Read the text and choose the correct title for each paragraph:

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. In early America, the Native Americans and the first Europeans celebrated the end of the harvest, but not Halloween. 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.

The Celts were people who lived in ancient Britain and Ireland from about 1000 BC and they celebrated a festival called 'Samhain'. Samhain was celebrated on 1 November because that was the end of summer and harvest time (which was associated with food and life) and the beginning of winter (which they associated with death). Samhain was the time for ghosts to return to earth for a day. People lit a big fire, wore special clothes made of animal skin and hoped to be safe from the ghosts and the winter. Have you ever wondered why Halloween colours are orange and black? Orange is related to harvests and black is related to death.

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. This tradition came from the Celts, who carved faces into vegetables like turnips and potatoes to scare the ghosts and make them go away. Irish people who came to live in the United States found pumpkins much easier to carve, and the tradition became the one we see today.

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. We can trace this tradition back to the Celts, who were afraid of the ghosts that came on Samhain. If they went outside after dark, they covered their faces with masks. They hoped any ghosts they met would think they were ghosts too and would leave them alone.

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. Nowadays going trick-or-treating is so popular in the USA that a quarter of the sweets for the year are sold for this one day!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS