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## The History of Leprechauns and How to Catch One

By Hannah Stensler

Shamrocks, four-leafed clovers, gold, rainbows, leprechauns... that can only mean one thing: St. Patrick's Day! And on this special day we find pranks - like green milk and various things left in the shape of a shamrock. All the work of a tricky tiny little man clad in green who comes around playing tricks in the night: the leprechaun! But where did this mysterious legend come from? A leprechaun is a little old Irishman dressed like a shoemaker with a leather apron and a cocked hat,



dressed in green. According to Irish myths, they were cranky tricksters who you wouldn't want to mess with. They live alone and pass the time by mending the shoes of Irish fairies. According to the legend, the fairies pay the leprechauns with golden coins, which the little men collected in large pots - the famous pots of gold that are often associated with leprechauns.

The legend says that if you catch a leprechaun, you can force him to tell you where he hid his pot of

See "Leprechauns" on p. 3

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## The Gift Giving Games

By: Vivian Robbins

Presents! It's safe to say that everyone would agree that gifts are awesome to get. They make you feel loved and appreciated. But giving gifts is a different story. A lot of kids don't have enough money to spend on big gifts. If this is your situation, here are some creative ideas for presents that cost little to no money.

If you can play an instrument, you can play a festive song like "Happy Birthday," or Christmas songs...etc. Last Christmas, my brother and I played "Deck the Halls" to my mom. He played on his piano while I played on my violin, and she loved it!

You can also make a stuffed animal if music isn't your particular expertise! All you need is an old T-shirt, a pillow that no one uses, a needle, and some thread. First, cut the shirt into two identical pieces of whatever shape you want. Turn it inside out, sew all the edges except a small whole, turn it back outside out. Stuff the thing. And finally, sew the hole back up. You can add a face with leftover fabric and

See "Gifts" on p. 2

# Desserts!

By Jordyn Daniels



Desserts are a type of delicious food some people love making and many more enjoy eating! In my opinion, desserts can soothe many emotions like stress, anger or any other emotions you may feel. Pastries and frozen treats are my favorite types of desserts. I love how pastries fill you with joy and sweetness while frozen desserts are what get me through the hot summer days.

Every year as I become older I have grown to love desserts even more. Not only eating them, but making desserts has become a great passion of mine. It is one of my favorite hobbies and maybe it might



be one of your favorite hobbies too. Making all kinds of desserts helps me especially when I am really moody; through stressful times, sad times, and

when I'm furious. I make treats just to put smiles on the faces of people I love including myself. Sweets can make people explode with laughter, happiness, and joy; which is one reason why I love making treats. The best part of creating desserts is teaching people how to make them, and eating the food with family and friends.

Pastries are yummy types of sweets. Pastries are anything with a dough of flour, water, and shortening, that is used for the base and covering in baked dishes. For example, some common pastries that you might have heard or tasted are pies and pretzels. If you have ever watched baking shows then you can see they make a lot of pastries most of the time. Even if the pastries are beautiful from Zumbo's, Just Desserts, or incredibly terrible from Nailed It, pastries still bring people together *See "Desserts" on p. 4*

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*"Gifts" from p. 1*

even make limbs using the same process. And now you have an adorable little stuffed animal that most people will love.

Creative or not, anyone can do this one... make art. Plain and simple, art is one of those gifts that make you feel good inside, someone putting time into making an art piece for you. You can even trace something if you feel more comfortable doing that instead! You can listen to music, YouTube - whatever makes you feel calm- and let your creative juices flow. But remember to add personal touches and make it alive with color!

Personally, I feel guilty about giving someone just art and a song while they give me snacks and

blankets. The gifts I've listed are meaningful and amazing to receive. If for any reason you can't/ don't want to do any of these ideas, you can write a card! Funny, meaningful cards are nice to receive.

I hope these ideas provide some assistance to your gift-



*Homemade pillow*

giving-at-a-low-budget-issues. Whether you give the gift of music, stuffed animals, art, or cards, the person you give the gifts to will be lucky.

# Covid-19: A Patient's Story

By Eliana Ogundairo

In this interview, I asked a Covid patient, Abayomi Michael Ogundairo, about his experience fighting Covid-19. He believes he contracted the virus on December 6 of 2020. He thankfully overcame the virus on December 24, 2020.

In the interview, Abayomi shares his harrowing story of what it was like to live with the virus, and effective ways to help keep you safe from getting it.

Please click on the link below for the full interview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4HUslOp3ZA>

gold. Supposedly, this pot of gold is hidden at the end of the rainbow. But since you can never find the end of the rainbow, you can't get the pot of gold.

But to get the gold, you first have to catch the leprechaun. So how do you do that?

Many people across the world have used their creativity to create all kinds of contraptions hoping to catch the trickster, ranging from small shoebox-size traps to full table-size traps with metal pieces.

But where are we going to get metal pieces? So here are some

ways to make easy, fun traps to catch that leprechaun.



## Materials

- 1 shoe box, 1 cereal box, or anything like that
- Markers
- Colored paper
- A handful of bottle caps
- Scissors
- Tape
- Pencil
- Plastic lid from a drink from a fast food place like McDonald's
- Small piece of cardboard
- Plastic wrap

Put the plastic lid upside down in the center of the lid of the box. Trace the plastic lid. Then cut out the circle in the top of the box. Take the lid of the box off and push the plastic lid into the hole in the box from the bottom. Make sure it is flat on the top. Then tape the sides of the lid to the box on the top a couple times, but don't cover the straw hole.

## Games and Activities

A word search puzzle on a green background. The puzzle grid is 15 rows by 20 columns. The words 'LEPRECHAUN' and 'JN' are highlighted in green at the top. To the right of the grid is a 'Word List' with 20 words, each accompanied by a green shamrock icon. At the bottom of the puzzle area, there is a 'Start Over' button and a small illustration of a leprechaun, a rainbow, and a pot of gold. The word list includes: SAINT, PATRICK, IRISH, BLARNEY, BLESSING, EMERALD, LEPRECHAUN, GOLD, GREEN, IRELAND, LIMERICK, MAGIC, PARADE, RAINBOW, SHAMROCK, LUCKY, WISH, FAIRY, MARCH, PARTY, CLOVER, POT, SNAKES.

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and turn frowns upside down while entertaining the audience.

Desserts that a lot of people love are frozen desserts. Frozen desserts are what bring lots of people joy especially when in summer. My favorite frozen desserts I eat in summer that you might know are Mochi and popsicles. Even though our popsicles often will run out an easy way to make more.



*Illustration by Jasleen Kaur*

- 1. Get juice or even soda from your fridge and pour it in a popsicle container or an ice cube holder. (If you don't have any of those tools grab a small size cup pour your drink into the cup.)**
- 2. Then, put a popsicle stick in the middle of your drink. You can use a plastic fork or spoon if you don't have a popsicle stick.**
- 3. Put it in your freezer. The process should be done in a couple of hours but it wouldn't hurt if you tried to keep checking it every now and then.**

Pastries and frozen desserts are my favorite types of desserts. They might even be your favorite desserts as well. Pastries are sweet, delicious, warm and great for cold days; while frozen desserts are amazing for hot summer days. Fortunately, you can enjoy any dessert any time of the year. I always add a secret ingredient in every treat I make and that ingredient is happiness. The reason it is the best ingredient is because happiness makes everything taste better, especially when you are with the people you admire and love best.

Take a green piece of paper and place it flat. Put the lid of the box upside down on the paper. Try to get the paper covering the top of the lid as much as possible. Trace the outline of the top of the lid of the box on the paper. Take the paper and cut out the tracing. Then put the paper on top of the top of the box lid and tape it to the lid at the corners. Stick the pencil through the straw hole of the plastic lid to make a hole in the paper. In the bottom of the box, make a couple small holes in the sides with a pencil. Tape clear plastic wraps over the holes. Now put the lid of the box back onto the bottom of the box and tape it together at the sides. Get the bottle caps and cover it in yellow paper or color them yellow. These are the gold coins. Put them around the plastic lid.

The leprechaun will fall through the hole and be trapped when trying to get the coins. There are holes in the bottom so you can see the leprechaun.

Finally, put the trap in a place where you think the leprechaun will see it.

*Good luck and Happy St. Patrick's Day!*



**Happy**  
*St. Patrick's Day!*