Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap.

ANCIENT ORIGINS OF HALLOWEEN



Halloween's origins date **(1)** _____ to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. The Celts, **(2)** _____ lived 2,000 years **(3)** _____, mostly in the area that **(4)** _____ now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, celebrated their new year **(5)** _____ November 1st.

This day marked **(6)** _____ end of summer and the harvest and the beginning **(7)** _____ the dark, cold winter, a time of **(8)** _____ that was often associated **(9)** _____ human death. Celts believed **(10)** _____ on the night before the new year, the boundary **(11)** _____ the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31st, **(12)** _____ celebrated Samhain, **(13)** _____ it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned **(14)** _____ earth.

In **(15)** _____ to causing trouble and damaging crops, Celts thought that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made **(16)** _____ easier **(17)** _____ the Druids, or Celtic priests, to **(18)** _____ predictions about the future. For a people entirely dependent **(19)** _____ the volatile natural world, these prophecies **(20)** _____ an important source of comfort **(21)** _____ the long, dark winter.

(22) _____ commemorate the event, Druids built huge sacred bonfires, **(23)** _____ the people gathered to burn crops and animals **(24)** _____ sacrifices to the Celtic deities. During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes, typically consisting **(25)** _____ animal heads and skins, **(26)** _____ attempted to tell **(27)** _____ other's fortunes.

When the celebration **(28)** _____ over, they re-lit their hearth fires, **(29)** _____ they had extinguished earlier that evening, from the sacred bonfire to help protect **(30)** _____ during the coming winter.

Adapted from https://www.history.com/topics/halloween/history-of-halloween

LIVEWORKSHEETS