HALLOWEEN HISTORY

Watch the video "Halloween Animated History" by Fiveminded.

1 LET'S WARM UP

Task fi: Discuss the following questions as a class.

a. Have you ever celebrated Halloween? If so, how?
b. If not, do you know anyone who has celebrated it?
c. Are there any special Halloween traditions or activities in your culture?
d. Do you have a favourite Halloween costume or character you like to dress up as?

Task 2: Match the words from the box to the correct pictures.

• gravestone	• jack o'lantern	• devil
• broomstick	• werewolf	• ghosts
• grim reaper	• pumpkin	• a mummy

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____

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2 HALLOWEEN ANIMATED HISTORY

Task fi: Match the words from the video (fi-6) to their synonyms (a-f).

1. prank	a. to respect
2. to honour	b. practical joke
3. costumes	c. tradition
4. harm	d. outfits
5. immigrating	e. hurt
6. custom	f. relocating

Task 2: Complete the quotes from the video using the words from the box.

dead	evolved	spirits	honour	hurt

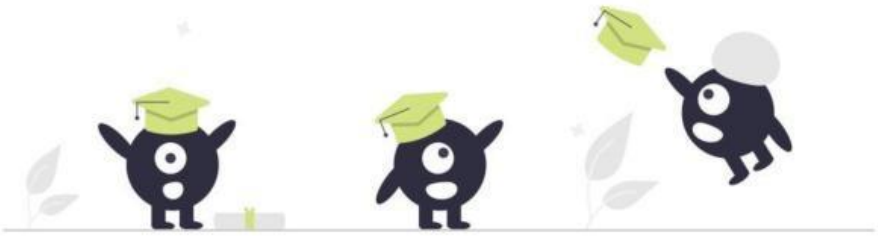
Like many other holidays, Halloween has _____and changed throughout history and is a mix of pagan and Christian tradition.

Celts lived in what is now Ireland. November 1st was their new year's day, and they believed that the night before the new year, on October the 31st, was a time when the living and the _____came together.

The Christian church named November the first All Saints Day, also called All Hallows. This was a special holy day to _____the saints and other people who died for their religion.

Like the Celts, the Europeans of that time also believed that the _____of the dead would visit the earth on Halloween.

They worried that evil spirits would cause problems or _____them. So on that night, people wore costumes that look like ghosts or other evil creatures.



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immigrating	harm	prank	jack-o'-lanterns	knock on

They thought if they dressed like that, the spirits would think they were also dead and not _____them.

The tradition of Halloween was carried to America by the _____ Europeans. Some of the customs changed a little, though. For example, on Halloween in Europe, some people would carry lanterns made from turnips.

In America, pumpkins were more common, so people began putting candles inside them and using them as lanterns. That is why you see _____today.

These days, Halloween is not usually considered a religious holiday. It is primarily a fun day for children. They go from house to house, asking for treats. They _____ the doors and say, "trick or treat."

The owner of each house gives candy or something special to each trick-or-treater. If they don't, they may be on the receiving end of a _____.

Task 3: Complete the quotes from the video using the words from the box.

1. Which two belief systems does Halloween mix the traditions of?
2. Where did the Celts originate from?
3. What did the Celts believe happened on October 31st?
4. What were the original names for the night before November 1st?
5. Why did people in Europe and the Celts wear costumes on Halloween?
6. How did the tradition of Halloween come to America?
7. Which Halloween tradition changed a little when it arrived in America?
8. What are pumpkins used for on Halloween?
9. What do children say when they go to people's houses on Halloween?
10. What might happen if people don't give treats on Halloween?

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3 COMMERCIALISATION OF HALLOWEEN

Task fi: Read and complete the text by using the word from the box.

costumes	commercialised	spending	flooding	capitalise

Halloween, once a simple and spooky celebration of the supernatural, has transformed over the years, evolving from traditional events into a highly _____holiday. This change has been driven by a combination of cultural, economic, and marketing forces, transforming Halloween into a major consumer event.

One of the most visible signs of Halloween's commercialisation is the huge amount of _____ and decorations. Retailers now stock their shelves with many ready-made costumes, for all ages and interests. From classic ghosts and witches to the latest pop culture figures, these costumes have become big business. The demand for decorations has also increased dramatically, contributing to the holiday's commercial appeal.

Trick-or-treating, a tradition once focused on homemade treats and neighbourly connections, has evolved into a major marketing opportunity. Candy companies have turned Halloween into one of their most profitable seasons, _____the market with specially themed candies and chocolates. In addition, the rise of commercialised haunted houses and theme park attractions during the Halloween season highlights the holiday's transformation into a lucrative entertainment industry.

Marketing plays a central role in this commercialisation. Halloween-themed marketing campaigns begin well before the holiday itself, creating a sense of urgency and consumer desire. Brands and companies _____ on the fear factor, appealing to consumers' desire for novelty and excitement.

While many still enjoy the traditions and creativity of Halloween, there's no denying that the holiday's commercialisation has reshaped its focus, turning it into a time of increased consumer _____, marketing, and mass-produced costumes and decorations.

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Task 2: Match the words from the article (fi-8) to their synonyms (a-f).

1. spooky	a. significantly
2. dramatically	b. profitable
3. reshaped	c. is essential
4. lucrative	d. a pressing need
5. plays a central role	e. manufactured in bulk
6. a sense of urgency	f. creepy
7. novelty	g. reconfigured
8. mass-produced	h. newness

Task 3: Discuss the following questions as a class.

a. What do you understand to be the difference between traditional Halloween celebrations and commercialised ones?

b. How does the commercialisation of Halloween influence your costume choices?

c. Have you noticed any changes in trick-or-treating due to commercialisation?

d. How do companies capitalise on the holiday?

e. Do Halloween marketing campaigns affect your shopping habits for the holiday?

f. Have you ever been to a haunted house or Halloween theme park? Do you think these attractions are positives or negatives of commercialisation?

g. Is it possible to balance the modern day Halloween with its original spirit? Explain.

h. Do you make your own Halloween costumes, decorations and activities, or go for store-bought products?

i. Discuss how Halloween commercialisation, through mass-produced items, could have a negative impact on the environment.

j. In what ways does Halloween have a positive effect on the economy?

k. What do you think Halloween's commercialisation says about a country's culture?

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4 PICTURE ROUND

Task fi: Study the pictures below. What can you see?

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

Task 2: Discuss the pictures using the questions below:

a. Give a title to each picture based on what you can see.

b. If you had an unlimited budget, how would you decorate your house at Halloween?

c. Are there any Halloween decorations that you think are particularly cool or uncool?

d. If you could wear any Halloween costume this year, what would it be?

e. What costumes are particularly common during Halloween in your country?

f. Describe the best Halloween party you have been to.

g. If you had an unlimited budget, what would your perfect Halloween be like?

h. Why do you think watching scary movies around Halloween is popular?

i. Do you have a favourite scary movie? Describe it.

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5 RIDDLES: HALLOWEEN

Task: Can you figure out the answers to the following Halloween-based riddles?

1. I am a body with a leg, an arm and a head, but I don't have flesh or eyeballs. How is that possible?

2. I am wrapped, but I am not a gift. I am kept neatly in a chamber, and archaeologists find me as a great treasure. What am I?

3. Some people believe in me and others don't. At night, I roam around, and sometimes I float. If you hear a troubled noise coming from the ground, go run and hide from my creepy sound. What am I?

4. I'm tall when I'm young, I'm short when I'm old, and every Halloween, I stand up inside jack-o'-lanterns. What am I?

5. People are scared of me. When you have more of me, you will see less. What am I?

6. A man was driving with his son in his car. They got into an accident and were in critical condition. Two ambulances from two different hospitals arrive. The man is taken to one hospital and his son to a different one. The doctor walks into the operating room, looks at the little boy, and says, "I can't operate on this boy. He is my son." How can this be?

6 JOKES: HALLOWEEN

Do you find the following quotes and jokes funny?

Proficiency in language includes the ability to understand and use humour effectively. Can you explain the humour in the following Halloween-related examples?

a. What's a skeleton's least favourite room in the house? The living room!

b. Why do vampires always seem so calm? Because they have no blood pressure.

c. What do you call a group of witches that live together? Broommates.

d. What do you call a skeleton that won't work? Lazy bones.

e. How do you make a witch scratch? Take away the 'w.'

f. What do you get when you mix a vampire with a snowman? Frostbite

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7 IDIOMS RELATED TO HALLOWEEN

Task fi: Match the idioms to the pictures.

to play devil's advocate	dead on my feet	dead ringer	bury the hatchet

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

Task 2: Match the idioms to their definitions.

a. _____: means being extremely tired and exhausted.

b. _____: means to argue from the opposing side to stimulate discussion.

c. _____: is about making peace and resolving past conflicts.

d. _____: describes someone who looks exactly like another person.

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Task 3: Change the sentences to incorporate an idiom. Use the example as a guide.

- After working for 16 hours, John was extremely tired.
- After working for 16 hours, John was dead on his feet.

1. After a long day at work and a sleepless night, John felt utterly exhausted and struggled to keep his eyes open.
2. After years of arguments, Jane and Mike ultimately decided to make friends and leave their disagreements behind.
3. During the debate, Sarah decided to present an opposing view and argue in favour of the contrary perspective to create a more comprehensive discussion.
4. The actor looks exactly like the historical figure he is portraying, adding a high degree of realism to the film.

Task 4: Complete the sentences using an idiom, you may need to change the tense.

to play devil's advocate	dead on my feet	dead ringer	bury the hatchet

a. After years of bitter legal battles, the two companies finally decided to _____ _____ and collaborate on a groundbreaking project.

b. In the meeting, I decided _____, arguing against our proposed project just to explore potential flaws.

c. After working for 14 hours at the hospital, I was _____ and couldn't wait to get some rest.

d. He's a _____for his grandfather. When he showed us an old family photo, it was hard to tell who was who.

Task 5: Discuss the following questions as a class.

1. Is it valuable to play devil's advocate in a decision-making process? Explain.
2. Describe a time you felt dead on your feet.
3. Are any of your friends or family a dead ringer for a celebrity?
4. Have you ever had to bury the hatchet in a professional conflict? Explain.

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HOMEWORK

1 HALLOWEEN VOCABULARY

Task fi: Match the Halloween vocabulary in the box to the correct pictures.

bonfire	graveyard	spider web	skull	vampire	bat
witch	zombie	haunted house	cauldron	skeleton	wizard

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

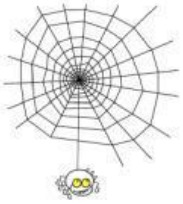
4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____



9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

Task 2: Create fi2 sentences using each of the words provided.

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2 THE HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

Task fi: Read the article then complete the writing exercise on the following page.

The history of Halloween is a diverse mix of ancient traditions, religious influences, and cultural changes that have shaped the holiday we know today. This celebration, which falls on October 31st, has its roots in Celtic and Christian traditions, but has evolved into a global, non-religious event.

Halloween can be traced back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, which was celebrated around November 1st. Samhain marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. The Celts believed that on the night before Samhain, the boundary between the living and the dead became blurred, allowing spirits to return to Earth. To stop these restless spirits, people lit bonfires and wore costumes made of animal skins.

When the Roman Empire conquered Celtic lands, they merged their own traditions with Samhain. This created two Roman festivals, Feralia and Pomona, which honoured the dead and the goddess of fruit and trees, respectively. These elements began to mix, creating modern Halloween.

Christianity played an important role in shaping Halloween. In the 7th century, Pope Boniface IV established All Saints' Day, a day to honour Christian saints. The night before became All Hallows' Eve, which eventually evolved into Halloween.

During the Middle Ages, Halloween evolved into a holiday with elements of the supernatural and the spooky. Superstitions and traditions such as costume-wearing and "souling" (the practice of going door-to-door for food in exchange for prayers for the dead) became more common.

Halloween made its way to the United States in the 19th century, primarily through Irish and Scottish immigrants. Over time, it began to include elements from various European traditions. By the early 20th century, Halloween had become a community-centred holiday, with parades, parties, and the familiar practice of trick-or-treating.

The commercialisation of Halloween in the mid-20th century, with the mass production of costumes and decorations, transformed it into the family-friendly celebration we know today. The holiday also spread to other countries, evolving in different ways, often incorporating local customs.

In recent times, Halloween has had a resurgence of interest in its historical and cultural roots. People have embraced the holiday's pagan, Celtic, and mediaeval origins, blending them with modern celebrations. As a result, Halloween has become a diverse holiday, where ancient traditions and modern customs coexist.

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2 ARTICLE BASED EXERCISES

Task fi: Define the word and phrases, then use them in your own example sentences.

1. to have its roots in.
2. to be traced back to.
3. blurred.
4. spooky.
5. commercialisation.
6. to incorporate.
7. to blend.
8. to coexist.

Task 2: On a separate piece of paper, write detailed answers to the following questions.

a. What is the origin of Halloween, and which ancient festival is it linked to?

b. What did the Celts believe about the spirits during Samhain?

c. What role did the Roman Empire play in shaping Halloween?

d. How did Christianity influence the development of Halloween?

e. During which historical period did Halloween start to incorporate supernatural elements?

f. How did Halloween make its way to the United States?

g. What were some of the traditions associated with Halloween in the 20th century?

h. How did the commercialisation of Halloween in the mid-20th century change the holiday?

i. How has Halloween evolved in other countries?

j. What has been the recent resurgence of interest in Halloween's historical and cultural roots?

k. Write a short summary of the Halloween traditions in your country, considering how they have changed over recent years.

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