Halloween

1. **WARM-UP:** You will receive a "card" with two *spooky* images on it. You must describe your pictures to your group, but don't say what they are! The goal is to get your group to guess the object without telling them what it is.

What do you already know about Halloween?

2. **READING:** Read the article below and then answer the questions.



What is Halloween?

Halloween is a traditional celebration that began in Europe hundreds of years ago. At that time, some people believed that ghosts of dead people visited living people.

Nowadays it is a special day in several countries around the world, but it is perhaps most popular in Canada and the United States. It always falls on the same date every year: October 31.

Around this time, people like to tell scary stories and watch horror movies. In the evening of October 31, children wear costumes.

These are clothes that make them(1) look like interesting animals, monsters or people. They might be very funny or they might be quite scary.

The costumes often include a face mask or some make-up painted on the person's face. For example, on Halloween you might see a dinosaur or an elephant, a witch with a tall, black hat, or maybe even a ghost.

Children then go from house to house and ask for candy by saying, "Trick or treat?" Many older kids and adults also put on costumes and go to Halloween parties.

Jack-o'lanterns are very common during this time. A lot of people like to put them(2) in their windows or just outside their doors. They are pumpkins with lights inside and faces cut into them.

In Mexico, a similar traditional celebration is called 'The Day of the Dead' – family and friends come together for three days to pray for and remember people who have died.

Most people, both young and old, have a lot of fun on Halloween. **Happy Halloween** everyone!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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HOW MUCH DO YOU UNDERSTAND? Write 'T' (True) or 'F' (False) next to each statement.

a. _____ The paragraph describes the best costumes to wear at Halloween.
b. _____ Halloween is popular in many places in the world.
c. _____ People usually celebrate Halloween in the morning or in the afternoon.
d. _____ Elephants like to wear tall, black hats.
e. _____ Pumpkins are very common during Halloween.
f. _____ Most people are afraid of witches during Halloween, so they stay at home

READING COMPREHENSION: Select the correct answer to the statement.

1. The article says in Canada and the U.S. dead people visit children.
   a. true
   b. false
   c. Yes, but only on Halloween.

2. How long does Halloween last for?
   a. one day
   b. two days
   c. three days

3. Halloween is more popular in Canada than in the United States.
   a. true
   b. false
   c. It doesn't say.

4. What does the word 'them' (1) refer to near the beginning of the article?
   a. costumes
   b. clothes
   c. children

5. Why do many people wear costumes on Halloween?
   a. They want to have fun.
   b. They are afraid of ghosts.
   c. They like to watch horror movies.

6. Halloween is a celebration only for children.
   a. true
   b. false
   c. It doesn't say.

7. According to the article, where do children go to get candy on Halloween?
   a. other people's homes
   b. Mexico
   c. Halloween parties

8. What do most pumpkins have during Halloween?
   a. faces
   b. candy
   c. windows

9. What does the word 'them' (2) refer to near the end of the article?
   a. children
   b. jack-o'lanterns
   c. doors

10. Most people have lots of fun during Mexico's 'Day of the Dead'.
    a. true
    b. false
    c. It doesn't say.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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3. **SPEAKING:** Ask and answer the following questions with your classmates.

- Is Halloween an important day in Brazil? What does it mean to you?
- What is your favorite kind of candy or treat? What kind of treat would you be disappointed to receive?
- If some kids come to your house on Halloween, and you don't give them any candy, what do you think they might do to you or your house?
- Have you ever been to a Halloween party or some other kind of costume party? What did you dress as? What happened at the party?
- These days, people don't just wear scary costumes. They wear costumes based on many things including popular news stories and politicians. Is this against the original scary spirit of Halloween?
- Many Halloween costumes for adults seem sexy or overly revealing. Why are these kinds of costumes popular?
- What is your all-time favorite scary monster or creature of the night?
- Do you like horror movies? Why or why not? If so, what's your favorite scary movie?
- Have you ever tried carving a jack o'lantern? How did it go?
- Some people decorate their house to celebrate Halloween. Do you decorate your home to celebrate any special days?
- Are you scared of the dark? If not, what advice can you give to people who feel scared when the lights are out?
- Celebrating Halloween has origins in remembering the dead and confronting the concept of death with humor. How do you feel about death?
- One tradition on Halloween is the telling of scary stories. Do you know any scary stories?

LIVEWORKSHEETS