

In \_\_\_\_\_, it was estimated that more than \_\_\_\_\_million Americans would go out and celebrate Halloween. The total amount spent on costumes, candies and decorations nationwide? A whopping \$\_\_\_\_\_ billion.

Putting on a costume and \_\_\_\_\_ is the most well-known Halloween tradition. The top two costumes worn by adults in 2018? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Even \_\_\_\_\_ participate in this holiday. The top costume for our furry friends that same year was a \_\_\_\_\_.



Halloween is a holiday that celebrates all things \_\_\_\_\_ but its origins are closer to all things \_\_\_\_\_. In fact, the celebration was once called All Hallows Eve and it celebrated the lives of Catholic saints — but more on that later. So, when did we start to dress up as monsters and carve out pumpkins for a holiday that commemorated saints? And what does trick or treating have to do with an ancient Catholic holiday?

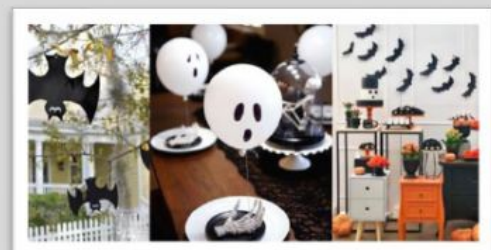


You're watching Explore Mode and, in this episode, we're going to dive into the origins of Halloween.

Halloween as we know it today does not have a \_\_\_\_\_ origin. It's more of a \_\_\_\_\_ and match of different traditions that evolved and migrated with the people who practiced them from Europe to the rest of the world. But let's start with a \_\_\_\_\_-year-old Celtic festival called Samhain (pronounced SOW-ehn). This pagan holiday marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of \_\_\_\_\_.

It was celebrated on the eve of October 31st and ended on November 1st. On October 31, the Celts would burn livestock and part of the summer harvest as sacrifices to the Celtic deities to symbolically share their harvest with the gods. Apart from marking the end of the year's most abundant period, the Celts believed that on the night winter started, a \_\_\_\_\_ to the world of the \_\_\_\_\_ would open, allowing spirits and supernatural beings to wander into the world of the living.

In order to please the potential \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ crossing over to the human world, the Celts would prepare offerings for them and wear \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to hide their true identities from the spirits. The festival was celebrated in parts of the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and northern \_\_\_\_\_, which is until Catholicism entered the picture.



Around the \_\_\_\_\_ Century, Catholicism was expanding and they weren't too fond of pagan festivities like Samhain. So, Pope Gregory III took a church-sanctioned holiday that celebrated martyrs and saints on \_\_\_\_\_ and moved it to November 1. We know this holiday today as All Saints Day, but back then it was known as Hallowmas which can be roughly translated into "the mass for the holy people", and the evening before, October 31st, was known as All Hallows' Eve, which eventually ended up being abbreviated into Halloween.