

# Halloween Around the World

Halloween is celebrated on 31st October in the UK. It is a time for games and costumes, as people try to scare one another with their spooky costumes.

## What do people do at Halloween?

Halloween is celebrated in different ways around the world. In some countries, children enjoy dressing up in costumes and going to parties. Halloween games are played including pin the hat on the witch, What's the time Mrs Witch and apple bobbing.

Trick-or-treating is when children dress up in a costume and knock on people's doors. The children ask for a treat like chocolate or sweets.

## Pumpkin please!

It is traditional that pumpkins are carved for Halloween. People take the middle of the pumpkin out and this can then be used to make treats such as pie or soup. A knife is then used to carve a face into the pumpkin, including eyes, nose and a mouth. Some people are very clever and can carve different pictures into a pumpkin including witches, cats and even their name!

## Scary Facts

- When trick-or-treating first started, people were given fruits and nuts, not chocolate!
- The first jack-o'-lanterns (pumpkins) were actually made using turnips!
- Halloween colours are normally orange and black. The black represents the darkness and the orange represents harvest time.

## Costumes

Many different costumes are worn at Halloween including:

- Pumpkins
- Skeletons
- Witches
- Wizards
- Vampires



# Halloween Around the World **Questions**

1. What date is Halloween celebrated on?

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2. Name two costumes that people might wear at Halloween.

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3. What were the first jack-o'-lantern made out of?

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4. What do the orange colours at Halloween represent?

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5. Name a game that is played at Halloween.

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6. What would you like to dress up as for a Halloween party? Why?

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# Halloween Around the World **Answers**

1. What date is Halloween celebrated on?

**Halloween is usually celebrated on 31st October.**

2. Name two costumes that people might wear at Halloween.

**Accept two varied answers that may include: witch, pumpkin, skeleton, vampires, spiders etc.**

3. What were the first jack-o'-lantern made out of?

**The first jack-o'-lanterns were made out of turnips.**

4. What do the orange colours at Halloween represent?

**The colour orange at Halloween represents harvest time.**

5. Name a game that is played at Halloween.

**There are lots of games played at Halloween including What's the time, Mrs Witch?, Pin the hat on the witch! and apple-bobbing.**

6. What would you like to dress up as for a Halloween party? Why?

**Accept pupil's own answers with justification.**

# Halloween Around the World

Halloween is celebrated all around the world. The festival started as 'All Hallows' Eve' where people thought that a door was opened from the underworld and allowed ghosts spirits to enter into our world for one night.

## Halloween around the world

Halloween is celebrated in different ways around the world. Some countries such as England, children dress in Halloween costumes and go 'trick-or-treating' by knocking on their neighbours' doors and asking for sweets or chocolate.

In Scotland and Ireland, children traditionally go 'guising' which involves them dressing in a costume and visiting people's houses hoping to get a treat. In Ireland, Halloween traditions also include having bonfires and lighting fireworks.

In America, children enjoy 'trick-or-treating' as well as attending Halloween parties where they play games and eat spooky food. Some of the activities include games such as apple bobbing where you need to use your mouth to catch apples floating in a bowl of water.

Not everyone enjoys people trick-or-treating. In Australia and New Zealand, people put a balloon hanging out of their letterbox if they would like people to knock for a treat.

## Pumpkin fun!

In some countries, pumpkins are carved in order to warn off spirits. Pumpkins originally came from Mexico and can grow blue, white and green as well as orange. People place small candles or lights inside the pumpkins to light up the faces. The largest pumpkin ever is thought to be over 800lb! Stephen Clarke actually holds the world record for the fastest time to carve a pumpkin with a time of 24.03 seconds!

### Did you know?

- The origin of Halloween goes back over 2,000 years. Celtic people would celebrate 'Samhain' which was like their New Year's Day on 1st November.
- Some people suffer from samhainophobia which is a fear of Halloween.
- Witches are often pictured with a broomstick, which they use for flying. This idea originally came from long ago when people did not have cars to help them get around. Old ladies would often use their broomstick to help them walk from one place to another.



# Halloween Around the World Questions

1. What did people think happens at Halloween?

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2. Name two traditions that happen in Ireland at Halloween.

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3. What do people in Australia and New Zealand do if they are happy to have trick-or-treaters?

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4. How quickly did Stephen Clarke carve the world record pumpkin?

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5. What is samhainophobia?

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6. Name two colours that a pumpkin may grow into

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7. Name four costumes that you might wear at Halloween.

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8. Why do you think some people don't like Halloween?

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# Halloween Around the World Answers

1. What did people think happens at Halloween?

**People thought that a door was opened from the Underworld and allowed ghosts spirits to enter into our world for one night.**

2. Name two traditions that happen in Ireland at Halloween.

**In Ireland, children go 'guising' to collect treats, have bonfires and light fireworks.**

3. What do people in Australia and New Zealand do if they are happy to have trick-or-treaters?

**People put a balloon hanging out of their letterbox if they would like people to knock for a treat.**

4. How quickly did Stephen Clarke carve the world record pumpkin?

**Stephen Clarke carved a pumpkin in 24.03 seconds.**

5. What is samhainophobia?

**Samhainophobia is a fear of Halloween.**

6. Name two colours that a pumpkin may grow into

**Pumpkins can be orange, white, blue and green.**

7. Name four costumes that you might wear at Halloween.

**Accept four varied answers that may include: witch, pumpkin, skeleton, vampires, spiders etc.**

8. Why do you think some people don't like Halloween?

**Accept varied answers that may include: people may be scared if they are by themselves, people don't want knocks on their doors, people don't like feeling like they have to give treats, they might be frightened of the costumes, etc.**

# Halloween Around the World

Halloween is one of the world's oldest festivals and is still celebrated today in a number of countries around the world.

## Celebrations around the world

### England

In the past, on All Souls' Eve, families would stay up late and little "soul cakes" were eaten. Now, people celebrate Halloween by dressing up in different costumes and going 'trick-or-treating'. Trick-or-treating involves knocking on people's doors and collecting chocolate and sweets in return for no tricks.

### Ireland

People in Ireland enjoy dressing up in costumes to celebrate Halloween. They also enjoy playing games such as apple bobbing in which apples, peanuts, fruit and sometimes small coins are placed in a basin of water. Everyone takes turns catching as many things as possible using their mouths.

### Scotland

Traditionally children carry lanterns made out of turnips and go 'guising', where they visit their neighbour's homes to be given cakes, fruit and money. Rather than trick-or-treating, Scottish children are encouraged to sing a song to tell a story in order to be rewarded with their treat.

### China

The Chinese celebrate the "Hungry Ghost Festival" in mid-July, when it is customary to float river lanterns to remember those who have died. Chinese children do not tend to go trick-or-treating because many people in China live in tall buildings and so it isn't easy to knock on people's doors.

### USA

The main celebration of Halloween for American children is the tradition of trick-or-treating. Children (and often their parents) disguise themselves in costumes and go door to door in their neighbourhoods, ringing each doorbell and yelling "Trick or treat!" People also have Halloween parties which involve games and spooky themed food. Every year, in New York, around 50 000 people dressed in costumes attend the Village Halloween Parade.

### Where does the celebration of Halloween originate from?

The name 'Halloween' comes from 'All Hallows' Eve' (sometimes known as 'All Souls' Eve) which is celebrated on the 31st October, the day before 'All Hallows' feast. Some people believed that Halloween was when a door was opened from the underworld and it let the spirits or ghosts into our world.



# Halloween Around the World Questions

1. Where does the name 'Halloween' come from?

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2. Which food used to be eaten in England at Halloween?

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3. Apart from apples, name two different things that children, in Ireland, might find when apple-bobbing.

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4. What time of year does China celebrate the Hungry Ghost Festival?

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5. What happens at the Hungry Ghost Festival?

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6. What do Scottish children refer to trick-or-treating as?

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7. What do Scottish children need to do in order to receive their treat?

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8. Name two countries where trick-or-treating is a custom.

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9. Why don't children in China go trick-or-treating?

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10. Why do you think some people don't like trick-or-treater knocking at their door?

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# Halloween Around the World Answers

1. Where does the name 'Halloween' come from?

**The name 'Halloween' comes from 'All Hallows' Eve' (which is sometimes known as All Souls' Eve) that is celebrated on the 31st October.**

2. Which food used to be eaten in England at Halloween?

**In the past, on All Souls' Eve, families would stay up late and little 'soul cakes' were eaten.**

3. Apart from apples, name two different things that children, in Ireland, might find when apple-bobbing.

**Children might find peanuts, fruit or money when apple-bobbing.**

4. What time of year does China celebrate the Hungry Ghost Festival?

**The Chinese celebrate the Hungry Ghost Festival in mid-July.**

5. What happens at the Hungry Ghost Festival?

**It is customary to float river lanterns to remember those who have died.**

6. What do Scottish children refer to trick-or-treating as?

**Scottish children go 'guising' instead of trick-or-treating.**

7. What do Scottish children need to do in order to receive their treat?

**Scottish children are encouraged to sing a song to tell a story in order to be rewarded with their treat.**

8. Name two countries where trick-or-treating is a custom.

**Trick-or-treating happens in many countries including England, Scotland (guising) and the USA.**

9. Why don't children in China go trick-or-treating?

**Many people in China live in tall buildings and so it isn't easy to knock on people's doors.**

10. Why do you think some people don't like trick-or-treater knocking at their door?

**Accept varied answers that may include: people may be scared if they are by themselves, people don't want a trick, people don't like feeling like they have to give treats, etc.**