

Halloween



Reading Part 6 Introduction

October 31st is Halloween and it (1) _____ celebrated in many countries around the world. What are the origins of this spooky day and how (2) _____ people celebrate today? Read the article and find (3) _____!

(4) _____ you think of Halloween, you probably think of pumpkin lanterns, fancy-dress costumes and children asking for sweets. And if you think of a country that celebrates Halloween, you probably think of the United States first. Americans and Canadians (5) _____ adopted Halloween in a big way, (6) _____ did you know that Halloween traditions actually come from Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales?

Reading Part 5 The origins of Halloween

The Celts were people who lived in (7) _____ 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 (8) _____ with food and life) and the beginning of winter (which represented death for them). Have you ever (9) _____ why Halloween colours are orange and black? Orange is related to harvests and black is related to death.

Samhain was the time for ghosts to (10) _____ to earth for a day. People lit a big fire, (11) _____ special clothes made of animal skin and hoped to be safe from the ghosts and the winter.

In early America, the Native Americans and the first Europeans celebrated the end of the harvest, but not Halloween. When many Irish people went to live in America in the 1800s, they (12) _____ their Halloween traditions with them and Halloween became popular throughout the country.

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|------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| (7) | A. old | B. elderly | C. ancient | D. aged |
| (8) | A. related | B. associated | C. originated | D. combined |
| (9) | A. questioned | B. thought | C. wondered | D. doubted |
| (10) | A. return | B. arrive | C. visit | D. enter |
| (11) | A. dressed | B. put | C. got | D. wore |
| (12) | A. carried | B. brought | C. delivered | D. transported |

Reading Part 4

Pumpkin lanterns Many people make pumpkin lanterns to decorate their homes at Halloween. They remove the inside of the pumpkin, cut shapes for the eyes, nose and mouth and place a candle in the empty pumpkin to make a scary face. (13) . 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.

Halloween costumes People of all ages dress up on Halloween. In the UK some of the most popular costumes include witches, vampires, ghosts, skeletons, zombies and monsters. We can trace this tradition back to the Celts, who were afraid of the ghosts that came on Samhain. (14) . They hoped any ghosts they met would think they were ghosts too and would leave them alone.

(15) . This is because in the late 19th century, people tried to make Halloween less about ghosts and more about celebrating the season with a party for neighbours and family.

Trick-or-treating On Halloween children knock on their neighbours' doors and ask for 'treats', like sweets or chocolates. (16) . When Irish people went to live in America, they continued this tradition and it became trick-or-treating. 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!

Around the world Catholic people around the world celebrate All Saints Day on November 1st and All Souls Day on November 2nd. On these days, people remember relatives, friends and other people who have died. (17) . Nowadays, more and more people around the world are celebrating both the Day of the Dead and Halloween. Will you celebrate this year?

- A) If they went outside after dark, they covered their faces with masks.
- B) In Mexico, people celebrate the Day of the Dead at this time and many dress up as skeletons, and paint skulls on their faces.
- C) This is why they use pumpkins to make Jack-o-Lanterns on Halloween.
- D) North Americans wear all kinds of Halloween costumes and not just scary things like witches and ghosts.
- E) In ancient Britain, Celtic people went from house to house dressed in costumes, asking for gifts and food for the Samhain festival.
- F) This tradition came from the Celts, who carved faces into vegetables like turnips and potatoes to scare the ghosts and make them go away.
- G) Although, children probably dressed as ghosts to scare spirits away.
- H) Nowadays, Halloween celebrations are becoming more and more popular in other countries around the world.