

What do you know about Halloween? Read this article to find out what people do on this special, scary day!

Instructions

Do the preparation exercise first. Then read the article and do the other exercises.

Preparation

Match the definitions (a-f) with the vocabulary (1-6).

Vocabulary	Definition
1. d. a costume	a. something people usually do at a special time, and have done for many years
2. a lantern	b. an orange vegetable that can be as big as a football
3. a decoration	c. a kind of lamp that has a light, such as a candle, inside a container
4. a pumpkin	d. clothes you wear to look like somebody or something else, often at a party
5. a tradition	e. something nice, especially sweets or chocolate
6. a treat	f. something you put on the walls, etc., to make a place look special

Halloween

Halloween is on 31 October and it's celebrated by many children, teenagers and adults around the world. A lot of the Halloween traditions that we know today began in Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales hundreds of years ago. When Irish people went to live in America in the 1800s, they took their traditions with them, and now Halloween is very popular all over the United States. So what exactly do people do to celebrate Halloween?

Pumpkin lanterns

Many people decorate their homes with pumpkin lanterns. These are sometimes called jack o'lanterns. To make the lantern, cut the top off a pumpkin, empty the inside and cut shapes to make a face with eyes, a nose and a mouth. When you put a candle inside, the light makes the face look scary. Making a pumpkin lantern can be difficult, so it's a good idea to have an adult to help you! Sometimes there are competitions for the scariest pumpkin lantern.

Halloween costumes

A lot of children and teenagers wear costumes for Halloween. In the UK some of the most popular costumes are witches, vampires, skeletons and zombies. Some people buy their costumes, but other people make their own. In some countries, like the USA, there are lots of different costumes, not just scary ones. So there you can see superheroes, princesses and rabbits as well as scarier costumes.

Trick-or-treating

On Halloween evening, lots of children go trick-or-treating. They dress up in Halloween costumes and go to friends' and neighbours' houses or flats. At the front door, they say 'Trick or treat!' They usually get a treat, like sweets or chocolate. Many people put pumpkin lanterns or other Halloween decorations outside their house to show trick-or-treaters that they are welcome.

Halloween parties

Halloween parties are a lot of fun. There are usually orange and black decorations, like pumpkins, spiders and bats. The food is often scary too, for example sandwiches that look like witches' fingers or cakes that look like spiders! Children play Halloween games, listen to music and sometimes watch scary films.

So, now you know what happens on Halloween! Will you celebrate it this year?

Tasks

Task 1

Circle true or false for these sentences.

1. Halloween is on 31 October every year.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> True	False
2. The first Halloween traditions started in the USA.	True	False
3. To make a pumpkin lantern, you cut a face in the pumpkin.	True	False
4. In the USA, children don't always wear scary costumes for Halloween.	True	False
5. Children go trick-or-treating on Halloween morning.	True	False
6. Halloween decorations are usually red and green.	True	False

Task 2

Complete the sentences with words from the box.

treat	party	costumes	games	Trick or treat	pumpkin
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1. Many people decorate their homes with **pumpkin** lanterns.
2. A lot of children wear to look like witches, vampires or skeletons.
3. Children go to their neighbours' houses and say '.....'.
4. The is usually sweets or chocolates.
5. At a Halloween , the food often looks scary.
6. You can play Halloween or watch scary films.

Write and draw

What costume would you like to wear on Halloween or on a different day? Write about it and draw a picture.

