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the needy Medieval church trick-or-treating
roaming commercial ghost origins pray for

When most people think of Halloween, they think of trick-or-treating, parades, _____ for apples, and other family-friendly activities. But bet you didn't know the true story behind the ancient _____ of Halloween.

It all goes back some 2000 years to the _____ Celtic festival known as Samhain celebrated on November 1st. On the night before Samhain, people believed that _____ returned as ghosts. They would leave food and wine on their doorsteps to keep _____ spirits at bay and wear masks when they left the house, so they would be mistaken for fellow

The Christian _____ turned Samhain into All Saints Day or All Hallows in the 8th century. The night before became All Hallows' Eve, later shortened to Halloween. You heard of trick-or-treating on Halloween, but what about "souling" or "guising"?

All three of these traditions originated in _____ Britain. On All Souls' Day, November 2nd, _____ would bake for pastries known as soul cakes. In return, they would _____ people's dead relatives. This was called "souling". In the Medieval Halloween tradition of guising, young people would _____ in costume and accept food, wine, money, and other _____ in exchange for singing, reciting poetry, or telling jokes.

In 19th century America, Irish and Scottish immigrants revived these old traditions; the result was _____. At first, it was much more about the _____ in the form of pranks and hijinks than the _____. It wasn't until the 1950s that the custom took on its current family-friendly, kid-centered form.

Today, Halloween is big business, with U.S. _____ spending more than 2.5 billion on costumes annually, adding the candy, and it's estimated that Americans spend up to 6 billion on Halloween each year, making it the 2nd most _____ holiday after Christmas. So whether you are a fan of tricks, treats, or trivia, there's a bit of Halloween history we bet you didn't know.