HALLOWEEN VERSUS "La Castanyada"

Around the celebration of All Saints' Day, we always have the same dilemma: Castanyada or Halloween, but both traditions have things in common.

Due to the phenomenon of globalization, the habits and customs in our society have incorporated new trends. The figure of "La castanyera" (chestnut seller) is still very much alive, but young people love Halloween. Adults still want to preserve tradition of "La Castanyada" but it becomes a challenge.

All Saints day or Celtic "Samhain" was a Celtic festivity that was adopted by the church.

We divide the year into two parts, with two solstices: the summer solstice (June 20 or 21) and the winter solstice (December 21 or 22). The Celts also divided the year into two parts: the time of light (summer) and the time of darkness (winter).
In the transition from the time of light to the time of darkness, the Celts celebrated "Samhain" on the night of October 31 to November 1 to welcome the new Celtic year. They believed that during the celebration of Samhain, the deceased returned to visit their families, and they would offer them seasonal fruits like chestnuts and sweet potatoes.

In our land, we celebrate "la Castanyada". On All Saints' Night, it is typical to make a fire and roast chestnuts, sweet potatoes, and recently, panellets (small marzipan cakes).
The figure of the Castanyera symbolizes the Catalan tradition of Castanyada, and all the children look forward to her on All Saints' Night. She is an old woman, dressed in a long skirt, an apron, and a headscarf, who sells chestnuts on the street, wrapped in newspaper to keep them warm.

It's a difficult decision: Tradition or globalization? Chestnuts or candy? Dress like an old woman or dress like a vampire or zombie? Home celebration or Trick or Treat in neighbourhood?

Let's decide!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Answer the following questions

1.Does Halloween have things in common with “La Castanyada? If so, which ones?

2. Why habits and customs in our society change?

3. Do young people like Halloween?

4. Do adults want to preserve Halloween?

5. How do we divide the year?

6. What season was the time of darkness for the Celts?

7. What fruits were offered to the dead?

8. How do we celebrate “la Castanyada”?

9. What are “panellets”?

10. What does “la Castanyera” symbolize?

11. Name three clothes of “la Castanyera”.

12. What does “la Castanyera” sell?

13. Do you prefer chestnuts or candy? Why?

14. What is your favourite Halloween costume (disfressa)?

15. Do you like playing “Trick or treat”?

LIVEWORKSHEETS