

HALLOWEEN.

A. Before reading the text below say whether you think the following are true or false.

1. Halloween is an American Festival. T F
2. It celebrates the dead. T F
3. People wear Halloween disguises for fun. T F
4. Years ago a bonfire was lit at Hallowe'en. T F
5. It is the biggest festival in America. T F
6. The traditional colours of Halloween are black and white. T F
7. Adults give money to children at Halloween. T F

TRICK OR TREAT

According to google, Halloween is celebrated in some 180 countries around the world. It is a Celtic festival that was first celebrated in Ireland over a thousand years ago. The festival marked the end of the bright part of the year and the beginning of winter.

The Celts believed that on this day the dead and various monsters could walk among the living. They left food out at night for their dead ancestors to eat. They lit a bonfire to keep monsters away. They also had many fortune telling games and liked to tell ghost stories. They wore disguises so that monsters would think they were monsters too. That way they wouldn't be taken away to the underworld. They also had many fortune telling games and liked to tell ghost stories.

In Ireland a traditional cake called Barmbrack is eaten at Hallowe'en. In the 1800's Irish and Scottish emigrants brought the festival to America. It is the third biggest festival in the United States. Thanks to the American influence the colours black and orange are now associated with Hallowe'en.

Nowadays children often knock on doors and ask for sweets. They say, "Trick or treat". If the homeowner doesn't give them sweets, they play a trick on him. People often carve a Jack o' Lantern. This tradition is in memory of a man called Jack who sold his soul to the devil. (But this is another story for another day)

B. Label the pictures below.

