

# Emerald Isle

A St. Patrick's Day Grid Puzzle by Rick Rubenstein

Approximately 10% of U.S. residents claim Irish heritage, so it's no wonder St. Patrick's Day is a big deal. However, a different 10% or so might have difficulty enjoying this holiday properly. Pore over the attached grid, solve the puzzles below, and follow the instructions at the bottom of the page to discover this oft-overlooked minority's lament.

## Shamrock

If you're lost in the wilderness — or a grid of words — finding a four-leaf clover would be a plus. A little known fact, though, is that if you find *four* four-leaf clovers, you can combine them into a *meta*-clover, which will always point toward home. Write the word in the meta-clover's center below.

1 2 3 4 5

## Snakes

As St. Patrick once said, "Somebody get these !#\$!\*@ snakes off my %!\$!# island!" But evicting snakes is not so easy. They tend to hide in cracks, and often use camouflage to conceal themselves among objects they resemble. Remove the five snakes which are hiding in the grid, and note the items they leave behind. Then write the name of another such item (an anagram of which appears elsewhere on this page) in the spaces below.

6 7 8 9

## Limerick

A limerick hidden as plain  
As the one in this grid takes no brain  
To discern; fill its cells,  
And see what it spells.  
(My regrets if this verse caused you pain).

10 11 12 13 14

## Leprechaun

The wily leprechaun, realizing people are hot on the trail of his "end of the rainbow" stash, has been covering his tracks. His 13-color rainbow is easy to see, but the actual path to the treasure is hidden. For each color, he's created a hidden replica with one piece removed and the rest mixed up. Find the scrambled copies, determine the missing pieces, and follow their trail from left to right, top to bottom. Then write the results of your search below.

15 16 17 18 19 20

When you have finished all four puzzles, transfer their answers to the spaces below, which should enable you to answer the question,

**Why does a certain minority group have trouble enjoying St. Patrick's Day?**

2 8 19 13 17 13 14 1 16 18 15 7 15 3 13 12 4 5 20 9 13 11 6 17 5 10