HALLOWEEN

History of Halloween

Halloween is celebrated on the 31st of October. Halloween is a very popular holiday in many countries, especially in the United States, but Halloween traditions come from Ireland.

The tradition of Halloween comes from the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. Samhain was the Celtic New Year and it was the end of summer and harvest time. The Celtic New Year was on the 1st of November. People believed that the 31st of October was "All Hallows Eve", when evil spirits returned to earth for a day. So, they dressed up in costumes and made noise in the streets to make the spirits go away. Over time, All Hallows Eve was shortened to Halloween.

What do people do to celebrate Halloween?

The main tradition of Halloween is to dress up in a costume. Some people wear scary costumes like ghosts, witches, skeletons, vampires, mummies, zombies or monsters, but other people prefer funny costumes like superheroes, ballerinas, cowboys, pirates, princesses, animals or cartoons.

Children go from door to door in their neighbourhood to ask for treats such as sweets, lollipops or chocolates saying "Trick or treat". If someone answers trick, children can make a mischief on the owner of the house or his/her property.

Many people like to decorate their houses with pumpkins and candles. Usually people carve their pumpkins to make scary faces. Then, they put a candle inside and it is called Jack-o'-lantern.

After going "trick-or-treating", families organise parties with friends in their houses. Usually they play games such as: Monster Freeze Dance, apple Bobbing, apples on a string, wrap the mummy or a wiggle worm race.

How to carve a Jack 'o'-lantern?

The Celts carved out turnips to make lanterns, but then, they discovered that pumpkins were easier to carve than turnips.

Follow the steps to make a perfect Jack 'o'-lantern:

First, pick up a round pumpkin.

Second, cut out the top. Then, take the seeds and pulp out of the pumpkin. Then, draw a face on the pumpkin with a marker. Next, ask an adult to cut out the face. Use your finger to push out the pieces. Finally, put a candle inside the pumpkin to light it up.

Harvest: collita
Over time: Amb el temps
Main: principal
Such as/like: com
Mischief: trapelleria
Owner: propietari

Read and answer

1. When do we celebrate Halloween?

   31st of November

   1st of November

   31st od October

2. Halloween comes from...

   The United States

   Ireland

   Spain

3. What is a Jack'o'-lantern?

   A black cat

   A witch with a candle

   A carved pumpkin

4. What can you eat for Halloween?

   Sweets, lollipops and chocolate

   Melons, strawberries and bananas

   Soup, salad and tomatoes

5. Where do children go on Halloween night?

   At school

   From house to house

   At the library

6. Can you see a unicorn costume for Halloween?

   Yes, I can

   No, I can't

7. Trick or treat is about...

   Asking for candies

   Singing at people's houses

   Dancing

8. To make a Jack'o'-lantern you don't need a...

   Ruler

   Knife

   Marker