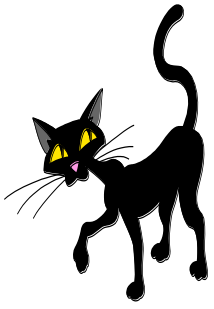


Halloween



Origins

Halloween began two thousand years ago in Ireland, England, and Northern France with the ancient religion of the Celts (Paganism). They celebrated their New Year on November 1st. This day marked the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death.

On the night of October 31, they celebrated *Samhain*, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. People thought that they would encounter ghosts if they left their homes... So they wore costumes. This way, the ghosts couldn't recognize them!



The Christian Influence

As the influence of Christianity spread into Celtic lands, in the 7th century, Pope Boniface IV introduced *All Saints' Day*, a time to honor saints and martyrs, to replace the Pagan festival of *Samhain*. It was observed on May 13th. In 834, Pope Gregory III moved *All Saint's Day* from May 13th to Nov. 1st. Oct. 31st thus became *All Hallows' Eve* ('hallow' means 'saint'). November 2nd, called *All Souls Day*, is the day set apart in the Roman Catholic Church for the commemoration of the dead.

Trick-or-treating began with the poor in the 15th century...

During the *All Souls Day* festival in England, poor people would beg for "soul cakes," made out of square pieces of bread with currants. Families would give soul cakes in return for a promise to pray for the family's relatives. The practice, which was referred to as "going a-souling" was eventually taken up by children who would visit the houses in their neighborhood and be given ale, food, and money. Children still go from house-to-house, but instead of ale, food, and money, they get candy.



Halloween came to America.

In 1848, millions of Irish emigrants poured into America as a result of the potato famine. They brought with them their traditions of *Halloween*. They called Halloween *Oidche Shamhna* ('Night of Samhain'), as their ancestors had, and kept the traditional observances.



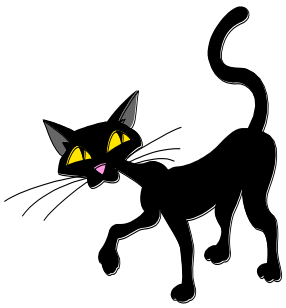
The Jack-O-Lantern

The Irish used to carry turnips with candles in them to light their way at night and to scare away ghosts. When they arrived in America they found that pumpkins were both plentiful and easier to carve than turnips. Now, Jack-O-Lanterns are used for decorating people's homes.



Today people go to parties... Take their kids trick-or-treating... And eat lots of candy! If you don't give candy to a trick-or-treater... Trouble could happen to your house!





Halloween Quizzzzz

1. All Saints' Day is time tosaints.
a) believe b) be aware c) honor
2. The ghosts couldn't recognize the Celts if they
a) stayed at home b) wore costumes c) made pumpkins
3. Halloween beganthousand years ago.
a) one b) two c) three
4. Children still go from house-to-house and get
a) candy b) money c) kicks
5. Turnips with candles in them lit people's way at night and to scare away.....
a) children b) ghosts c) witches
6. marked the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of death.
a) Halloween b) New Year c) Saint's Day
7.emigrants brought their traditions of Halloween to America.
a) English b) Irish c) American
8. Trouble could happen to yourif you do not give candy to trick-or-treater.
a) family b) relatives c) house
9. would beg for "soul cakes" during the All Souls Day festival in England.
a) good people b) young people c) poor people
10. Now Jack-O-Lanterns are made of
a) turnip b) pumpkin c) wood

