HALLOWEEN

Preparation task

Match the definitions (1-8) with the words (a-h):

a. …… tradition
b. …… ghosts
c. …… costumes
d. …… trick-or-treating
e. …… jack-o-lanterns
f. …… harvest
g. …… bonfires
h. …… deities

1. a light made of a hollow pumpkin, inside which there is a candle
2. a large fire that is made outside
3. something that people have done for a long time
4. the spirit of a dead person, sometimes represented as a pale, almost transparent
5. gods or goddesses
6. a set of clothes worn in order to look like someone or something else, especially for a party or as part of an entertainment
7. when fruit and vegetables are taken from trees and the ground
8. an activity in which children dress up as magical or frightening creatures and visit people's homes to ask for sweets

Reading

Read the text and complete with the words from the previous activity

The history of Halloween

Halloween is a holiday celebrated each year on October 31. The _____ originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear _____ to ward off ghosts. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as a time to honor all saints. Soon, All Saints Day incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before was known as All Hallows Eve, and later Halloween. Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of activities like _____, carving _____, festive gatherings, donning costumes and eating treats.

Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in). The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago, mostly in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1. This day marked the end of summer and the _____ and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death. Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31, they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the _____ of the dead returned to earth.

In addition to causing trouble and damaging crops, Celts thought that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Druids, or Celtic priests, to make predictions about the future. To commemorate the event, Druids built huge sacred_____, where the people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Celtic_____. During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes, typically consisting of animal heads and skins, and attempted to tell each other's fortunes.

Adapted from https://www.history.com/topics/halloween/history-of-halloween

Understanding the text

Answer the questions according to the text:

1. When is Halloween celebrated?

2. Where does Halloween originate from?

3. What did the Celts do in the Samhain festival?

4. When do the Celts celebrate their new year?

5. What did the new year mark for the Celts?

6. What did the Celts believe that happened on October 31?

7. Write here a curious information that you discover with this text.

Working with some vocabulary

Let's see how many of these Halloween related pictures you recognise. Match each photo (1-10) to the correct name:

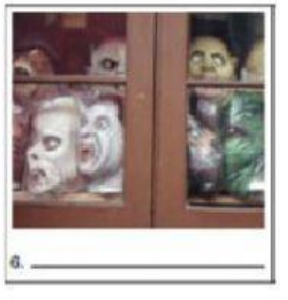

1. _____


2. _____


3. _____


4. _____

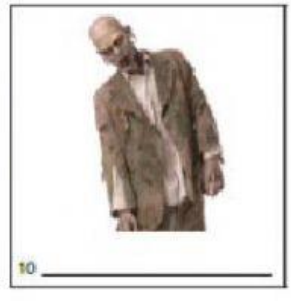

5. _____


6. _____


7. _____


8. _____


9. _____


10. _____

Zombie – Jack-o'-Lantern – Ghost – Moon – Black Cat – Haunted House – Mummy – Werewolf – Pumpkin – Masks