

# Halloween



October 31 is Halloween and it's celebrated in many countries around the world. What are the origins of this spooky day and how do people celebrate today? Read the article and find out.

## 1. Match the words with the definitions.

a fancy dress costume    Irish    to dress up    to carve    a tradition    the origin  
a pumpkin    a harvest    a lantern    a skull

Special clothes you wear to look like somebody or something else, often at a party

---

A belief or way of doing something that people have followed for many years

---

The beginning or cause of something

---

The time of year when fruit and vegetables are collected on farms

---

People or things that come from Ireland

---

An orange vegetable that can be as big as a football

---

A kind of lamp that has a light, such as a candle, inside a container

---

To make something by cutting into it

---

To wear special clothes

---

The bones of the head

---

When you think of Halloween, you probably think of pumpkin lanterns, fancy-dress costumes and children asking for sweets. And if you think of a country that celebrates Halloween, you probably think of the United States first. Americans and Canadians have adopted Halloween in a big way, but did you know that Halloween traditions actually come from Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales?

**2. Put the words in the correct form of PAST SIMPLE.**

**The origins of Halloween**

The Celts \_\_\_\_\_ (be) people who \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in ancient Britain and Ireland from about 1000 BC and they \_\_\_\_\_ (celebrate) a festival called 'Samhain'. Samhain was celebrated on 1 November because that \_\_\_\_\_ (be) the end of summer and harvest time (which was associated with food and life) and the beginning of winter (which they \_\_\_\_\_ (associate) with death). Have you ever wondered why Halloween colours are orange and black? Orange is related to harvests and black is related to death.

Samhain was the time for ghosts to return to earth for a day. People \_\_\_\_\_ (light) a big fire, \_\_\_\_\_ (wear) special clothes made of animal skin and \_\_\_\_\_ (hope) to be safe from the ghosts and the winter.

In early America, the Native Americans and the first Europeans celebrated the end of the harvest, but not Halloween. When many Irish people \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to live in America in the 1800s, they \_\_\_\_\_ (bring) their Halloween traditions with them and Halloween \_\_\_\_\_ (become) popular throughout the country.

**3. a) Put the sentences in the correct order.**

**Trick-or-treating**

When Irish people went to live in America, they continued this tradition and it became trick-or-treating.

This happens because in ancient Britain, Celtic people went from house to house dressed in costumes, asking for gifts and food for the Samhain festival.

On Halloween children knock on their neighbours' doors and ask for 'treats', like sweets or chocolates.

Nowadays going trick-or-treating is so popular in the USA that a quarter of the sweets for the year are sold for this one day!

**3. b) Ask your partner questions about their text and write down the answers.**

1. Why do people make pumpkin lanterns?
2. How do they make them?
3. Why did Celts carve faces into vegetables?
4. Why do people carve faces into pumpkins and not other vegetables?

**4. a) Fill in the missing words.**

you November Dead on around as skulls people In celebrate  
time Nowadays these relatives both world

**Around the world**

Catholic people around the \_\_\_\_\_ celebrate All Saints Day on 1 \_\_\_\_\_ and All Souls Day \_\_\_\_\_ 2 November. On \_\_\_\_\_ days, people remember \_\_\_\_\_, friends and other \_\_\_\_\_ who have died. \_\_\_\_\_ Mexico, people \_\_\_\_\_ the Day of the Dead at this \_\_\_\_\_ and many dress up \_\_\_\_\_ skeletons, and paint \_\_\_\_\_ on their faces. \_\_\_\_\_, more and more people \_\_\_\_\_ the world are celebrating \_\_\_\_\_ the Day of the \_\_\_\_\_ and Halloween. Will \_\_\_\_\_ celebrate this year?

**4. b) Change with your partner and correct his mistakes.**

**5. Kahoot.it – Questions about Halloween.**

**6. Kahoot.it – Truth or False**