bobbing   tricks   dress up   the dead   consumer   offering   treats   ancient

the needy   Medieval   church   trick-or-treating

roaming   commercial   ghost   origins   pray for

When most people think of Halloween, they think of trick-or-treating, parades,   for apples, and
other family-friendly activities. But bet you didn't know the true story behind the ancient   of
Halloween.
It all goes back some 2000 years to the   Celtic festival known as Samhain celebrated on
November 1 st . On the night before Samhain, people believed that   returned as ghosts. They
would leave food and wine on their doorsteps to keep   spirits at bay and wear masks when
they left the house, so they would be mistaken for fellow

                        .
The Christian   turned Samhain into All Saints Day or All Hallows in the 8 th century. The night
before became All Hallows' Eve, later shortened to Halloween. You heard of trick-or-treating on Halloween,
but what about "souling" or "guising"?
All three of these traditions originated in   Britain. On All Souls' Day, November 2 nd
,   would bake for pastries known as soul cakes. In return, they
would   people's dead relatives. This was called "souling". In the Medieval Halloween
tradition of guising, young people would   in costume and accept food, wine, money, and
other   in exchange for singing, reciting poetry, or telling jokes.

In 19 th century America, Irish and Scottish immigrants revived these old traditions; the result
was   . At first, it was much more about the   in the form of pranks and
hijinks than the   . It wasn't until the 1950s that the custom took on its current family-friendly, kid-
centered form.

Today, Halloween is big business, with U.S.   spending more than 2.5 billion on costumes
annually, adding the candy, and it's estimated that Americans spend up to 6 billion on Halloween each year,
making it the 2nd most   holiday after Christmas. So whether you are a fan of tricks, treats,
or trivia, there's a bit of Halloween history we bet you didn't know.