THE HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

More than two thousand years ago the Celts who lived in Ireland celebrated a special festival called Samhain on 1st November. It was their New Year celebration. Later 1st November became known as All Saints Day or All Hallows. The evening before All Hallows became known as Hallows Eve and later Halloween or Hallowe'en.

The Celts believed that evil spirits would come out to harm them on Hallows Eve so they used to dress up in costumes to look like ghosts so that the evil spirits would think they were like them and not hurt them.

People used to make lanterns by carving turnips and putting candles inside them. When many Irish people emigrated to America to escape the potato famine of 1846, they took the tradition of Halloween with them, except that it was easier to find pumpkins rather than turnips and this is what Americans used to make their jack-o'-lanterns.

Halloween is not a public holiday. It's just a day when people have lots of fun.

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

DRESSING UP

People choose costumes to dress up as **ghosts**, **vampires**, **witches** and many other things.

CARVING JACK-O'-LANTERNS

People choose a big pumpkin. They empty it and then carve holes for the mouth, nose and eyes. A candle is then put inside and the pumpkin is often put in front of the house to frighten off evil spirits

TRICK OR TREATING

Children go out knocking on their neighbours doors to ask for **sweets**. The sweets are the treat and if they don't get any they might play a trick on you!

PICTIONARY

IRELAND

EVIL SPIRIT

COSTUMES

GHOST

TURNIP

CANDLE

PUMPKING

JACK-O'LANTERN

PICTIONARY

ENGLISH	CATALAN
Believe	Creure
Evil	Malèfic
Spirits	Esperits
Come out	Aparèixer
Harm	Danyar
Dress up	Disfressar-se

ENGLISH	CATALAN
Costume	Disfressa
Hurt	Ferir
Carve	Esculpir
Emigrate	Emigrar
Famine	Fam
Public holiday	Dia festiu

CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER

1. Who celebrated Samhain more than two thousand years ago?

- a) The Celts celebrated Samhain more than two thousand years ago.
- b) The Americans celebrated Samhain more than two thousand years ago.

2. According to the Celts, what appeared on Hallows Eve?

- a) They believed that ghosts, skeletons, and Jack-o'-lanterns would come out to scare them.
- b) They believed that evil spirits would come out to harm them.

3. What did the Celts do so that the evil spirits would not harm them?

- a) They used to dress up in costumes to look like ghosts.
- b) They used to go to the cemetery.

4. Why did Irish people emigrate to America in 1846?

- a) They emigrated to America to take their Halloween tradition to another country.
- b) They emigrated to America to escape the potato famine.

5. Today, what do Americans use to make Jack-o'-lanterns?

- a) Americans use pumpkins to make Jack-o'-lanterns.
- b) Americans use turnips to make Jack-o'-lanterns.

6. Where do Americans usually put their Jack-o'-lanterns?

- a) They usually put their Jack-o'-lanterns in front of the house.
- b) They usually put their Jack-o'l-anterns in the bedroom.

7. What do children ask for when they go trick-or-treating?

- a) Children ask for money and chocolates.
- b) Children ask for sweets.