

## About Halloween



Many immigrants do not understand Halloween. They wonder, "Is Halloween a good or a bad holiday?" "Is it against my religion?" "Should I let my children go trick-or-treating?"



For most Canadians, Halloween is not a religious holiday. Like almost every holiday, there are nice and not nice parts of it. On one hand, children like trick-or-treating in their neighbourhoods and having costume parties at school. They and their parents love eating lots of candy. Many adults like going to costume parties and watching scary movies. Most of the time, these activities are just fun. There is nothing bad about them.

On the other hand, some people don't like Halloween. It is sometimes about fear, disrespect of bodies, and witches. They don't like how people decorate their homes or how some people dress. Fortunately, you can have fun at Halloween and avoid what you don't like!



### How Many Canadians Celebrate Halloween

#### Trick-or-treating

Children (and some adults) wear costumes and walk from door to door. They shout "Trick or Treat" at the front door and people give them candies and other treats. Parents check treats before their children eat them.

#### Entertainment

- costume parties - ghost stories - haunted houses - bobbing for apples
- scary movies

#### Decorations

Halloween decorations are usually orange and black.

Jack-o-lanterns: Take the seeds out of a large pumpkin, cut a face on one side, put a candle inside the pumpkin, and put it in a window or outside near the front door.

Things in old houses: spiders, spider webs, bats, owls, crows

Things connected with death: gravestones, skeletons, skulls, body parts

Scary people: ghosts, witches with brooms and black cats, monsters such as Frankenstein, zombies, and vampires

**A. TRUE OR FALSE?** – Choose True or False.

1. True    False    Many newcomers to Canada don't understand Halloween.
2. True    False    They have questions about it.
3. True    False    Halloween is a religious holiday in Canada.
4. True    False    People put the jack-o-lantern in the bathroom.
5. True    False    Children go trick-or-treating in their neighbourhoods.
6. True    False    Children usually have costume parties at hotels.
7. True    False    Many parents and children like eating candy.
8. True    False    Not everyone likes Halloween.
9. True    False    Halloween candy is healthy.
10. True    False    Some people like watching romantic movies on Halloween.
11. True    False    The colours for Halloween are orange and white.
12. True    False    People cut pumpkins into jack-o-lanterns and put candles in them.

**B. SYNONYMS** – Replace with a word that means the same.

*adults    avoid    healthy    newcomers    wonder    scary    parents*

1. Many Canadians like watching frightening movies.
2. Many immigrants are confused about Halloween.
3. Mothers and fathers and children like eating Halloween candy.
4. People have questions about Halloween.
5. People over the age of 18 can vote and get married in Canada.
6. It is good for the body to exercise and eat lots of vegetables.
7. It is important to stay away from danger.

**C. MATCH THE WORDS AND THE DEFINITIONS** – Put the letter on the line.

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. "Trick or Treat" | a. Bones from a body                            |
| 2. Candle           | b. For Christians, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, etc. |
| 3. Candy            | c. Halloween clothes                            |
| 4. Costume          | d. Halloween colours                            |
| 5. Jack-o-lantern   | e. Halloween date                               |
| 6. Mask             | f. Pumpkin with a face                          |
| 7. October 31       | g. Put this inside a jack-o-lantern             |
| 8. Orange and black | h. Say this to get candy                        |
| 9. Religious        | i. Sweet treat                                  |
| 10. Skeleton        | j. Wear this on your face                       |

Story written by Laura Tiessen, October 2019. Questions adapted from *Ontario Reader*, 2012.