

# The History of Halloween



Thebrightpost.com

“Some people are born for Halloween, and some are just counting the days until Christmas. Stephen Graham Jones”



# HALLOWEEN



*bat*



*black cat*



*devil*



*mummy*



*haunted house*



*cemetery*



*ghost*



*Jack-o' Lantern*



*cauldron*



*candy bags*



*costumes*



*witch*



*witch hat*



*candies*



*owl*



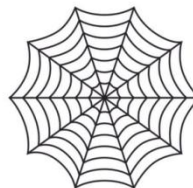
*tombstone*



*witch's broom*



*spider*



*spider web*



*skeleton*



*skull*



## The History of Halloween



A great number of people consider Halloween to be an American holiday. In reality, it originates from the Celts of Ireland. These days, people do not do what the old Celts did in the past. They do not have a big meal before the winter starts and do not leave their houses cold, without light during the night, hoping to stop spirits wanting to live there. It was believed that the souls of dead

people could come back if they find a person to stay in. Nevertheless, wearing scary masks and costumes to make the spirits go away, is an old Celtic tradition.

Today, people and especially children enjoy Halloween costume parties. They dress up as witches, vampires and ghosts. Children in masks go from house to house and when the door opens, they say: "Trick or treat!" If they do not get sweets, they do something bad like throwing eggs at the house.

The classic symbols of Halloween are horror characters: black cats, spiders, witches and ghosts and big orange pumpkins. Great Britain and the USA celebrate Halloween every year on the last day of October.



**Answer the following questions in full sentences.**

1. Who celebrates Halloween?

---

2. Where does Halloween originate from?

---

3. What are the symbols of Halloween?

---

4. When do people celebrate it?

---

5. What do people wear to scare the spirits?

## II. Match the words with their definitions.

skeleton	witch	ghost	cloak	spell	warlock
haunted house	bat	broom	pumpkin	carve	potion
1. a witch wears this over her clothes					
2. a large round orange – colored vegetable					
3. a woman with evil magic powers					
4. a witch's form of transport					
5. the spirit of dead person					
6. small animal with wings					
7. a building with ghosts					
8. the bones in a person's body					
9. a man who practices witchcraft or magic arts					
10. a mixture for drinking that is supposed to have magical or poisonous effects					
11. to form or inscribe by cutting					

## III. Match the Halloween words to their meanings.

- |                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Carve               | a) Spooky, a scary feeling         |
| 2. Ward off            | b) Keep something away like danger |
| 3. Eerie               | c) Cemetery                        |
| 4. Spirits             | d) Very bad, not good              |
| 5. Evil                | e) To cut up                       |
| 6. Jack - o' - lantern | f) Scared, afraid                  |
| 7. Devilish            | g) To be like the devil            |
| 8. Frightened          | h) Ghosts                          |
| 9. Casket              | i) a Halloween pumpkin             |
| 10. Graveyard          | j) Coffin                          |
| 11. Ghastly            | k) Do magic                        |
| 12. Cast a spell       | l) Awful                           |

#### IV. Using the vocabulary from above; complete the sentences below.

1. This place is creepy and makes me feel uneasy. I don't like \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Let's go to the garden and pick out a pumpkin to for \_\_\_\_\_ Halloween.
3. Be careful. That woman is a witch and she might \_\_\_\_\_ on you!
4. It was \_\_\_\_\_. In the old house, there were spiders and cobwebs everywhere.
5. They say that if you go to a cemetery on Halloween you will see the \_\_\_\_\_ of dead people.
6. He's very superstitious. He's just bought an amulet to \_\_\_\_\_ bad luck.
7. I love to go out on Halloween and see all the funny looking \_\_\_\_\_ in the windows.
8. Legend has it that vampires sleep in \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Turn on the lights! It's very \_\_\_\_\_ in here when it's dark

#### V. Watch the video and answer the questions.

```
<iframe width="560" height="315"
src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/zfHETu4bjgk" frameborder="0"
allow="autoplay; encrypted-media" allowfullscreen></iframe>
```

# BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW: HALLOWEEN

Complete the sentences with the missing information:

1. When most people think of Halloween they think of trick-or-treating, \_\_\_\_\_, bobbing for apples, and other family-friendly activities. But bet you didn't know the true story behind the ancient origins of Halloween.
2. It all goes back some \_\_\_\_\_ years to the ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain celebrated on November 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. On the night before Samhain, people believed that the dead returned as \_\_\_\_\_. They would leave food and wine on their doorstep to keep roaming spirits at bay. And wear masks when they left the house so they would be mistaken for fellow ghosts.
4. The Christian church turned Samhain into \_\_\_\_\_ or All Hallows in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. The night before became all hallow's eve, later shortened to Halloween.
5. You've heard of trick-or-treating on Halloween, but what about \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. All three of these traditions originated in Medieval Britain.
6. On All Souls' day, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the needy would beg for pastries known as soul cakes. In return they would \_\_\_\_\_ for people's dead relatives. This was called 'souling'.
7. In the medieval Halloween tradition of 'guising', young people would dress up in \_\_\_\_\_ and accept food, wine, money and other offerings in exchange for singing, reciting poetry or telling jokes.

8. In 19<sup>th</sup> century America Irish and Scottish \_\_\_\_\_ revived these old traditions. The result was trick-or-treating. At first it was much more about the tricks in the form of pranks and hijinks, than the treats.
9. It wasn't until the \_\_\_\_\_'s that the custom took on its current family-friendly kid-centered form.
10. Today Halloween is big \_\_\_\_\_, with U.S. consumers spending more than 2.5 billion on costumes annually. Add in the candy, and it's estimated that Americans spend up to 6 billion on Halloween each year.
11. Making it the second most commercial holiday after \_\_\_\_\_. So whether you're a fan of tricks, treats or trivia, there's a bit of Halloween history (that "we bet you didn't know!")

Discuss with your partner

- 1) Are these information new to you?
- 2) What did you find the most interesting?
- 3) Have you ever taken part in a Halloween celebration?  
How was it?
- 4) What do you usually do on Halloween?

