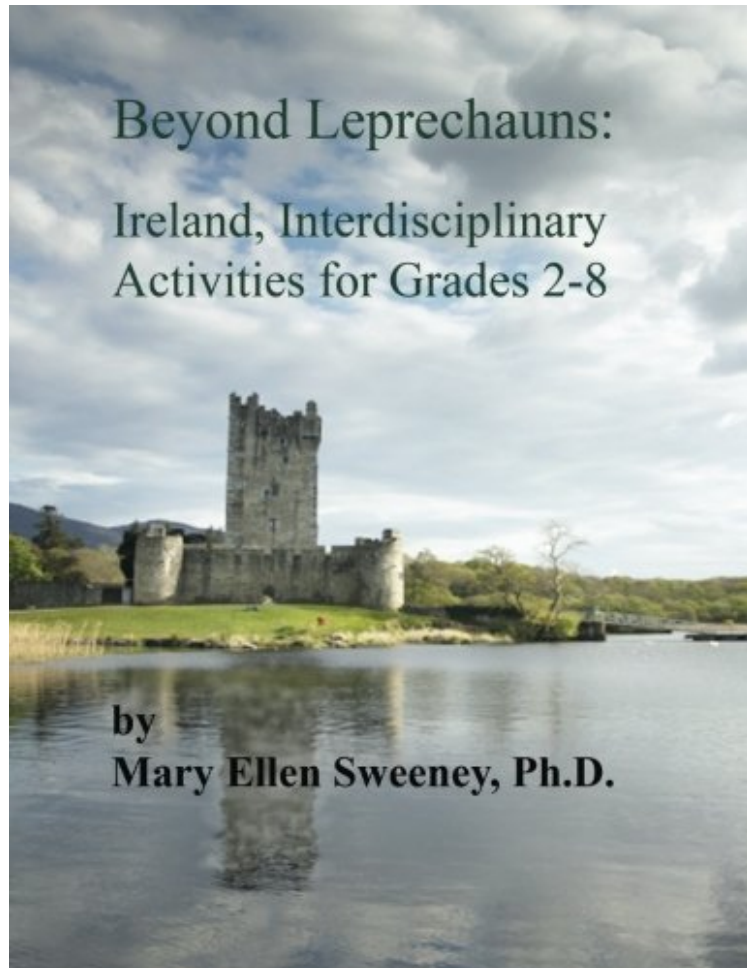


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# Beyond Leprechauns: Ireland, Interdisciplinary Activities for Grade 2-8

Mary Ellen Sweeney

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**Mary Ellen Sweeney : Beyond Leprechauns: Ireland, Interdisciplinary Activities for Grade 2-8** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beyond Leprechauns: Ireland, Interdisciplinary Activities for Grade 2-8:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The topics and strategies... reveal the heart and soul of the nation and its people.By CustomerHaving just returned from teaching American students on the far western coast of Ireland for the last two years, I find this collection of classroom activities both insightful and stimulating. Obviously, Dr. Sweeney, has experienced and studied the rich culture, history, and literature of Ireland during her visits their over the years. The topics and strategies she has selected reveal the heart and soul of the nation and its people - from hands on activities involving monks, high kings and castles to intensive explorations and projects about the Famine, the Titanic,

and the 1916 Easter Rising. Her lessons on Irish ballads, folk songs, and dance are particularly delightful and sure to engage students at all levels. The bibliography and collection of resources and websites even make this workbook relevant for upper level students. Her final assignment on developing a personal Ireland travel itinerary is a fitting beginning to the next chapter for any student of Ireland. Dan Diedrich, Aquinas College  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great resource for engaging lessons in a variety of curriculum areas  
By Robin Miner  
This book provides a wealth of project based activities that can easily be integrated into other lessons on geography, history, literacy, and art. A complete list of references is included at the back of the book for teachers who are interested in digging deeper into a topic. Students will find the suggested online resources such as videos or audio streams engaging and fun. The required materials and procedure for each lesson clearly stated as are the lesson objective and a suggestion for assessing student outcomes. Where applicable, the book includes photocopiable graphic organizers for the students while completing their research. The book is an exceptional alternative to the more common fair typically provided to students around St. Patrick's Day.

Students will study Ireland in an interdisciplinary way with the 18 plus differentiated lessons in "Beyond Leprechauns." Through student choice and minimal teacher/parental guidance, students will deeply examine all things Irish: history, humor, dance, geography, architecture, language, literature. They will: learn Gaelic, collect Irish words and write limericks, locate Ireland on a world map, examine, study and appreciate the ancient sites and castles in Ireland, build a timeline and discover the beginnings of human life in Ireland, understand how Christians applied some of the Celtic traditions to gain the interest of Celtic women, and study how the failure of the potato crop caused many to perish and millions to emigrate from Ireland. The Titanic, a topic of high interest to children will be experienced through secondary sources and virtual tours. On a more serious tone, students may examine the leading figures of the 1916 War of Independence and study the contributions of galant and passionate characters that lead to the separation of Ireland from England. Students may memorize a few lines from Yeats or study his writing and influence in literature. On a lighter note students may try Irish Step Dancing. They will also learn about the Irish culture through a guided film study applying the 8 elements of culture. Plans may be made for future Irish studies after encountering the activities in this book, "Beyond Leprechauns." The content of this book is both deep and lighthearted. The process of learning about the Irish people: the hardships, the challenges, the merriment and the resiliency may leave students with an appreciation to identify other nationalities and ethnic groups to study in depth, as well!

About the Author  
Mary Ellen Sweeney, Ph.D. has been a contributor to American education for over thirty-five years. As a classroom and college teacher, principal, Charter school founder and gifted education specialist she has shared her Irish heritage along the way. For many years she gathered, wrote and tested Irish activities with students. Numerous trips to Ireland, research and development of differentiated and leveled activities have lead to this book, "Beyond Leprechauns." This interdisciplinary presentation will motivate students in grades 2 through 8. Studying about leprechauns, fairies and sprinkling fairy dust is only a beginning understanding of the richness of Ireland.