

The word "Halloween" comes from a holiday from the 800s AD, called \_\_\_\_\_. This was the day and evening before \_\_\_\_\_ day, a holy day that was celebrated on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The origins of Halloween go back even further, however. In ancient times, October 31<sup>st</sup> was the eve of the Celtic \_\_\_\_\_. The Celts, who lived over 2000 years ago, were the ancestors of the present-day Irish, Welsh, and Scottish people. On this day, the Celts held the festival of \_\_\_\_\_ in honor of the Celtic lord of the dead. In the evening, Samhain allowed ghosts to walk and mingle with the living, or so the Celts thought. The townspeople baked food all that day, and when night came, they dressed up in animal heads and skins, and attended a great \_\_\_\_\_, set by their priests, the Druids. Hoping that the ghosts would leave peacefully before the new year, the people carried the food they had made to the edge of town and left it for the spirits to find. The celebration of Samhain also marked the end of the harvest season, and the beginning of the \_\_\_\_\_, dark time of year.

cold , Samhain , All Saints' , All Hallows' Eve , New Year , bonfire
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