

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 1<sup>st</sup>.

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 31<sup>st</sup>, (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>