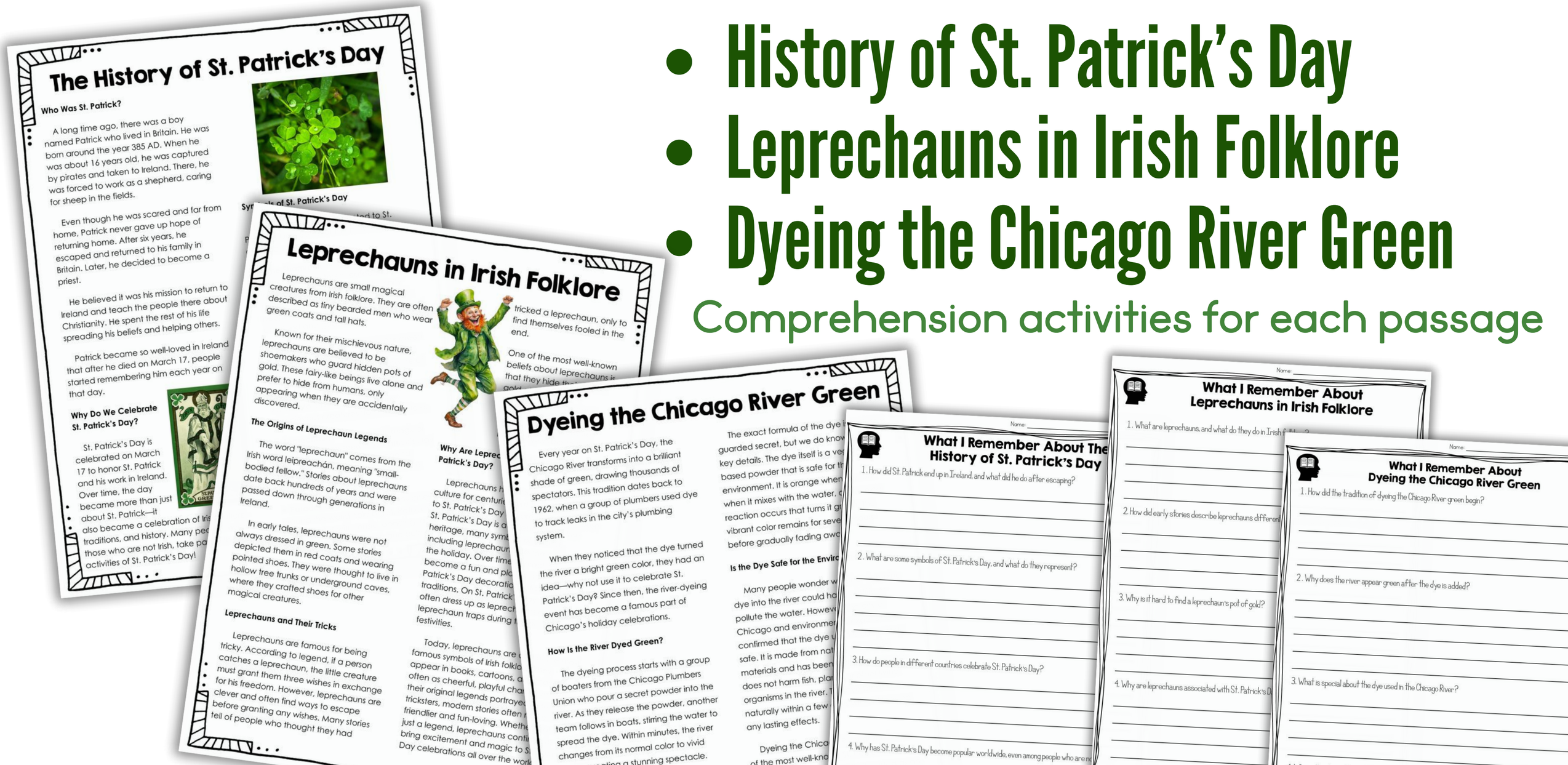
Boosts Comprehension Skills

Each article comes with comprehension questions, discussion cards, and note-taking sheets to support critical thinking and reading strategies.

Flexible and Differentiated

With various activity options, you can easily adapt the resource for different skill levels, making it ideal for whole-class instruction, small groups, or independent work.

THREE READING PASSAGES



- History of St. Patrick's Day
- Leprechauns in Irish Folklore
- Dyeing the Chicago River Green

Comprehension activities for each passage

VOCABULARY ACTIVITIES

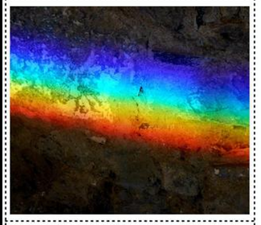


honor



folklore

the stories and ways of a group of people from a certain place or country



wavelength of light

a specific length of a color of light



clever



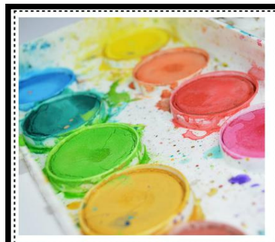
culture

beliefs and behaviors traditionally practiced by a group of people



shamrock

a plant whose small green leaves are divided into three heart-shaped parts called leaflets



pigment

something that gives color to other materials



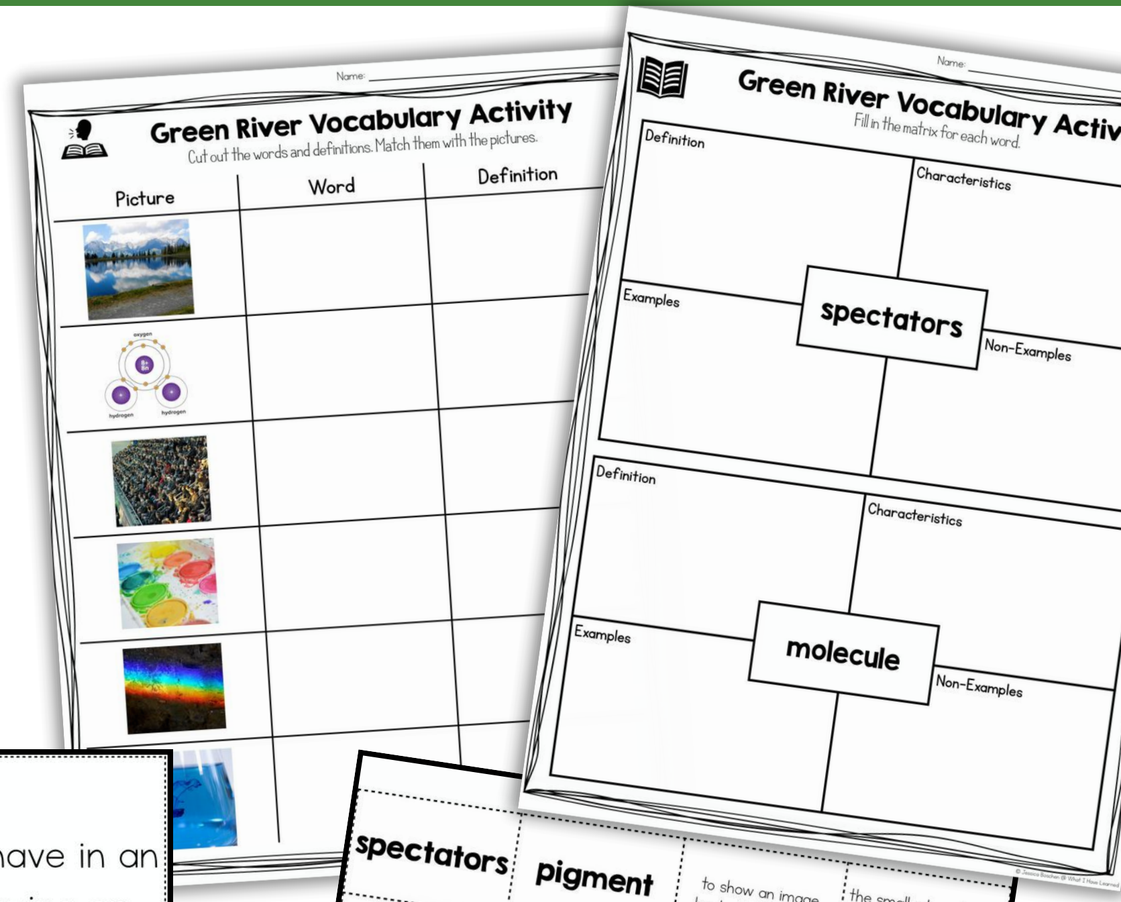
spectators

people an activ parti



mischievous

to behave in an annoying or mildly harmful way



spectators	**pigment**	to show an image back, like a mirror	the smallest part of a substance, like a molecule of water
molecule	**wavelength of light**	something that gives color to other materials	the process in which a substance is changed into another substance
reflect	**chemical reaction**	a specific length of a color of light	people who watch an event or activity without participating in it

History of St. Patrick's Day

The History of St. Patrick's Day

Who Was St. Patrick?

A long time ago, there was a boy named Patrick who lived in Britain. He was born around the year 385 AD. When he was about 16 years old, he was captured by pirates and taken to Ireland. There, he was forced to work as a shepherd, caring for sheep in the fields.

Even though he was scared and far from home, Patrick never gave up hope of returning home. After six years, he escaped and returned to his family in Britain. Later, he decided to become a priest.

He believed it was his mission to return to Ireland and teach the people there about Christianity. He spent the rest of his life spreading his beliefs and helping others.

Patrick became so well-loved in Ireland that after he died on March 17, people started remembering him each year on that day.



Symbols of St. Patrick's Day

Many symbols are connected to St. Patrick's Day. Some of the most famous ones include:

- **The Sham**

Why Do We Celebrate St. Patrick's Day?



St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17 to honor St. Patrick and his work in Ireland. Over time, the day became more than just about St. Patrick—it also became a celebration of Irish culture, traditions, and history. Many people, even those who are not Irish, take part in the fun activities of St. Patrick's Day!

The History of St. Pa

How St. Patrick's Day Is Celebrated Around the World

St. Patrick's Day is an official holiday in Ireland, but it is also celebrated in many other countries, especially where people with Irish roots live. In Ireland, people attend church services, wear shamrocks, and enjoy parades in cities like Dublin. Families and friends gather to celebrate Irish heritage.

In the United States, many cities hold large parades. In Chicago, the river is dyed green to mark the occasion. Other countries, including Canada, Australia, and even Japan, also have St. Patrick's Day celebrations, showing how popular the holiday has become worldwide.

Fun St. P

- **Eatin**
- **Playin**
- **Lookin**

Patrick and the culture of Ireland. Whether people are Irish or not, they take part in the fun, wearing green, watching parades, and celebrating with friends and family.



Discussion Cards

Who was St. Patrick, and why do people celebrate him on March 17?	How did St. Patrick use the shamrock to teach people in Ireland?
Why do people wear green on St. Patrick's Day?	How is St. Patrick's Day celebrated in different parts of the world?
What is a leprecha and why are the part of St. Patric Day traditions	

The History of St. Patrick's

Who Was St. Patrick?	Why Do We Celebrate It?	Traditions

Note-Taking Sheet

Name: _____

Who is St. Patrick, and why do people celebrate him on March 17th?

What are some symbols of St. Patricks' Day?

Write three facts about the history of St. Patrick's Da

Fact	Fact

What are some fun traditions people may follow on

Sequence

Name: _____

Cut out the significant parts in The History of St. Patrick's Day and glue them in order.

1 → 2 → 3

4 → 5

6 → 7 → 8

Patrick died on March 17th.	When he was about 16 years old, he was captured by pirates and taken to Ireland.	Patrick was so well-loved in Ireland that after he died, people started remembering him each year on that day.	After six years, he escaped and returned to his family in Britain.
Patrick was forced to work as a shepherd.			

Name: _____

What I Remember About The History of St. Patrick's Day

1. How did St. Patrick end up in Ireland, and what did he do after escaping?

2. What are some symbols of St. Patrick's Day, and what do they represent?

3. How do people in different countries celebrate St. Patrick's Day?

4. Why has St. Patrick's Day become popular worldwide, even among people who are not Irish?

Directions: Cut apart the labels and each fact. Sort facts into the best category or do an open sort and create your ow

Who was St. Patrick?	Why We Celebrate St. Patricks' Day	Symbo & Traditi

For a more advanced sort, do an open sort and make up your own categories.

It is said that St. Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the idea of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) to the Irish people.	He was born around the year 385 AD.	St. Patrick's Day is celebrat March 17 to honor St. Patri his work in Ireland.
A long time ago, there was a boy named Patrick who lived in Britain.	In Chicago, the river is dyed green to mark the occasion.	When he was about 16 years he was captured by pirates taken to Ireland.
According to legend, leprechauns hide pots of gold at the end of rainbows!	He was forced to work as a shepherd, caring for	People wear green on St. Pa

Leprechauns in Irish Folklore

Leprechauns in Irish Folklore



Leprechauns are small magical creatures from Irish folklore. They are often described as tiny bearded men who wear green coats and tall hats.

Known for their mischievous nature, leprechauns are believed to be shoemakers who guard hidden pots of gold. These fairy-like beings live alone and prefer to hide from humans, only appearing when they are accidentally discovered.

The Origins of Leprechaun Legends

The word "leprechaun" comes from the Irish word leipreachán, meaning "small-bodied fellow." Stories about le... date back hundreds of years a... passed down through generat... Ireland.

In early tales, leprechauns ... always dressed in green. Som... depicted them in red coats ... pointed shoes. They were th... hollow tree trunks or underg... where they crafted shoes fo... magical creatures.

Leprechauns and Their Trick...

Leprechauns are famou... tricky. According to legen... catches a leprechaun, th... must grant them three wis... for his freedom. However... clever and often find wa... before granting any wish... tell of people who thoug...

tricked a leprechaun, only to find themselves fooled in the end.

One of the most well-known beliefs about leprechauns is that they hide their pots of gold at the end of a rainbow. Since rainbows don't have an actual end, this makes their treasure nearly impossible to find!

Why Are Leprechauns Associated With St. Patrick's Day?

...rechauns have been part of Irish ...ation...

Discussion Cards

What do leprechauns look like, and how are they usually described in folklore?	Why do you ... leprechauns were ... to be shoema...
How have stories about leprechauns changed over time?	If you caugh... leprechaun, and he... grant you three ... what would you w... and why?
Why do people associate leprechauns with St. Patrick's Day, even though they are not part of St. Patrick's story?	Do you think leprec... could really exist? W... why not?
Why do you think leprechaun stories changed over time?	Which version do y... think is more interesting– the old legends or the modern version? Why?

Name: _____

What I Remember About Leprechauns in Irish Folklore

1. What are leprechauns, and what do they do in Irish folklore?

...s differently from how they are seen today?

...of gold?

...St. Patrick's Day?

Directions: Cut apart the labels and each fact. Sort facts into the best category or do an open sort and create your own categories.

Origins	Tricks	St. Patrick's Day & Today

For a more advanced sort, do an open sort and make up your own categories.

However, leprechauns are clever and often find ways to escape before granting any wishes.	Leprechauns are famous for being tricky.	Because St. Patrick's Day is a celebration of Irish heritage, many symbols of Ireland, including leprechauns, became linked to the holiday.
Leprechauns are small magical creatures from Irish folklore.	On St. Patrick's Day ... dress up as leprech... leprechaun traps ... holiday fes...	...were thought to live in hollow ... caves.
Leprechauns are one of the most famous symbols of Irish folklore.	They are often ... bearded men w... coats an...	
Known for their mischievous nature, leprechauns are believed to be shoemakers who guard hidden pots of gold.	Leprechauns ... excitement ... Patrick's Day ... th...	
One of the most well-known beliefs about leprechauns is that they hide their pots of gold at the end of a rainbow. Since rainbows don't have an actual end, this makes their treasure nearly impossible to find!	These fairy-... and prefer t... only appear... acciden...	
In early tales, leprechauns were not always dressed in green. Some stories depicted them in red coats and wearing pointed shoes.	While th... portraye... modern st... friend...	
Over time, leprechauns have become a fun and playful part of St. Patrick's Day decorations, stories, and traditions.	Accordin... catches ... creatur... wishes in...	

Name: _____

Summary of Leprechauns in Irish Folklore

What are leprechauns, and what are they known for?

The origins of leprechaun legends:

Leprechauns and their tricks:

Compare & Contrast

Name: _____

List the similarities and differences between the leprechauns in old legends and modern portrayals.

Leprechauns in Old Legends

Leprechauns Modern Portayals

If caught, they would try to trick their captors before granting wishes.	Wore red coats and pointed shoes (not green)	Shoemakers for other magical creatures
Connected to gold and treasure	Wears all green, including a tall hat and buckled shoes	Often bearded men wearing hats
Lived in tree trunks or underground caves	Linked to St. Patrick's Day traditions, like leprechaun traps	Associated with Irish culture and St. Patrick's Day
Sometimes shown guarding rainbows and playing pranks for fun	Small fairy-like creatures from Irish folklore	Appears in cartoons, holiday decorations, and advertisements
Stays hidden from humans	More likely to be friendly or helpful in movies and books	Stories often focused on their cleverness and trickery
Often shown as playful and fun-loving	Seen as solitary and grumpy, not friendly	Known for being mischievous and tricky

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Name: _____

Leprechauns in Irish Folklore

Three Other Ideas

Note-Taking Sheet

Name: _____

What are leprechauns, and what do they do in Irish folklore?

Why are leprechauns associated with St. Patrick's Day?

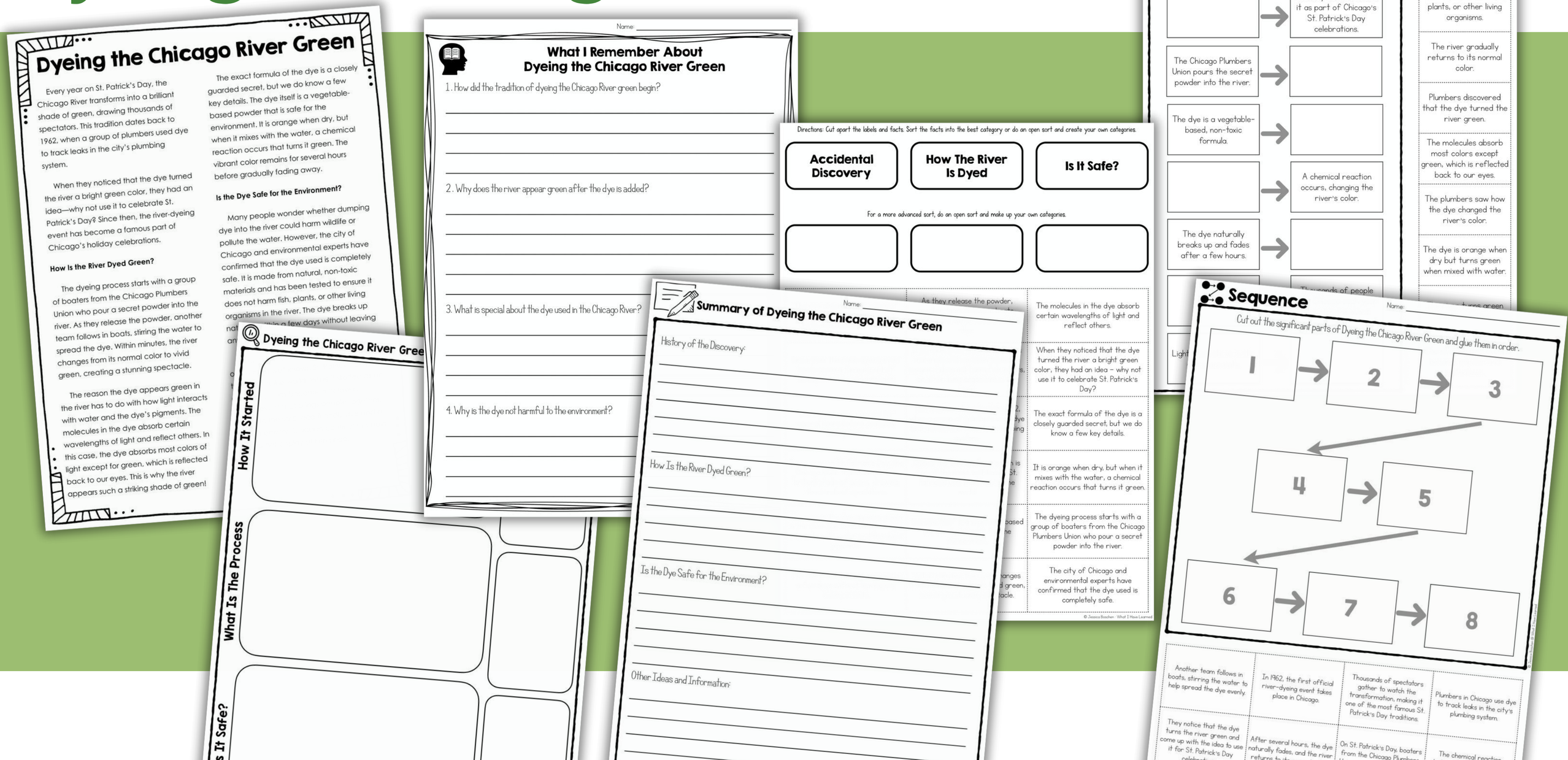
Write three facts about the Leprechauns in Irish Folklore:

Fact

Fact

Fact

Dyeing the Chicago River Green



Dyeing the Chicago River Green

Every year on St. Patrick's Day, the Chicago River transforms into a brilliant shade of green, drawing thousands of spectators. This tradition dates back to 1962, when a group of plumbers used dye to track leaks in the city's plumbing system.

When they noticed that the dye turned the river a bright green color, they had an idea—why not use it to celebrate St. Patrick's Day? Since then, the river-dyeing event has become a famous part of Chicago's holiday celebrations.

How Is the River Dyed Green?

The dyeing process starts with a group of boaters from the Chicago Plumbers Union who pour a secret powder into the river. As they release the powder, another team follows in boats, stirring the water to spread the dye. Within minutes, the river changes from its normal color to vivid green, creating a stunning spectacle.

The reason the dye appears green in the river has to do with how light interacts with water and the dye's pigments. The molecules in the dye absorb certain wavelengths of light and reflect others. In this case, the dye absorbs most colors of light except for green, which is reflected back to our eyes. This is why the river appears such a striking shade of green!

The exact formula of the dye is a closely guarded secret, but we do know a few key details. The dye itself is a vegetable-based powder that is safe for the environment. It is orange when dry, but when it mixes with the water, a chemical reaction occurs that turns it green. The vibrant color remains for several hours before gradually fading away.

Is the Dye Safe for the Environment?

Many people wonder whether dumping dye into the river could harm wildlife or pollute the water. However, the city of Chicago and environmental experts have confirmed that the dye used is completely safe. It is made from natural, non-toxic materials and has been tested to ensure it does not harm fish, plants, or other living organisms in the river. The dye breaks up naturally after a few days without leaving any

Name: _____

What I Remember About Dyeing the Chicago River Green

1. How did the tradition of dyeing the Chicago River green begin?

2. Why does the river appear green after the dye is added?

3. What is special about the dye used in the Chicago River?

4. Why is the dye not harmful to the environment?

Dyeing the Chicago River Gree

How It Started

What Is The Process

Is It Safe?

Directions: Cut apart the labels and facts. Sort the facts into the best category or do an open sort and create your own categories.

Accidental Discovery	How The River Is Dyed	Is It Safe?

For a more advanced sort, do an open sort and make up your own categories.

As they release the powder,	The molecules in the dye absorb certain wavelengths of light and reflect others.
	When they noticed that the dye turned the river a bright green color, they had an idea – why not use it to celebrate St. Patrick's Day?
	The exact formula of the dye is a closely guarded secret, but we do know a few key details.
	It is orange when dry, but when it mixes with the water, a chemical reaction occurs that turns it green.
	The dyeing process starts with a group of boaters from the Chicago Plumbers Union who pour a secret powder into the river.
	The city of Chicago and environmental experts have confirmed that the dye used is completely safe.

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Name: _____

Summary of Dyeing the Chicago River Green

History of the Discovery:

How Is the River Dyed Green?

Is the Dye Safe for the Environment?

Other Ideas and Information:

Cause & Effect

Name: _____

Plumbers used dye to track leaks in the city's plumbing system.	
	The city decided to use it as part of Chicago's St. Patrick's Day celebrations.
The Chicago Plumbers Union pours the secret powder into the river.	
The dye is a vegetable-based, non-toxic formula.	
	A chemical reaction occurs, changing the river's color.
The dye naturally breaks up and fades after a few hours.	

Read through all of the statements. Choose the best place for each one. Then glue it down.

- It does not harm fish, plants, or other living organisms.
- The river gradually returns to its normal color.
- Plumbers discovered that the dye turned the river green.
- The molecules absorb most colors except green, which is reflected back to our eyes.
- The plumbers saw how the dye changed the river's color.
- The dye is orange when dry but turns green when mixed with water.

Sequence

Name: _____

Cut out the significant parts of Dyeing the Chicago River Green and glue them in order.

1 → 2 → 3 → 4 → 5 → 6 → 7 → 8

Another team follows in boats, stirring the water to help spread the dye evenly.	In 1962, the first official river-dyeing event takes place in Chicago.	Thousands of spectators gather to watch the transformation, making it one of the most famous St. Patrick's Day traditions.	Plumbers in Chicago use dye to track leaks in the city's plumbing system.
They notice that the dye turns the river green and come up with the idea to use it for St. Patrick's Day	After several hours, the dye naturally fades, and the river returns to its	On St. Patrick's Day, boaters from the Chicago Plumbers	The chemical reaction

My passion is making learning accessible to all students. I love scaffolding learning. Breaking down the concepts and building them up so that students can see the connections. I love figuring out the small components that build up to the big ideas and helping students see it all.



teach MATH

teach SCIENCE

teach READING

teach WRITING

What I have LEARNED