



HALLOWEEN

 Activities



# Halloween: Origins and customs A2



Halloween is celebrated on October 31st every year. The holiday began over 2,000 years ago with the Celtic festival of Samhain. The Celts, who lived in Ireland and Britain, believed that on this night, the line between the world of the living and that of the dead was very thin. They thought that spirits of the dead could come back to visit. To keep themselves safe, people lit large bonfires and wore costumes to scare away the ghosts.

In the 8th century, the church introduced All Saints' Day on November 1st, and the night before became known as "All Hallows' Eve", which later became Halloween.

Today, Halloween is a fun time for children and adults. People dress up in costumes, go trick-or-treating to get candy, and make pumpkins into jack-o'-lanterns. There are also Halloween parties with spooky decorations and games because people think it is fun to be scared on Halloween.



**After reading the text, decide if the sentences are True or False:**

1. Halloween is celebrated on November 1st.
2. The Celtic festival of Samhain is over 2,000 years old.
3. The Celts believed that spirits of the dead could visit the living on Halloween.
4. People used to wear costumes to welcome the spirits.
5. All Saints' Day was introduced by the church in the 8th century.
6. The night before All Saints' Day was called All Hallows' Eve.
7. Halloween is now a time for both children and adults to have fun.
8. People make pumpkins into jack-o'-lanterns to decorate their homes.
9. Trick-or-treating involves asking for candy from neighbors.



**Match the words with their meanings:**

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. <b>Samhain</b>           | ...special clothes worn for Halloween               |
| 2. <b>Spirits</b>           | ...the name of the Celtic festival for Halloween    |
| 3. <b>Costumes</b>          | ...pumpkins cut and used for decoration             |
| 4. <b>Bonfires</b>          | ...asking for candy from neighbors while dressed up |
| 5. <b>Trick-or-treating</b> | ...things used to make a place look festive         |
| 6. <b>Jack-o'-lanterns</b>  | ...souls of people who have died                    |
| 7. <b>Decorations</b>       | ...large fires made to keep away ghosts             |

**What do you like doing on Halloween? Is there something you don't like about this holiday? What are your plans for this year?**



## Answers for the text

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. False
5. True
6. True
7. True
8. True
9. True
10. False

## Answers for the vocabulary exercise

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. <b>Samhain</b>           | 3..special clothes worn for Halloween                |
| 2. <b>Spirits</b>           | 1...the name of the Celtic festival for Halloween    |
| 3. <b>Costumes</b>          | 6...pumpkins cut and used for decoration             |
| 4. <b>Bonfires</b>          | 5...asking for candy from neighbors while dressed up |
| 5. <b>Trick-or-treating</b> | 7...things used to make a place look festive         |
| 6. <b>Jack-o'-lanterns</b>  | 2...souls of people who have died                    |
| 7. <b>Decorations</b>       | 4...large fires made to keep away ghosts             |



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