

# *St. Patrick's Day*

## *Activities*



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I keep things simple for St. Patrick's Day. It's not a party day, just a theme day. I've already sent a letter home to parents asking them to please have their child wear green. Being able to identify colors is one of our report card standards. Things look really festive when everyone shows up in various shades of green.

### **Mood Music:**

I have Irish harp music playing. It's soothing and the students enjoy listening to it while they do their morning lessons. In the afternoon I play some livelier Celtic music and teach them how to do the Irish Jig for the gross motor movement part of our day.

### **St. Patrick's Day Goodies:**

They look for their **shamrock nametag** and I pin it to them. I also tape on a **slap bracelet**. At their desk they have a "*Happy St. Patrick's Day from your teacher*" note, with a green Skittle that was probably left by the leprechaun.

TeachWithMe.com's  
2011  
March Apple Bytes



I have lots more fun things you could use in the 60-page [\*\*March Apple Bytes\*\*](#) Newsletter packet that goes out each month to [\*\*subscription members\*\*](#).

I have a variety of St. Patrick's Day themed tabletop lessons for them to complete. (I take many of my tabletop lessons from my 79-page [\*\*Shamrock unit\*\*](#).)

After they're done with those, they can earn a necklace. I made these from the inexpensive shiny green and gold garland that they put on sale after Christmas for as little as 10 cents. One strand makes 3 necklaces.

I check my students' work and stamp it with a shamrock. They transition to their centers.

## St. Patrick's Day Centers:



One of their centers is to cut out a **leprechaun hat** and glue their shamrock to it. I've already written their name in gold glitter glue the day before.

# Happy St. Patrick's Day

Another center is to glue their **bookmark** to a rectangle of green construction paper and stamp the math equation for the day on the back which is  $3 \text{ shamrocks} + 3 \text{ shamrocks} = 6 \text{ shamrocks}$ . I have a shamrock stamp, black stamp pad and dark green marker that I set up on a TV tray. TV trays make perfect mini center areas.

They also make a card for their families. This was featured in my [Arts-Crafts & Activities](#) side blog. The shamrock circle activity would also be a fun center for this day.

Another center is to **bingo dot their shamrock** in an ABAB pattern using orange and green bingo dot markers.

They also lie on their tummies, using a golf tee, they **pinch & poke a shamrock**, as a fine motor skill activity.

## St. Patrick's Day Art Activity:



I vary my one-on-one art center activities for St. Patrick's Day. I enjoy using food to do art with because it's a double learning experience for my students. For example, a fun art activity you can do for St. Pat's day involves a large green pepper.

It's perfect for this holiday because it's green, and when you slice it in half the inside looks like a shamrock! If you want to reinforce the cylinder shape you can make a windsock.



If you want to keep things simple, have your students just stamp a sheet of white paper three times using 3 different shades of green paint.

Cut the end off the green pepper so that it is about 1 inch thick, then cut 2 more 1- inch pieces.

### **Eat & Graph:**

I dice up the rest of the green pepper so that my students can each taste a tiny square. I find that most of my Y5's have never eaten green pepper before. I assure them that it is not hot. Some of them like it; most of them do not. We graph our results later. Our snack that day is also green including green punch.



If you want to make a windsock, use large white construction paper 8 inches wide and the entire length of the sheet. Cut 1-inch strips of 3 shades of green construction paper and glue them to the bottom of the inside of the windsock.

Have students do this before you staple it into the cylinder shape. Each student will need 3 of each color. You could also use green crepe paper; punch holes on either side of the top and hang with yarn.

For more creative and fun art ideas, check out my 133-page [Spring Art and Activities](#) book. Click on the photo button to view the pictures.

### **Leprechaun Lessons:**

St. Patrick's Day is a much-anticipated day, as I've used it as a behavior modification concept. You can read about this in my [Leprechaun Lessons](#) article. Because of that, my afternoon activities are set as we go in search of the pot of gold at the end of our rainbow trail of yarn and then collect gold nuggets.



**Games:** I plug in a game or two depending on time:

Play ***Leprechaun-Leprechaun who took your 4-Leaf Clover?*** Play this game like you would play *Doggy-Doggy Who Took Your Bone*. Laminate the 4-leaf clover.

Choose a child to be the leprechaun and have them sit on a chair in the middle of your circle. Place the clover under the chair. The “leprechaun-child” closes their eyes; you point to a child sitting in the circle, they quietly take the clover and hide it behind their back. Everyone puts their hands behind their back; tell the leprechaun child to open their eyes.

Everyone chants: “*Leprechaun-Leprechaun who took your 4-Leaf clover?*” The leprechaun child points to the child they think has their 4-Leaf clover. Play continues ‘til timer goes off, or until everyone has had a turn to be either the leprechaun or a person who has taken the clover.

***Hot Leprechaun:*** I have a stuffed leprechaun that I’ve been using like *Elf on a Shelf* all month; I now use him to play *Hot Potato*. I put on some zippy Celtic music. When it stops, the child holding the leprechaun is out. You could also use a gold coin.

***Toss the Leprechaun into his pot of gold:*** Since catching and tossing a beanbag, is one of my report card standards, I try to have my students toss things every day. I use a cauldron pot that I got on sale after Halloween and the children have 2 tries to toss him into the pot.



***Dice Game:*** Follow the Rainbow Trail and get the leprechaun to his pot of gold. Students roll the dice and color in the appropriate circles on their game sheet. Each number equals a color. This helps reinforce the rainbow color - pattern we have been learning. The child who colors in the entire rainbow trail first wins the game.



There's A Pot O'  
Gold At The End  
Of The Rainbow!

**Reading-Writing Block:** My students do several booklets that they enjoy making and taking home to share with their families.

***Lucky Me I Found a 4-Leaf Clover, Let's Count Leprechauns,***  
and ***There's a Pot Of Gold At The End of The Rainbow.*** *Let's Count*

*Leprechauns* is my personal favorite because I can nail lots of standards with this one booklet.

### **Writing Prompt:**

As a writing prompt we pretend we are leprechauns and discuss what we'd do if we had a pot of gold to spend. My students TRACE and then WRITE the sentence filling in the rest with what they've decided they'll do with their gold. I list their ideas on the board for them to copy. Some of them are as typical as "*buy toys*"; others are as wonderful as "*help my mom and dad fix the house*" to "*buying food for the needy*."

I cut their school photo into an oval for them to glue on the leprechaun. They draw a picture of their plans and I collate the pages to make a class book.



### **End of the Day:**

We end our day with story time. My St. Patrick's Day books are listed in my [Books of the Month](#) side Blog. Scroll down and Click on the March bibliography link.

We sing several songs and toss the leprechaun around; whoever holds him gets to share what part of the day was their favorite.

Finally, I pass out certificates of participation. With Irish eyes smilin' and happy hearts brimmin' over, my little green-clad "leprechauns" head for home.

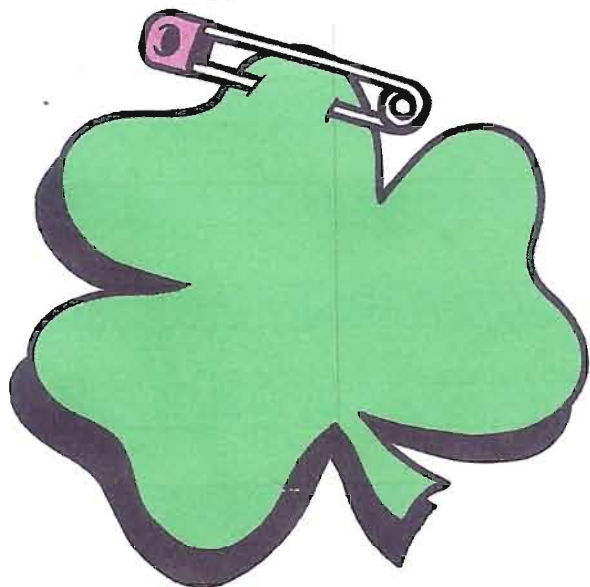
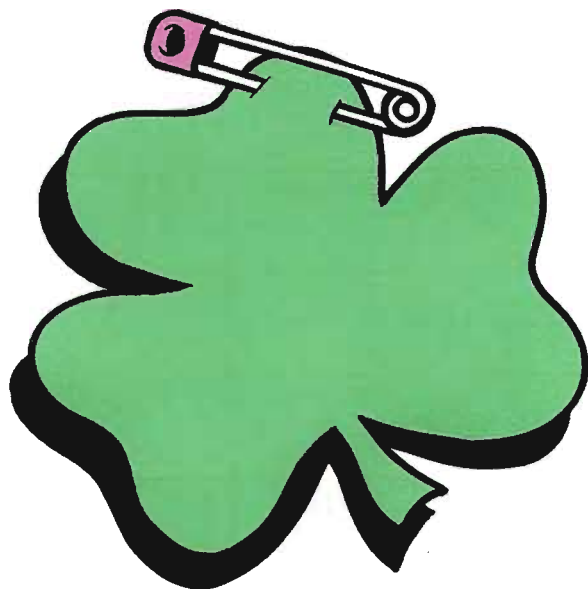
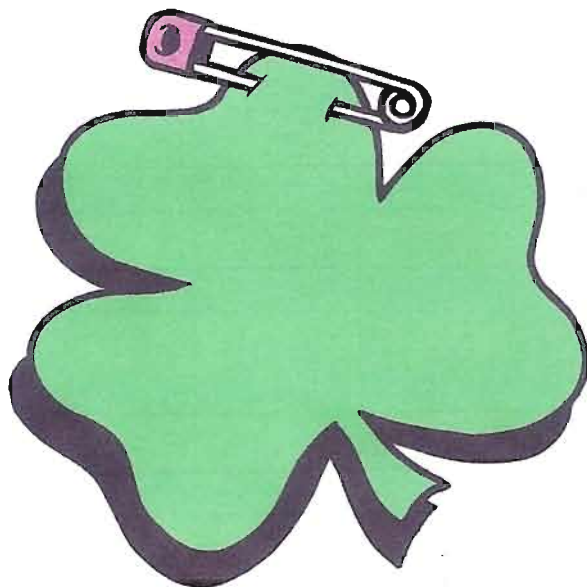
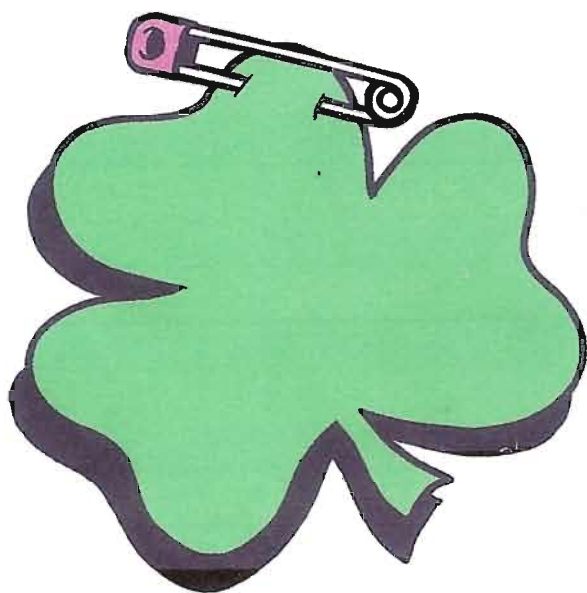
***Whatever you're planning for March 17<sup>th</sup>, I hope it's very merry! Happy St. Patrick's Day to you and yours!***



**Happy St. Patrick's Day** from  
your teacher \_\_\_\_\_



**Happy St. Patrick's Day** from  
your teacher \_\_\_\_\_



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

# Graphing Time

# Do you like green peppers?

[illegible]

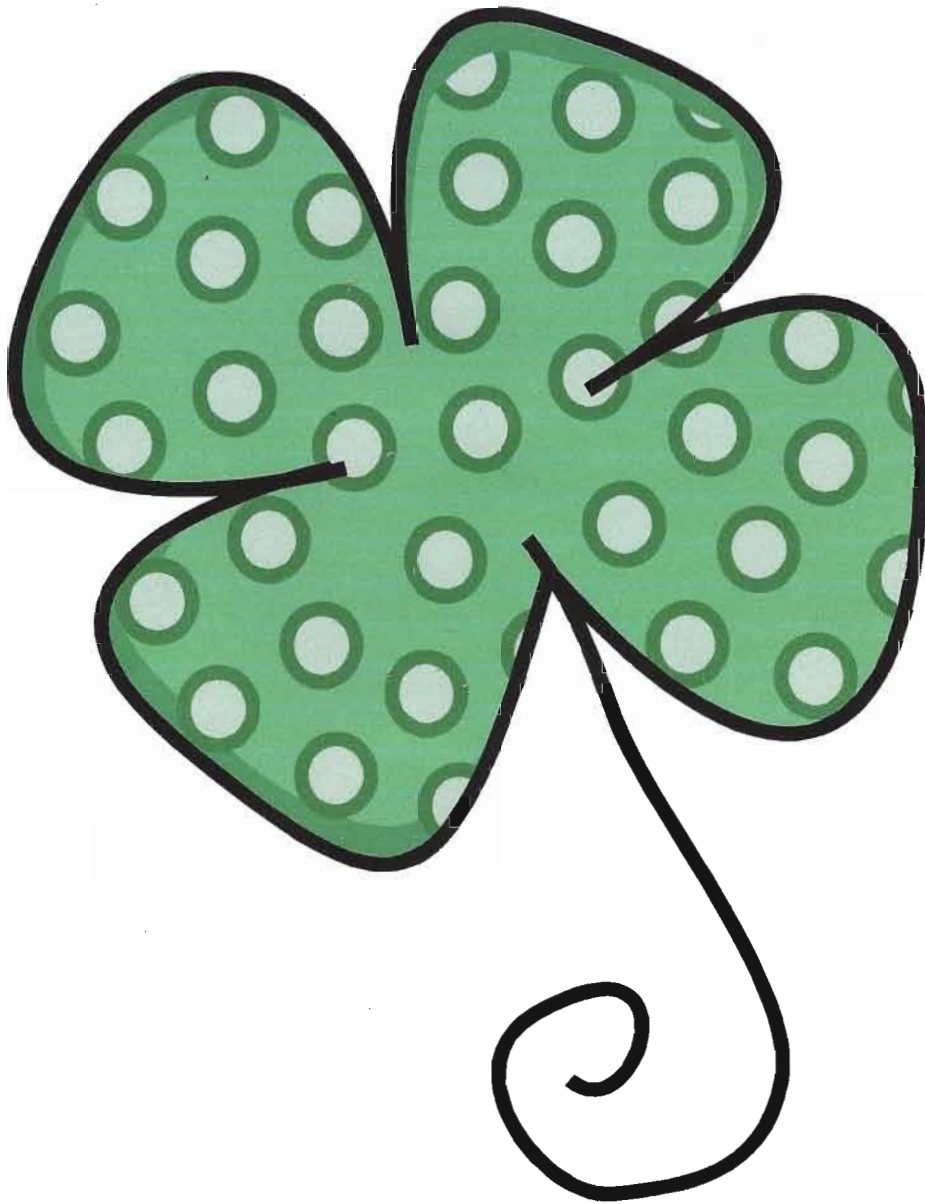
Class Leprechaun  
Book

How Will They  
Spend Their Gold?



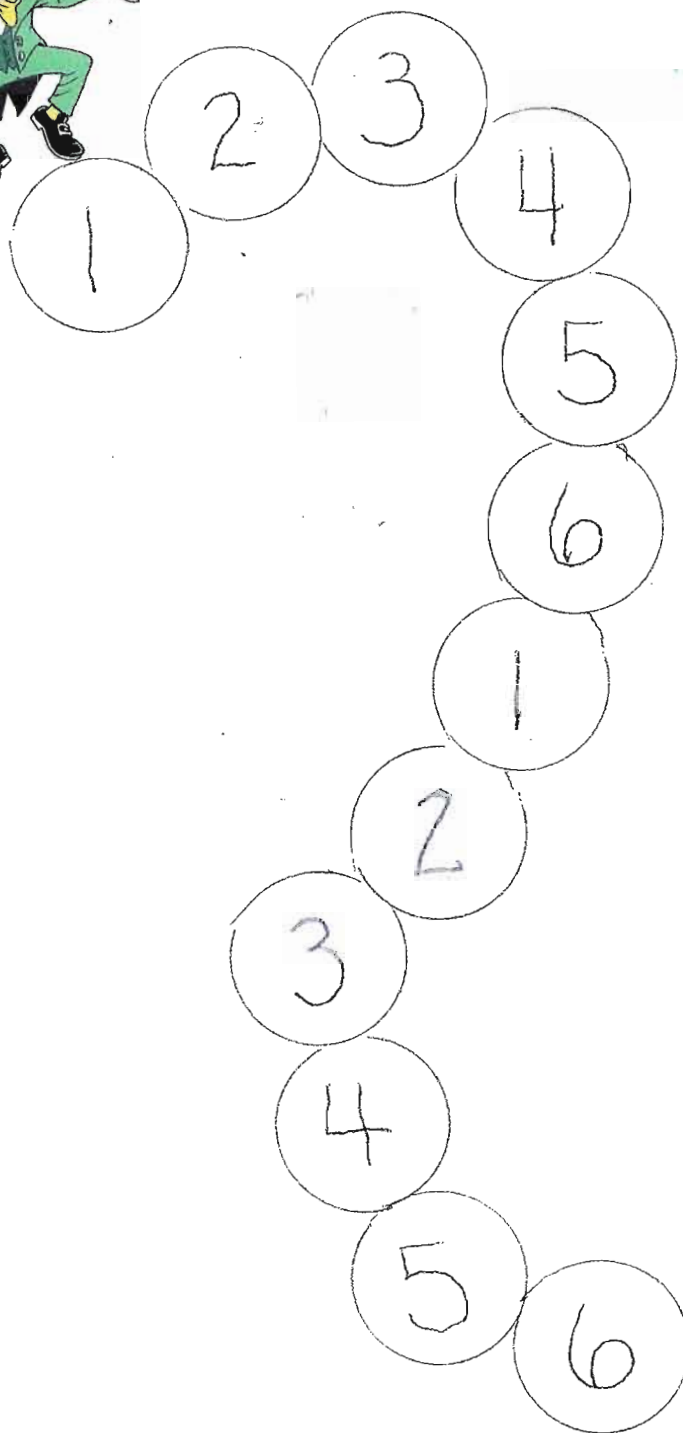
I'm a leprechaun. I  
will use my gold to





Leprechaun-Leprechaun who took your 4-leaf clover?

Print off the 4-leaf clover above and use it to play this St. Pat's Day version of Doggy-Doggy Where's Your Bone?



### Follow The Rainbow Trail

#### Directions:

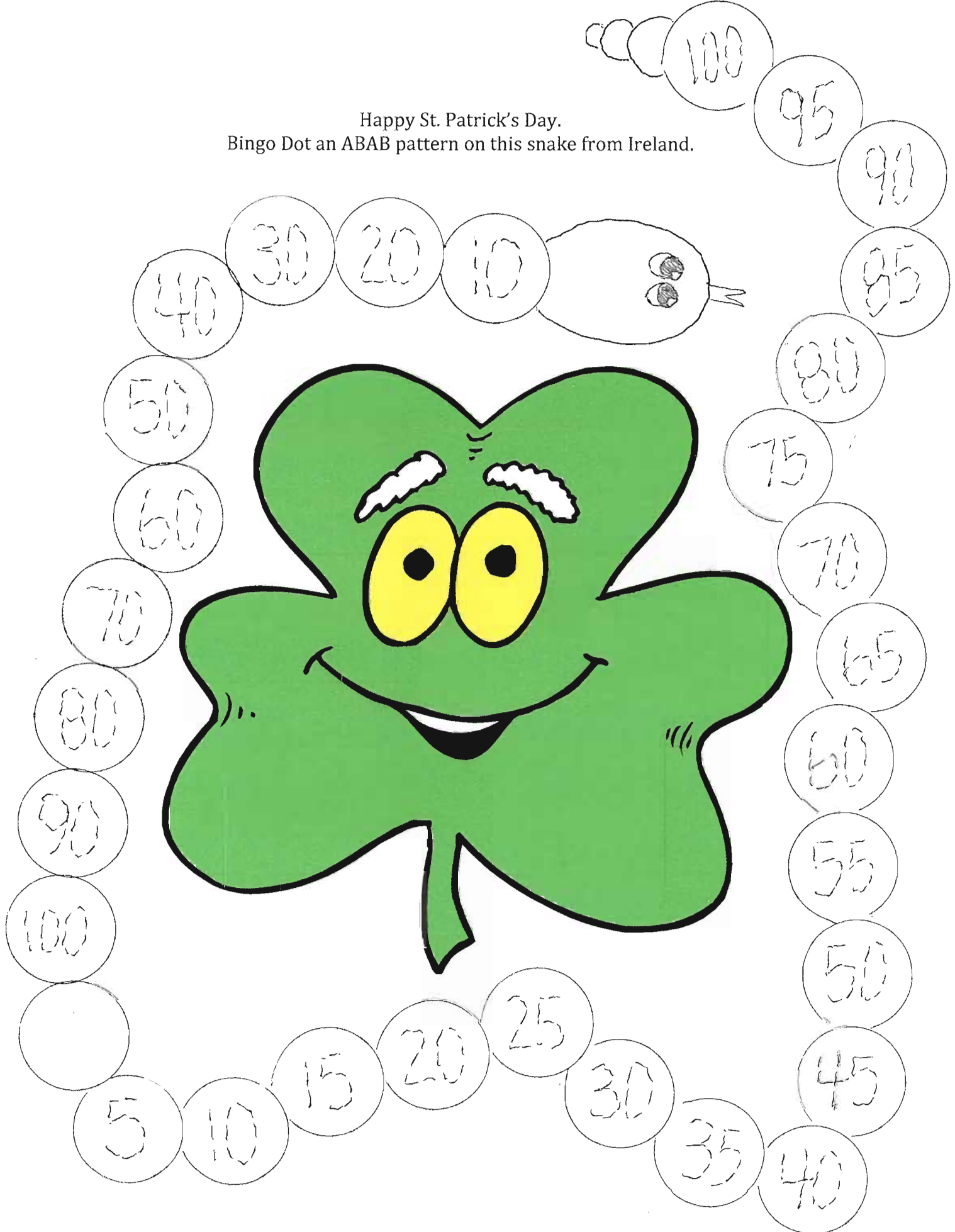
- Choose a partner
- Roll the dice
- Low dice goes first
- Roll the dice.
- Color in one of that number circle on the trail.

1= red  
2=orange  
3=yellow  
4=green  
5=blue  
6=purple

- If you already have both of those numbers colored in, then you lose your turn.
- The first child to have all of the circles colored in is the winner.
- Their leprechaun has hopped along the rainbow trail and reached their pot of gold.



Happy St. Patrick's Day.  
Bingo Dot an ABAB pattern on this snake from Ireland.

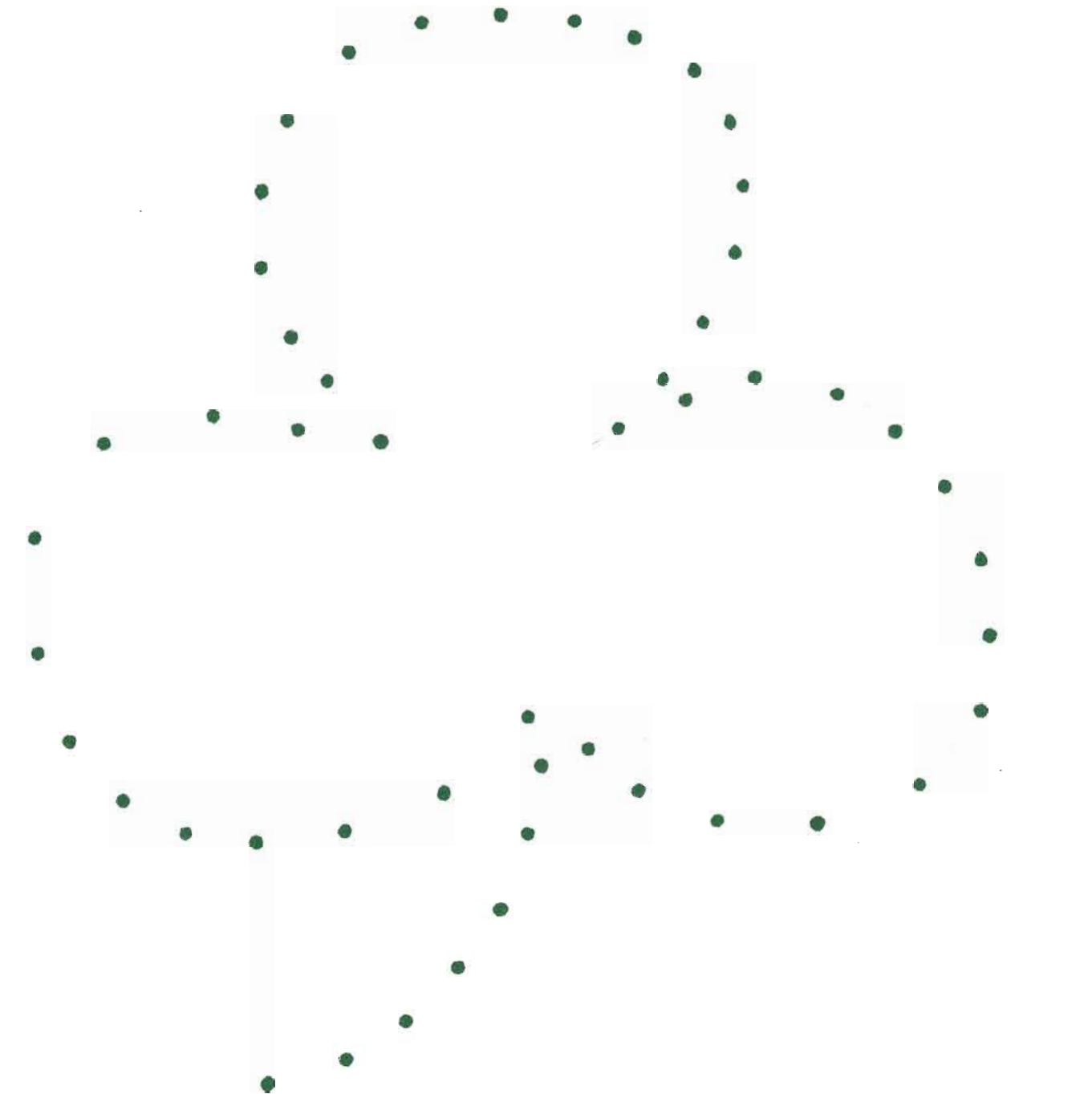


Trace the numbers.

# Pinch & Poke



Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Happy   
St. Patrick's Day

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Happy   
St. Patrick's Day

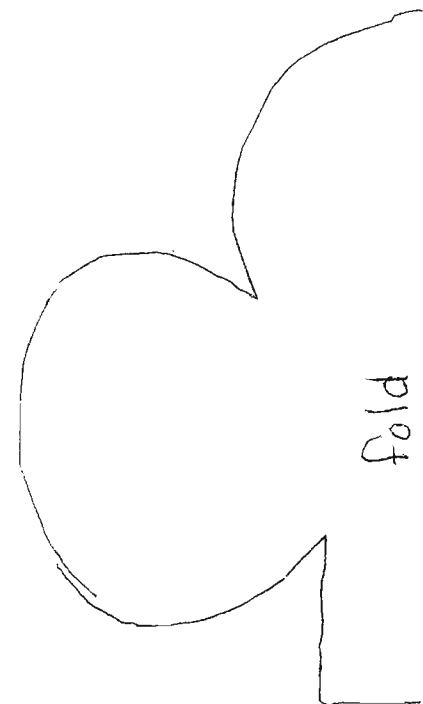
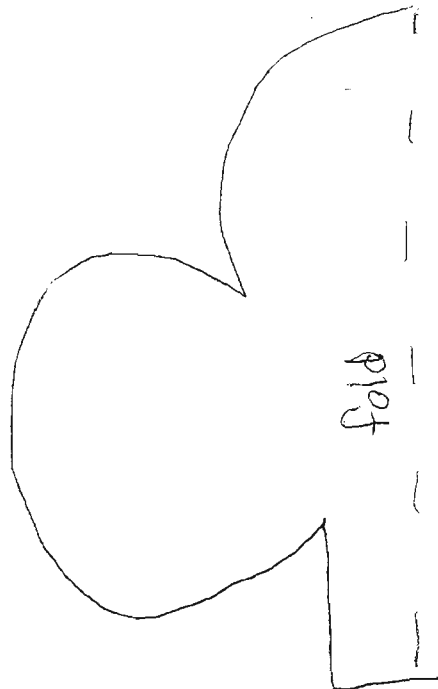
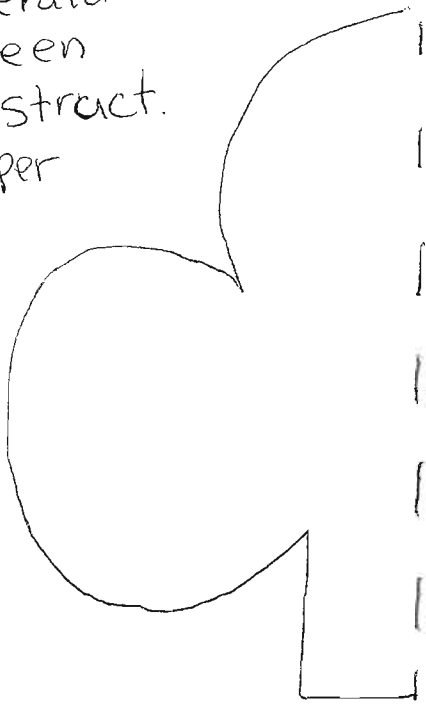
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Happy   
St. Patrick's Day

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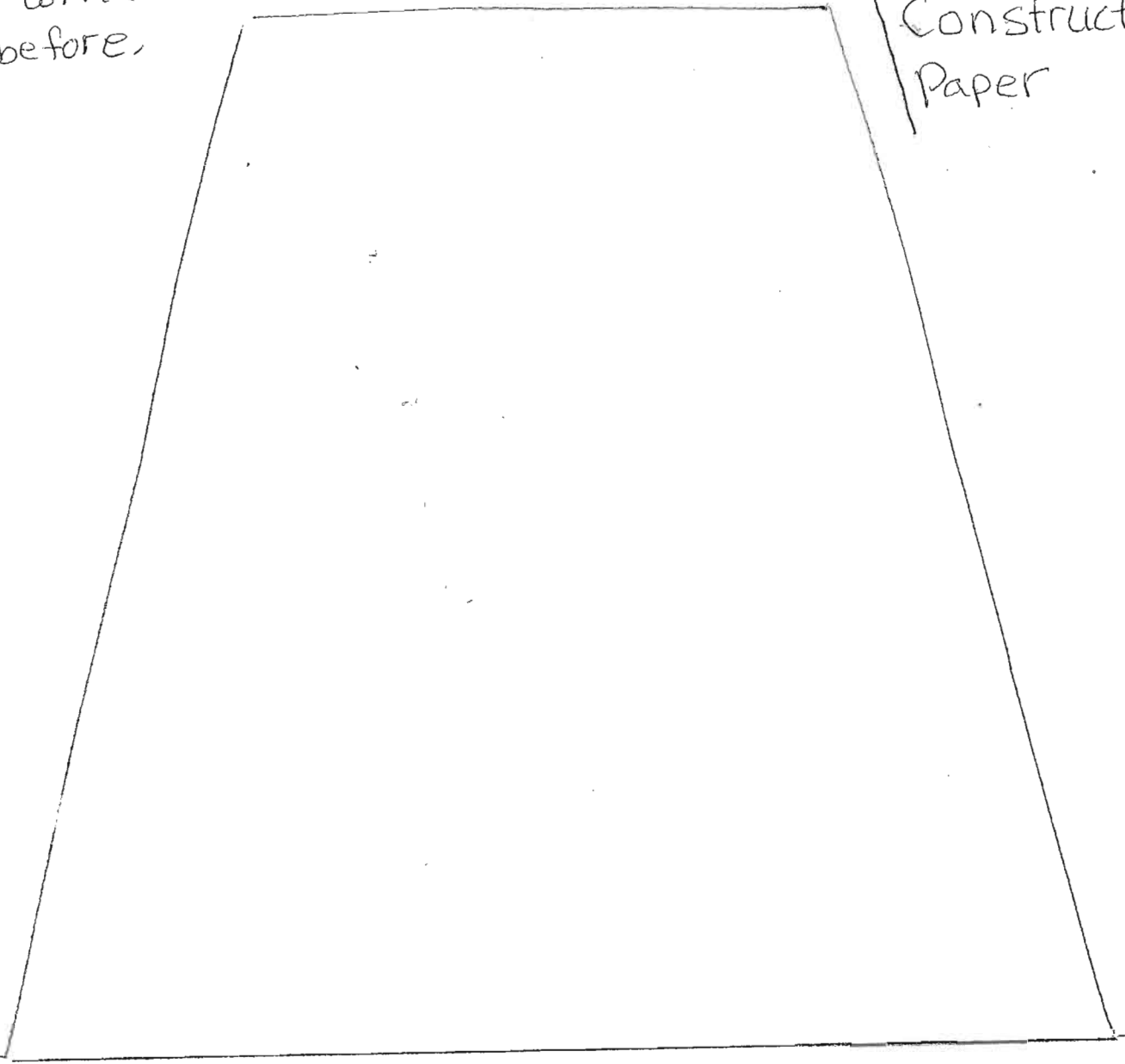
Happy   
St. Patrick's Day

Emerald  
Green  
Construct.  
Paper



Staple hat to Sentence Strip,  
Wear like a crown, using Gold Glitter  
Glue write Students' names on brims the  
day before.

Dark  
Green  
Construction  
Paper



Students cut out & Glue 1 Shamrock to middle.



## St. Patrick's Day Card

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### **Materials:**

- Green and white construction paper
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Green & black markers

### **Directions:**

#### **Prep:**

- Run off masters.
- Run off the shamrock on emerald green construction paper and fold the papers.
- Cut 1 inch strips of white or green construction paper 8 inches long.
- Cut out your students' pictures into an oval shape.
- Print the leprechauns in color on your printer at home.
- Rough cut the leprechaun so that each student gets one.
- Fold dark green sheets of construction paper in half for the card.

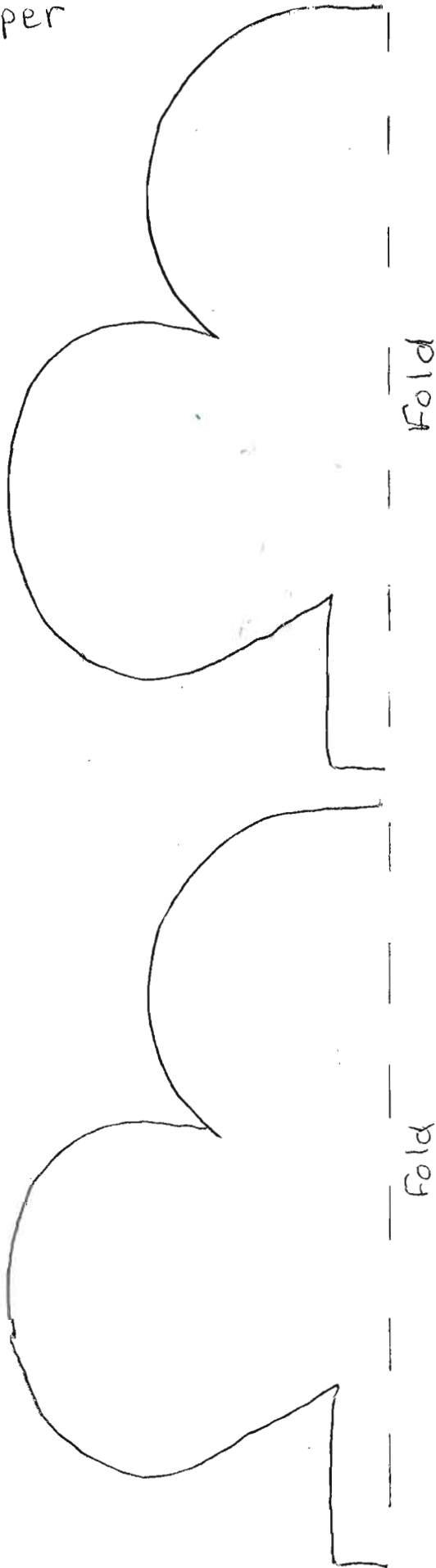
#### **The next day...**

1. Students CUT out their leprechaun.
2. Students GLUE their photo-face to the leprechaun's face.
3. Students accordion fold their strip on paper.
4. Children glue their leprechaun to one end of the accordion strip and the other end to the middle of the bottom of their green card.
5. The leprechaun will wiggle around and look like he's dancing a jig.
6. Students sign their card with a black marker.
7. I have mine write I ♥ U as well.
8. Students can TRACE the "love from your little leprechaun" note with green marker and GLUE it to the inside top of their card, or use it to copy and write the words in their card.
9. Students CUT out their green shamrock and GLUE it to the front of their dark green folded card.
10. Students can add some dash-dot details around the edges with a black marker.
11. Make sure you have a sample to show your students and post this on the board.
12. I also model each step.





Emerald Green  
Constr. Paper



Happy St. Patty's Day!

Love from your

little leprechaun!



Happy St. Patty's Day!

Love from your

little leprechaun!

Happy St. Patty's Day!

Love from your

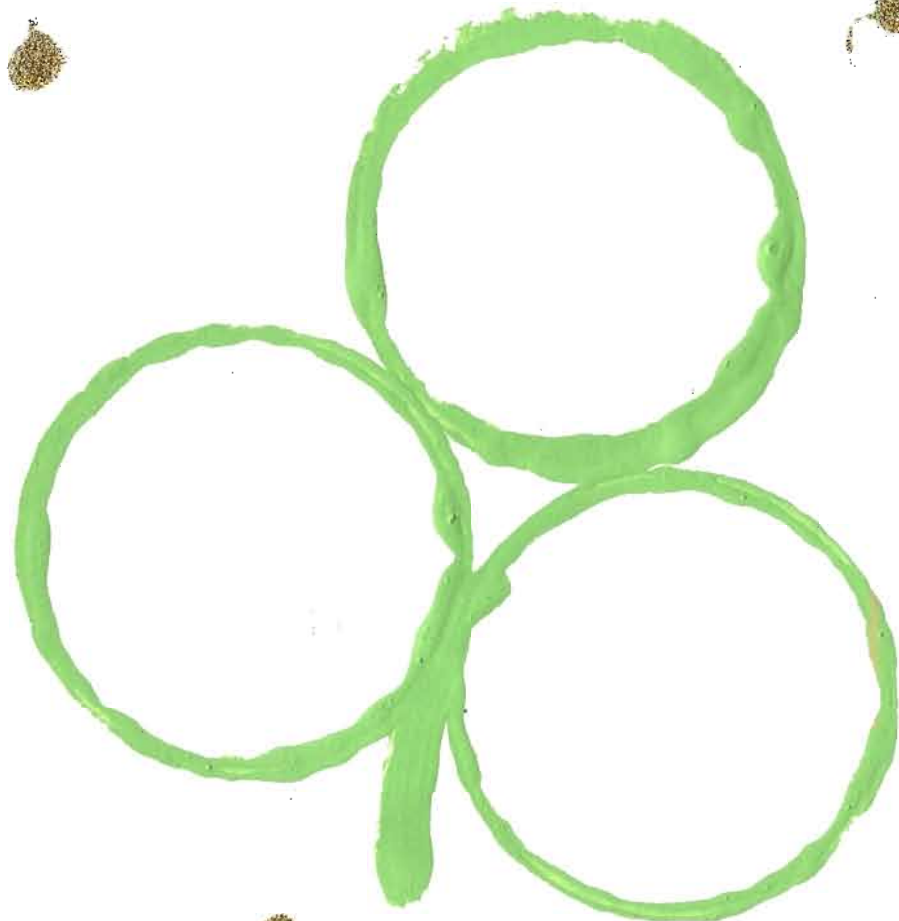
little leprechaun!



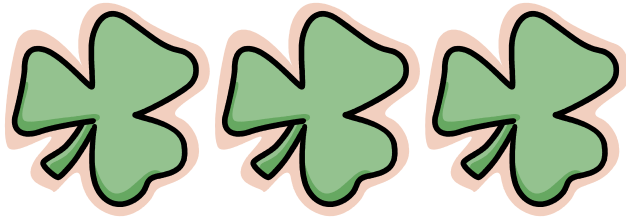
Happy St. Patty's Day!  
Love from your  
little leprechaun!



I ♥ U! Diane



Diane



## **Triple Shamrocks**

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### **Materials:**

- 3 shades of green paint
- 3 sizes (small, medium and large) circular caps
- 3 paintbrushes
- 3 Q-tips (I have a few extras if they get messy.)
- 3 large paper plates
- Gold glitter glue
- Green marker
- White construction paper

### **Directions:**

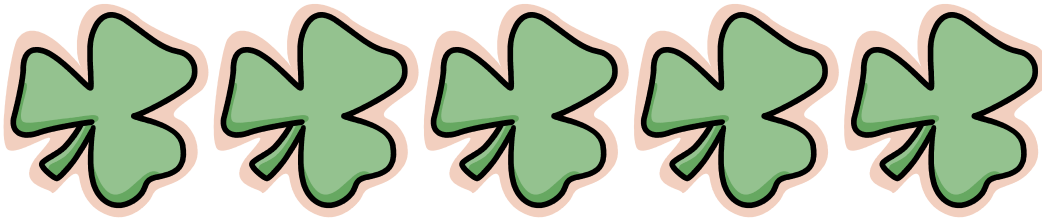
#### **Prep:**

- Set this up as a center on a long table.
- Cover the table.
- You can have your students pat paint on the bottom of the caps or you can spread paint on the paper plate and have them dip their cap in the paint and then press the cap onto their paper.
- I find that I use less paint if I just put a dollop of paint about the size of a quarter on the paper plate and have them use a paint brush or Q-tip to apply the paint. They are also using their fine motor skills.
- The problem with this, is they forget where they have applied the paint and some of their circles do not get covered. When they press their cap down they do not get as good of a circle as they do when they dip it.
- The down side of dipping is that I go through more paint and the children's fingers often get messy.
- You could hot glue wooden thread spools to your caps to make stamping easier and less messy. I've done this in the past. You can buy them at a hobby store for .29 cents.
- I also have to watch the center more as I need to monitor putting more paint on the plates and spreading it out for them or their circles will have paint glops and be sloppy. It's your call. I've done both. It's nice if you have a room helper.
- Set out 3 plates with a different shade on each plate and a paintbrush or Q-tip and cap on each plate.
- Remind students not to get the caps and brushes mixed up and to make sure they rest on the plates so they don't get the table full of paint.

- Put the white paper on the side along with a green marker. Instruct students to write their name on their paper first.

**The next day...**

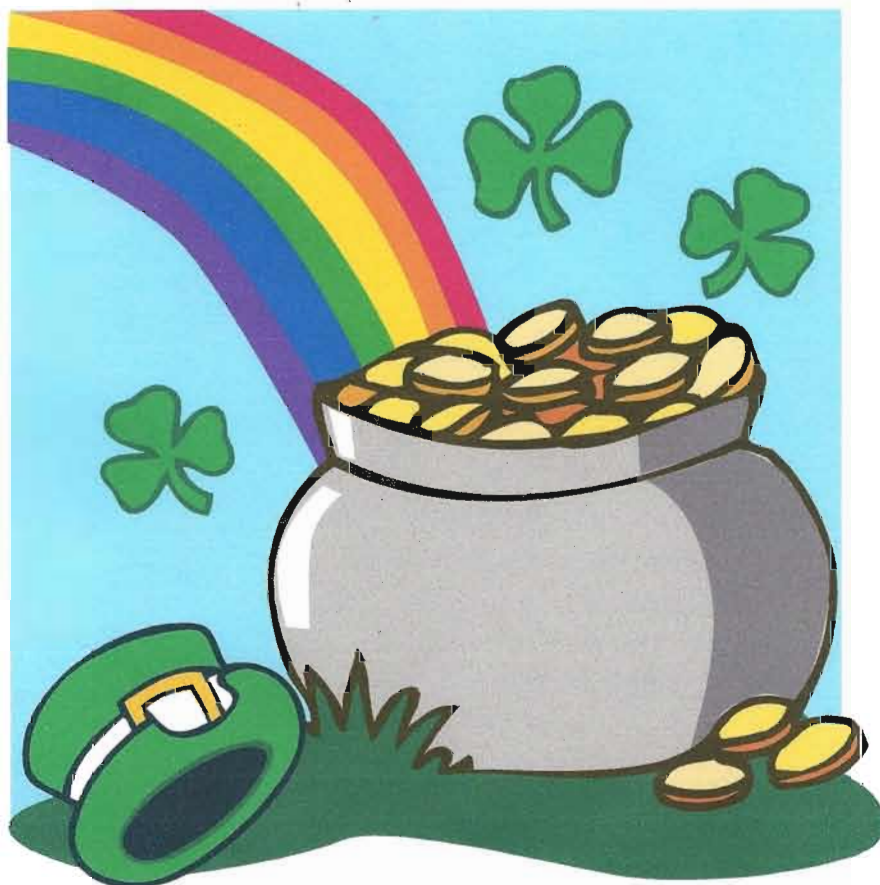
1. Demonstrate to your class how to make a shamrock print and review small, medium and large as well as the circle shape and counting to 10 with them.
2. I count to 10 in English and Spanish as well as by 10's to 100 and backwards from 10-0. We "blast off" to get the wiggles out.
3. I remind them not to get carried away, and that I only want them to have a set/group of 10 gold "coin" glitter glue dots on their papers.
4. Students write their name on their paper in green marker.
5. Children start with the largest circle cap and make 3 shamrock leaves with it by pressing the paint-filled cap onto their paper.
6. Students use a paintbrush or Q-tip to make a stem.
7. Children repeat this with the medium cap and finally the small cap.
8. Children dab 10 gold glitter glue dots on their paper.
9. Students set their papers aside to dry.
10. I choose a few for our "Wall of Fame" and hang them in the hallway. The rest I send home.





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took part in our St. Patrick's Day Activities  
and did wonderful work!



Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_