

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>