

# The Legend of "Stingy Jack"



People have been making jack-o'-lanterns at Halloween for centuries. The practice **originated** from an Irish myth about a man nicknamed "Stingy Jack." According to the story, Stingy Jack invited the Devil to have a drink with him. True to his name, Stingy Jack didn't want to pay for his drink, so he **convinced** the Devil to turn himself into a coin that Jack could use to buy their drinks. Once the Devil did so, Jack decided to keep the money and put it into his pocket next to a silver cross, which prevented the Devil from changing back into his original form. Jack **eventually** freed the Devil, under the condition that he would not bother Jack for one year and that, should Jack die, he would not **claim** his soul. The next year, Jack again tricked the Devil into climbing into a tree to pick a piece of fruit. While he was up in the tree, Jack **carved** a sign of the cross into the tree's bark so that the Devil could not come down until the Devil promised Jack not to bother him for ten more years.

Soon after, Jack died. As the legend goes, God would not allow such an **unsavory** figure into heaven. The Devil, upset by the trick Jack had played on him and keeping his word not to claim his soul, would not allow Jack into hell. He sent Jack off into the dark night with only a burning coal to light his way. Jack put the coal into a carved-out turnip and has been **roaming** the Earth with ever since. The Irish began to refer to this ghostly figure as "Jack of the Lantern," and then, simply "Jack O' Lantern."

In Ireland and Scotland, people began to make their own versions of Jack's lanterns by **carving** scary faces into turnips or potatoes and placing them into windows or near doors to frighten away Stingy Jack and other wandering evil spirits. In England, large beets are used. **Immigrants** from these countries brought the jack-o'-lantern tradition with them when they came to the United States. They soon found that pumpkins, a fruit native to America, make perfect jack-o'-lanterns.

[Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/halloween/jack-o-lantern-history>]

| A. Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? |                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                                                      | Jack-o'-lanterns first appeared in Ireland.                                                        |
| 2                                                      | Jack didn't want to pay for the drinks because he was mean with money.                             |
| 3                                                      | Jack had a silver cross in his pocket to prevent the Devil from taking his soul.                   |
| 4                                                      | The Devil had to promise not to bother Jack for ten years before he could come down from the tree. |
| 5                                                      | When he died, Jack wasn't allowed into heaven because he was a bad person.                         |
| 6                                                      | The Devil gave Jack a candle to light his way in the dark.                                         |
| 7                                                      | The original jack-o'-lanterns were carved from pumpkins.                                           |
| 8                                                      | People placed them near doors to keep evil spirits away.                                           |
| 9                                                      | The jack-o'-lantern tradition was introduced to England by native Americans.                       |
|                                                        |                                                                                                    |

| B. Match the words on the left to their definitions on the right (write the correct <u>letter</u> in each box). |                  |   |                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                                                                                                               | originate (v)    | a | to say that (something) belongs to you                                |
| 2                                                                                                               | convince (v)     | b | to go to different places without having a particular purpose or plan |
| 3                                                                                                               | eventually (adv) | c | not considered morally acceptable                                     |
| 4                                                                                                               | claim (v)        | d | to appear for the first time                                          |
| 5                                                                                                               | carve (v)        | e | a person who comes to a country to live there                         |
| 6                                                                                                               | unsavory (adj)   | f | to persuade someone to do something                                   |
| 7                                                                                                               | roam (v)         | g | to write something on a surface by cutting into it                    |
| 8                                                                                                               | immigrant (n)    | h | in the end                                                            |



<http://areti-aroundtheworldinenglish.blogspot.gr/>

