

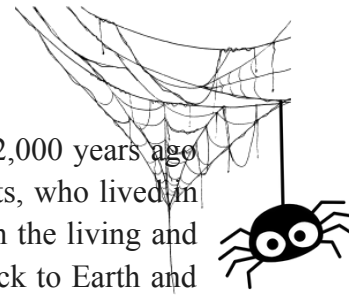


HALLOWEEN

 **Activities**



The Origins and customs of Halloween B1



Halloween is celebrated on October 31st every year. The tradition began over 2,000 years ago with the ancient Celtic festival called Samhain (pronounced "sow-in"). The Celts, who lived in Ireland, the UK, and northern France, believed that on this day, the line between the living and the dead became thin. They thought that spirits of dead relatives could come back to Earth and visit the living.



People lit large bonfires and wore costumes to scare away ghosts. They also made offerings of food to the spirits to keep them happy. In the 8th century, Pope Gregory III made November 1st a day to honor all saints, which became known as All Saints' Day. The night before was called "All Hallows' Eve," which later became Halloween.

When people from Europe moved to the United States, they brought their Halloween traditions with them. Over time, Halloween changed and became more about fun. It is a time when people enjoy dressing up in spooky costumes and decorating their homes in creative ways. The most popular decoration is the jack-o'-lantern, a pumpkin carved with scary faces and lit with candles inside. Many homes also use fake cobwebs, skeletons, bats, and ghosts to create a spooky atmosphere. Some even put tombstones and skeletons in their yards to make it look like a haunted house.

Children love Halloween because they can dress up as their favorite characters, like witches, monsters, or superheroes. They go from house to house saying "trick or treat" and receiving candy from their neighbors. Another Halloween custom is throwing parties with games like bobbing for apples and costume contests. Some people also tell scary stories or visit haunted houses for a thrilling experience.

Halloween is a mix of ancient traditions and modern customs, making it a special and exciting holiday for many people around the world.



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

1. Halloween is celebrated on November 1st every year.
2. The festival of Samhain started more than 2,000 years ago.
3. The Celts believed that spirits could return to Earth on Halloween.
4. Bonfires were lit to welcome friendly ghosts during Samhain.
5. People wore costumes during Samhain to keep spirits away.
6. "All Hallows' Eve" is another name for Halloween.
7. Pope Gregory III moved Halloween to November 1st
8. Europeans brought Halloween traditions to the United States.
9. Trick-or-treating is an old Celtic tradition.
10. Halloween today is celebrated in many countries around the world.





Match the words with their meanings:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Festival | ...A very large outdoor fire |
| 2. Spirit | ...A special tradition or way of doing something |
| 3. Bonfire | ...A practice where children ask for candy |
| 4. Costume | ...Clothes worn to look like something else |
| 5. Ancient | ... Show respect or admiration for someone |
| 6. Honor | ...Something given as a gift, especially to spirits or gods |
| 7. Ghost | ...A celebration or special event |
| 8. Trick-or-treating | ...A supernatural being from a person who has died |
| 9. Custom | ...Another word for a ghost or supernatural being |
| 10. Offerings | ...Very old, from a long time ago |



Answer the questions that follow:

**How do you usually spend this holiday? Do you have a favourite activity?
Is there anything you find annoying about Halloween?**

What is your favourite costume for Halloween and why?

Can you give some advice to those who go "trick-or-tricking"? What can they do to keep safe?



How are you planning to spend Halloween this year?



The Origins and customs of Halloween

Teacher's BI

Answers for the text

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

Answers for the vocabulary exercise

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Festival | 3...A very large outdoor fire |
| 2. Spirit | 9...A special tradition or way of doing something |
| 3. Bonfire | 8...A practice where children ask for candy |
| 4. Costume | 4...Clothes worn to look like something else |
| 5. Ancient | 6... Show respect or admiration for someone |
| 6. Honor | 10...Something given as a gift, to spirits/ gods |
| 7. Ghost | 1...A celebration or special event |
| 8. Trick-or-treating | 7...A supernatural being from a person who has died |
| 9. Custom | 2...Another word for a ghost or supernatural being |
| 10. Offerings | 5...Very old, from a long time ago |





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