

THE HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

We celebrate Halloween on 31st October. Today it's a popular festival in the USA and in lots of other countries around the world, but did you know that a group of people called the Celts started the tradition of Halloween in Ireland about 2,000 years ago?



Halloween was originally a festival for the dead, called Samhain. The word means 'summer's end' and it was a time of the year when people started to prepare for the winter. Some people believed that ghosts came out on this day and they lit bonfires to protect themselves against these ghosts.



Soon, children started to dress up as ghosts. People gave the children treats to stop them from playing tricks, such as knocking on the door and running away. In the past these treats were things like autumn fruit, nuts and occasionally coins. These days, not many children play tricks, but they dress up and adults give them sweets.



Making jack-o'-lanterns is a tradition that started in Ireland. People put candles inside jack-o'-lanterns and placed them outside their houses for protection. Traditionally, people used potatoes and other vegetables to make these lanterns but when thousands of Irish people moved to the USA, they started using pumpkins instead. It's much easier to cut a scary design into a pumpkin than into a potato!

1. Choose True or False.

1 Halloween started in the USA.  

2 Samhain was celebrated in winter.  

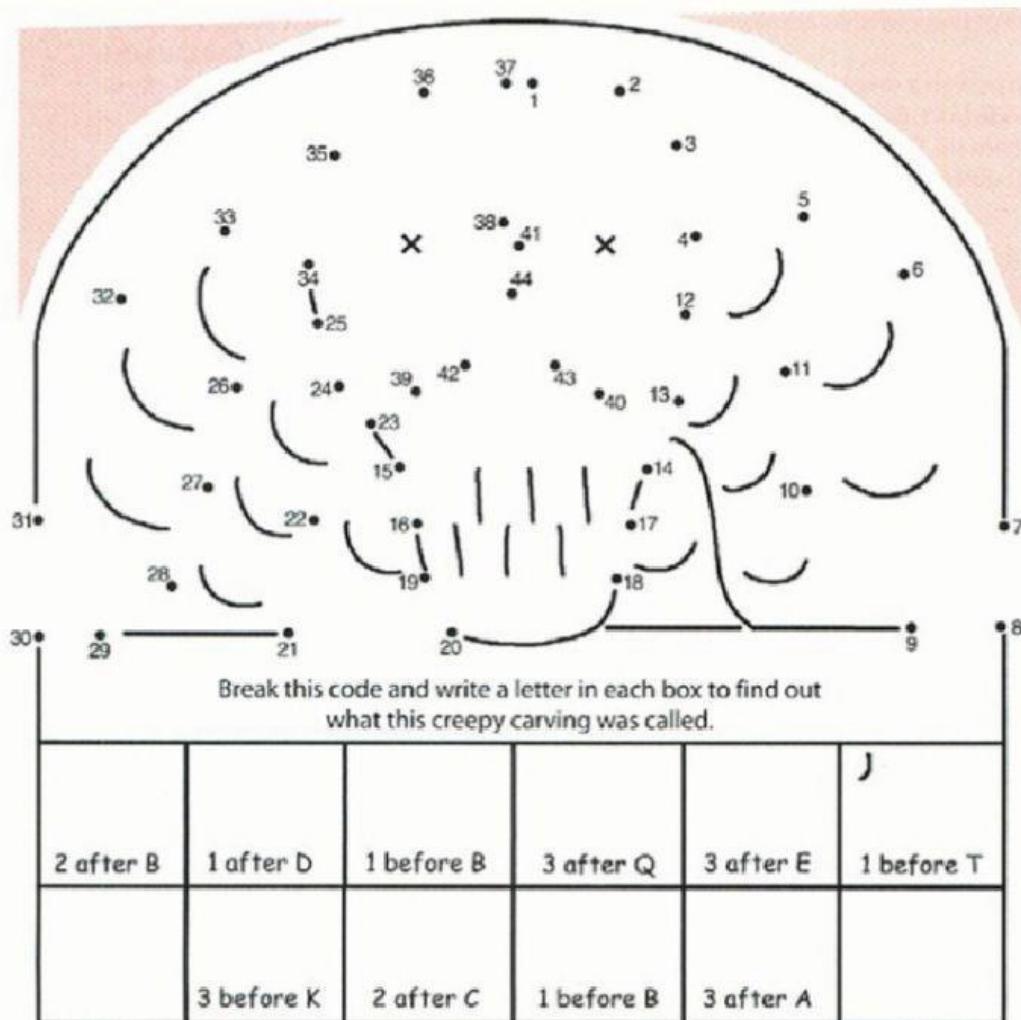
3 Bonfires were typical at Halloween.  

4 In the past, adults gave children treats so they didn't play any tricks.  

5 Today, people give children fruit, nuts and coins when they trick or treat.  

6 The first jack-o'-lanterns were made from potatoes.  

2. Creepy Carving



3. Watch a video and complete the sentence.



We celebrate Halloween on the

(a) 28th of October (b) 31st of October (c) 1st of November

In order to create a jack-o'-lantern we need to cut out the following parts:

(a) eyes, nose & mouth (b) eyes, ears & brows (c) mouth, hair & teeth

Halloween decorations include

(a) reindeers & red hats (b) chicks & eggs (c) witches, bats & black cats

On Halloween night, children wear

(a) scary costumes (b) uniforms (c) ordinary clothes

On Halloween night, children knock on doors and say

(a) Happy Holidays! (b) Trick-or-treat!

HALLOWEEN