



# Halloween History Video Activity CI-C2



### Before watching activity:

Do you know anything about the origins of Halloween?





Now watch the video and answer the questions that follow. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-VRAemIvbI&t=67s

- 1 When did it all start?
- 2 What did the Celts celebrate on October 31st?
- 3 What did the villagers do to keep the dead away from the living?
- 4 What happened to the pagan rituals of Samhain in the 7th century?
- 5 How did the celebration get the name "Halloween"?
- 6 When did the celebration come to America?
- 7 What were the customs?
- 8 What happened to the tradition of tricks over the years?
- 9 What was originally the meaning of "Trick or Treat"?







Imagine you are one of the shopkeepers in the 1930s that are mentioned in the video and you are a victim of Halloween vandalism. Write a letter to a friend describing the situation and your course of action and asking for advice. Your letter should be around 200 words.

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			200



# Halloween History Video Teacher's C1-C2

#### **Answers to the questions:**

- 1 It all began with the Celts more than 2,000 years ago
- 2 They celebrated the end of the harvest season, in a festival called "Samhain". That night also marked the Celtic New Year, it was considered a "time between years", a magical time when the ghosts of the dead came to earth.
- 3 They lit bonfires.
- 4 The Catholic church began to merge it with the Church Sanctum, so November 1st was designated "All Saints Day".
- 5 All Saints Day was known then as "Hallowmas", hallow means holy or saintly so the translation is roughly "Mass of the Saints". The night before (October 31st) was "All Hallows' Eve", which gradually became "Halloween".
- 6 It came with the wave of Irish immigrants during the potato famine of the 1840s.
- 7 Bobbing for apples and playing tricks on neighbours like removing gates from the front of houses
- 8 It grew into outright vandalism.
- 9 It was something of an extortion deal, "Give us candy or we will trash your house!" By the late 1930s "trick or treat" became a holiday greeting.





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