

Halloween



October 31 is Halloween and it's celebrated in many countries around the world. What are the origins of this spooky day and how do people celebrate today? Read the article and find out.

1. Match the words with the definitions.

a fancy dress costume Irish to dress up to carve a tradition the origin
a pumpkin a harvest a lantern a skull

Special clothes you wear to look like somebody or something else, often at a party

A belief or way of doing something that people have followed for many years

The beginning or cause of something

The time of year when fruit and vegetables are collected on farms

People or things that come from Ireland

An orange vegetable that can be as big as a football

A kind of lamp that has a light, such as a candle, inside a container

To make something by cutting into it

To wear special clothes

The bones of the head

When you think of Halloween, you probably think of pumpkin lanterns, fancy-dress costumes and children asking for sweets. And if you think of a country that celebrates Halloween, you probably think of the United States first. Americans and Canadians have adopted Halloween in a big way, but did you know that Halloween traditions actually come from Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales?

2. Put the words in the correct form of PAST SIMPLE.

The origins of Halloween

The Celts _____ (be) people who _____ (live) in ancient Britain and Ireland from about 1000 BC and they _____ (celebrate) a festival called 'Samhain'. Samhain was celebrated on 1 November because that _____ (be) the end of summer and harvest time (which was associated with food and life) and the beginning of winter (which they _____ (associate) with death). Have you ever wondered why Halloween colours are orange and black? Orange is related to harvests and black is related to death.

Samhain was the time for ghosts to return to earth for a day. People _____ (light) a big fire, _____ (wear) special clothes made of animal skin and _____ (hope) to be safe from the ghosts and the winter.

In early America, the Native Americans and the first Europeans celebrated the end of the harvest, but not Halloween. When many Irish people _____ (go) to live in America in the 1800s, they _____ (bring) their Halloween traditions with them and Halloween _____ (become) popular throughout the country.

3. a) Put the sentences in the correct order.

Trick-or-treating

When Irish people went to live in America, they continued this tradition and it became trick-or-treating.

This happens because in ancient Britain, Celtic people went from house to house dressed in costumes, asking for gifts and food for the Samhain festival.

On Halloween children knock on their neighbours' doors and ask for 'treats', like sweets or chocolates.

Nowadays going trick-or-treating is so popular in the USA that a quarter of the sweets for the year are sold for this one day!

3. b) Ask your partner questions about their text and write down the answers.

1. Why do people make pumpkin lanterns?
2. How do they make them?
3. Why did Celts carve faces into vegetables?
4. Why do people carve faces into pumpkins and not other vegetables?

4. a) Fill in the missing words.

you	November	Dead	on	around	as	skulls	people	In	celebrate
time	Nowadays	these	relatives	both	world				

Around the world

Catholic people around the _____ celebrate All Saints Day on 1 _____ and All Souls Day _____ 2 November. On _____ days, people remember _____, friends and other _____ who have died. _____ Mexico, people _____ the Day of the Dead at this _____ and many dress up _____ skeletons, and paint _____ on their faces. _____, more and more people _____ the world are celebrating _____ the Day of the _____ and Halloween. Will _____ celebrate this year?

4. b) Change with your partner and correct his mistakes.

5. Kahoot.it – Questions about Halloween.

6. Kahoot.it – Truth or False