

# Leprechauns are one link in a long chain of mythic tricksters

Leprechauns have been a part of Irish folklore for at least 700 years, but they've been tricksters from the start.

The fairy-like creatures first appeared in written stories around the 14th century. Fergus mac Léti, the king of Ulster, is said to have fallen asleep on the beach and wakes to discover that he's being dragged into the sea by three leprechauns (the name was spelled lúchorpáin and meant "small body," back then). He captures the tiny men, who grant him three wishes in exchange for release.

Traditionally, leprechauns like to be alone by themselves making or mending shoes while guarding hidden pots of gold at the end of rainbows. It's said that you can tell a leprechaun is near by the tap-tap-tapping of their small hammer on the soles of shoes. In

the original depictions, leprechauns mostly wore red, but writings by Irish poet William Butler Yeats mention "trooping fairies" wearing green jackets that became the image we use today.

Leprechauns are tricksters and they share qualities with other tricksters of folklore. The Big Bad Wolf from little Red Riding Hood is a trickster figure, so is Bugs Bunny. For the most part, tricksters cannot be trusted and they are fond of practical jokes and fooling the people who seek to trap them.

Believe it or not, leprechauns are a protected by European law, too. When a bunch of countries got together to form the European Union, a special section of the documents forming the union granted special status to the 236 leprechauns said to be alive and well on Carlington Mountain in Leinster, Ireland.

- By ERIC A. HOWALD



jokeBOX

Why do leprechauns like shamrocks so much?

Real rocks are too heavy

## Set a leprechaun trap and 3 wishes could be yours

make it  
CORNER

Leprechauns are hard to find and even harder to catch, but here are a few tips to find a lucky friend of your own.

What you'll need:

Base – use a bucket, shoe box, cereal box, anything that can keep

your friend contained.

Bait – shiny gold coins, rainbows, and shamrocks all make great bait.

I cut a hole in the top of my bucket and covered it with signs, very clearly stating there was no gold under the bucket. I taped the chocolate coins to the bucket to show the leprechaun where to go.

One of the best things about

this craft is the freedom to decorate it yourself. You can customize your trap anyway you want, chocolate, rainbows, anything your heart desires.

Don't forget: If you catch a leprechaun, let him or her go. If you do, you get three wishes.

- By LAUREN MURPHY



## Hey kids! Be part of *No Adults Allowed*

BY ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of No Adults Allowed*

When was the last time you got curious?

We're not talking about the last time you asked your parents a question, they gave an answer and you thought that was enough.

We mean asked-your-parents-and-your-teacher, searched-the-internet, checked-out-a-book-at-the-library-curious. That's radical curiosity and, if you've got it, we want you to be a junior reporter for *No Adults Allowed*.

Reporters are also known as journalists, and when we're lucky – and good at our jobs – we get to do all sorts of cool things. It starts with curiosity though and, really, curiosity is just being brave enough to ask questions we don't know the answers to.

### Step 1: Be our eyes and ears in your school.

Are you working on a cool art project in school? Is your class raising money or collecting

donations for a good cause? Do you have an awesome teacher or school librarian you want other people to know about? All of those are good starting points, but the subject of your story can be anything that made you brave enough to start asking questions.

### Step 2: Start reporting

Once you have your topic, you need to focus on answering six questions: who, why, what, when, where and how. These are the questions you'll need to answer when you're writing your story.

You can answer these questions in a couple of ways.

The first way is through observations. If you are reporting on class pets, spend a couple minutes a day over a few days watching what they do. Tell us what happens and how you think the world might look through their eyes.

The second way is through interviews. Find out who knows the most about the topic you are reporting on, then ask if they have a few minutes to talk. Start

asking those six questions and get the information you need to write a story.

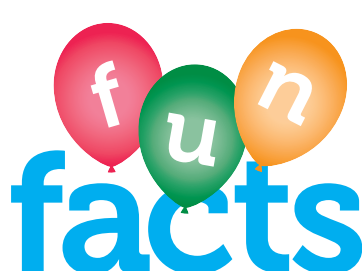
The last way to answer those questions is through research. Books are always a good place to start, but the internet can be a good resource if you don't mind asking an adult for help.

### Step 3: Write

After you've collected all the information, you need to write your article. We don't care how you do it, just make sure you answer all the questions in the story. If you need help with this, you can ask one of our reporters by sending an email to noadults@keizertimes.com. You can send completed stories to that same address.

### What's in it for you

If you do all that work, you'll earn your very own Keizertimes junior press badge and a special edition Reporter's Notepad in addition to seeing your name and story in *No Adults Allowed*.



- More than 85% of all plant life on earth is found in the ocean.
- The idea for Pac-Man came to the creator while he was eating pizza.

- Earth is the one planet that wasn't named after a Roman god or goddess.
- The first pencil was invented in England in 1565.

- The first recorded sighting of the Loch Ness Monster (or as she's more commonly known, "Nessie") was in 565 A.D.
- Slugs have four noses.