



Ireland's famous fairies: Leprechauns

1 Pre-reading

Match the words (1 to 6) to the pictures (a-f).

1	A Leprechaun	
2	Buckled shoes	
3	A forest	
4	A fairy	
5	A fiddle	
6	A pot of gold	



Have you ever heard of Leprechauns? They're magical creatures that live in Ireland. And if you're lucky, they can make you extremely rich!

DESCRIPTION

Leprechauns are small fairy-like creatures with magical powers. They look like little old men and wear waistcoats, hats, aprons and buckled shoes.

HABITAT

Leprechauns live in the forests of Ireland. Their houses are often in hollowed-out trees, small caves or under large bushes. Some are thought to live in villages that are invisible to humans. Leprechauns usually live alone.

PROFESSION

Leprechauns are shoemakers, making shoes for all the fairies in Ireland. Fairies will pay a lot of money for a good, strong, beautiful pair of shoes. So, Leprechauns can make a lot of money if they work hard.

CHARACTER

Most Leprechauns are hard-working, but they're also mischievous. Their favourite pastimes are counting their gold and playing tricks on humans. They're also quite musical, and play instruments such as the fiddle and the Irish Harp.

LEGEND

According to legend, every Leprechaun has a hidden pot of gold. If you can catch him, you can force him to show you where it is as he has to tell the truth. However, you must be careful because a Leprechaun will disappear as soon as you take your eyes off him. If he's forced to give you his gold, he'll cry and scream. But it's all just for show. Leprechauns have several pots of gold – not just one. Of course, they don't want you to know that!

If you ever go to Ireland, try to catch a Leprechaun – it could make you rich! 🍀

2 Reading comprehension

Read over the text. Then, complete the definitions with the words from the Pre-reading activity.

- The creatures who buy shoes from Leprechauns = _____.
- The instruments that Leprechauns play = the Irish harp and the _____.
- What a Leprechaun must give you if you ask for it = _____.
- Small creatures with magical powers who look like little old men = _____.
- The type of shoes that Leprechauns wear = _____.
- Where Leprechauns live = _____.

