



The history of Halloween

Foreign language class. Isa Medina

Put the paragraphs of the text in the correct order. There are some mistakes in this text. Listen and correct them.

A

Druids were Celtic soldiers. On October 31 they performed religious rituals and talked about future events. The Celts believed that ghosts, witches and evil spirits disappeared on the night of October 31. They believed that evil spirits entered the body of a person or animal. They wore frightening costumes and made loud parties to send them away.

B

The Romans invaded Great Britain in AD 43. After this invasion Samhain became a harvest festival. During the centuries, the Roman Catholic priests put Christian festivities in the place of pre-Christian festivities. In the eighth century the Church decided to call 1 November All Saints' Day. Another name for this day was Holly day. The evening of 31 October was All Hallows' Eve. This became Halloween.

C

The colours of Halloween — orange and black — are of Celtic origin, too. Orange was the colour of the sun, and black was the colour of soil and long nights. The Druids believed that black cats had special sense and could feel if spirits were near. So black cats have become symbols of Halloween.



D

Halloween has Celtic origins. The Celtic life was in two parts: summer and winter. Summer was from May to the end of October, and winter was from November to the end of April. The ancient Celtic festivity Samhain celebrated the start of the year: the start of winter. It began on the evening of October 31 and continued until the next day.

Choose the correct answer A, B or C.

1. What are the origins of Halloween?

- A. German
- B. Irish
- C. Celtic

2. When was Samhain?

- A. at the end of winter
- B. at the beginning of the year
- C. at the beginning of summer

3. Who were the Druids?

- A. Celtic witches
- B. Roman priests
- C. Celtic priests

4. Why did the Celts wear frightening costumes and make big fires?

- A. To celebrate summer
- B. To send the evil spirits away
- C. To invite the evil spirits

5. Why is Orange a Halloween color?

- A. It was the color of the sun
- B. It was the color of fires
- C. It was the color of the harvest

6. Why is Black a Halloween color?

- A. It was the color of a black cat
- B. It was the color of soil
- C. It was the color of winter and long nights

7. Who invaded Great Britain in AD 43?

- A. The Romans





B. The Irish
C. The Celts

Match the words to their meaning

1. a spirit tending to cause harm
2. to order someone to leave a place
3. to take or send an army into another country in order to get control of it
4. a person, usually a man, who has been trained to perform religious duties in the Christian Church
5. the parties, meals, and other social activities with which people celebrate a special occasion

A. Priest
B. Invade
C. Evil spirit
D. Festivity
E. Send away

Fill in the correct preposition.

1. October 31, 2. entered the body a person, 3. AD 43, 4. the eighth century, 5. name this day, 6. be Celtic origin, 7. symbols Halloween, 8. the Celtic calendar was two parts, 9. November to the end of April, 10. the start winter, 11. continued the next day.

