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This LightUnit goes with pages 99-193 of
Church History – Resurrection to Reformation

Key Concepts

Patrick of Ireland is credited with evangelizing the island in about thirty years. He was born in England, captured and taken as a slave to Ireland, escaped to Europe, returned to England and studied for the ministry, then spent the rest of his life evangelizing Ireland.

Terms

saint – In New Testament usage, any believer; a holy person. In popular usage, someone who was declared to be especially holy after their death. Special benefits were believed to come by praying over their relics.

patron saint – A saint claimed by an occupational group (such as carpenters) or geographical region (such as the Irish) to be especially “theirs.”



In Chapter 17, “Irish Christianity,” read pages 186-189. Stop at the bold heading near the bottom of page 189.

Do these exercises.

1. Because they were driven westward over the centuries, Celtic people today are mostly associated with the countries of Wales, Scotland, and _____ .
2. Before Patrick’s time, a bishop named _____ established three congregations in Ireland.
3. According to legend,
 - a. why did all the snakes leave Ireland?

 - b. what Christian doctrine did Patrick use of the shamrock to teach?

4. Why was a staff that was thought to be Patrick’s destroyed in the 1500s?

5. What miracle occurred when Patrick prayed for food in Gaul?

6. Patrick is the only early western missionary we know of who took the Gospel peaceably beyond the borders of the _____ .
7. Instead of ordaining a bishop to serve a city and its surroundings, Patrick typically ordained a bishop to serve a _____ .

Write *true* if the sentence is *true* and *false* if the sentence is *false*.

8. _____ The Christianity Patrick preached was more like the older British (Celtic) Christianity than the Roman Christianity of Europe.
9. _____ There was a time that the people of Ireland and Scotland were so closely related that they could all be called Irish or Scots.
10. _____ When Patrick was a boy, Britain was firmly under Roman control, strongly patrolled by Roman armies.
11. _____ Rome controlled Ireland and Scotland for approximately 200 years.
12. _____ By the end of the 400s, Ireland had become mostly Christian.
13. _____ Centuries before Patrick's time, Celtic people lived across most of Europe.

Circle the letters of ten true statements about the life of Patrick.

14. a. born in Britain about A.D. 390
- b. spent his childhood in Gaul
- c. captured as a boy and taken to Ireland
- d. served as a slave for six years as a shepherd
- e. escaped slavery and went to France aboard a ship
- f. narrowly escaped death in a great shipwreck
- g. returned for a time to his family in Britain
- h. visited Rome
- i. was called back to Ireland by a vision
- j. recaptured and returned to Irish slavery the second time
- k. trained for the ministry
- l. translated the Bible in a Gaelic dialect
- m. was never ordained as a bishop
- n. wrote his autobiography in Latin
- o. ended slavery in Ireland
- p. taught that slavery was wrong
- q. spent thirty years in an Irish monastery
- r. spent several decades traveling over Ireland evangelizing
- s. died in northern Gaul

Complete the sentences.

15. A _____ is a holy person; a Christian. But the term came to be used in the early Middle Ages (and since) of people that were thought to have been especially _____. The Roman Catholic Church eventually prescribed a standard _____ for declaring a person a saint.

16. A _____ saint is a saint that a group or country chooses as their own particular protector. Saint _____ is considered Ireland's patron saint.
17. There is a legend that Patrick used the _____ (which is similar to a three-part clover leaf) to explain the Trinity, but no historical basis for the legend can be found.

Complete this (optional) exercise.

- ☆ 18. a. Several "saint's days" (including Patrick's) appear on most calendars in the United States. What "saints" are associated with each of these days?
- February 14 – _____ December 25 – _____
- March 17 – _____
- b. Research and explain how St. Patrick's Day came to be observed in America.

Review

Circle the letters of the correct answers.

19. Roman and Celtic Christians in Britain disagreed on which two things:
- a. The proper date of Easter.
 - b. The language to use in worship.
 - c. The type of tonsure Christian monks should wear.
 - d. Whether the archbishop should be at Canterbury or London.
20. When the monk Augustine arrived in Britain, King Ethelbert arranged
- a. a grand welcome in his royal palace, because of his Christian wife.
 - b. an open-air meeting, in order to avoid any spells the Christians might cast.
21. As was common among Germanic tribes, when King Ethelbert of Britain adopted Christianity,
- a. his people also adopted it.
 - b. many of his people rejected it.

Match each item with its description.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 22. _____ Caedmon | a. The Father of English history. |
| 23. _____ Augustine | b. Source of names of days of the week. |
| 24. _____ Thor, Woden | c. Had a special gift for writing hymns and poetry. |
| 25. _____ King Ethelbert | d. Roman—shaved on top; Celtic—shaved in the front. |
| 26. _____ Venerable Bede | e. Met with Augustine in the open air as a precaution. |
| 27. _____ Pope Gregory | f. Title of the chief ruler in Britain's seven tribes. |
| 28. _____ bretwalda | g. Sent Augustine to evangelize Britain. |
| 29. _____ tonsure | h. First archbishop of Canterbury. |

Key Concepts

Irish monasteries became centers of learning during Europe's Dark Ages.

Many monks from the continent fled to Irish monasteries, taking their books along. As a result, Irish monasteries preserved many classical writings which may have otherwise been lost.



In Chapter 17, “Irish Christianity” read pages 189-193.

Answer these questions.

1. a. How did the fall of the Roman Empire affect the activity of its libraries and scholars?

- b. Where did many who fled from the barbarian invasions in Europe flee to?

2. _____ What “treasure” did monks fleeing to Ireland for refuge take with them?
a. books b. relics c. recipes for ink d. gold and silver
3. How were most monasteries established by the Irish supported?

4. Why was Ireland sometimes referred to as the “Island of Saints” in the 600s?

5. Since Ireland had no large cities, what special attraction did monasteries hold?

6. What did the practice of “green martyrdom” by Irish monks involve?

7. Many Irish monks lived in monastic stone huts built in the shape of a _____ .

8. After Irish monasteries formed and continued growing, what did groups of monks from them frequently do that could be called “evangelism”?

Complete the sentences.

9. Irish missionaries would often leave a monastery in groups of _____ plus a leader; they went not only to Britain, but also into _____ .
10. To the Irish, evangelizing an area involved establishing a _____ in it; many monasteries in _____ Europe before 900 were begun by Irish missionaries.

Write *true* if the sentence is *true* and *false* if the sentence is *false*.

11. _____ Many Irish monks chose to live on rocky, barren islands.
12. _____ Education and literacy arrived in Ireland through the monasteries.
13. _____ Irish people in general did not approve of monks and monasteries.
14. _____ For several centuries, Ireland supplied many missionaries to Europe.
15. _____ The Irish had a written form of language long before Ireland became Christian.
16. _____ Many monks fled to Ireland from Europe as barbarian tribes overran Europe.
17. _____ With the adoption of Christianity in Ireland, warfare between Irish tribes died out.
18. _____ Many monasteries across Northern Europe before 900 had connections with or roots in Ireland.
19. _____ The education and literacy available at Irish monasteries eventually spread widely among the common people of Ireland.
20. _____ Zealous Irish monks usually practiced less extreme forms of asceticism than the Benedictine monks on the continent of Europe.

Review

Match each item with its description.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 21. _____ Irish bishop | a. Once lived all across Europe. |
| 22. _____ Celts | b. Revering him is believed to bring benefits. |
| 23. _____ shamrock | c. Typically served a tribal group of families. |
| 24. _____ Patrick | d. The people of Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. |
| 25. _____ saint | e. Supposedly used to teach the doctrine of the Trinity. |
| | f. Took Christianity beyond the borders of the Roman Empire. |

Do these exercises.

26. Rome never included **England, Ireland** as part of its empire.
27. Circle the letters of five statements that are true about Patrick.
 - a. He wrote many influential books.
 - b. He was a strong opponent of slavery.
 - c. He spent most of his life in one monastery.
 - d. He was captured and lived as a slave for six years.
 - e. He returned to Ireland in response to a vision he had.
 - f. He was supported by the pope in his missionary work.
 - g. He evangelized most of Ireland over a period of thirty years.
 - h. The Christianity he taught was probably more Celtic than Roman.
 - i. He became a missionary without undergoing formal training for ministry.