

# HALLOWEEN

HALLOWEEN is an annual celebration and takes place on the 31st October every year. Originally called 'All Hallows Eve' which means the evening before All Saints Day. Hallow is an old English word for Saint. Over the years, people joined the two words together to make the name Halloween.

It is the night of pumpkins, candles, ghosts, tricks and treats, witches and brooms. One story says it is a night when the spirits howl like wolves and go round the streets looking for living bodies. It is a creepy idea but these days, people do not believe such things happen. The Celts thought that dead friends would return with their souls in the body of a black cat. This has remained the symbol of Halloween to the present day. Naturally, the living did not want to lose their body to a spirit, so on the night of Halloween, villagers would put out the fires in their homes to make them cold and undesirable. Then, they would dress up to frighten off the spirits. In the dead of night, people would go from door to door to collect food to donate to their favourite God. They would take this to a bonfire on top of a local hill, eat and dance and have a good time. After the bonfire, the people were nervous about walking home in the dark so they dressed up as spooky characters and carved faces in their candle holders which they made from huge orange pumpkins. They hoped that the light of the candle would frighten the spirits away.

Nowadays, people still parade from place to place and frighten others but everyone laughs because they know it is just good fun. The young people of the town or village visit different houses and call out 'trick or treat'. The custom is for the people in the house to pretend to be afraid and to give the children a treat of some chocolates or biscuits. Parents allow children to stay out late because there is no school the next day.

## 1. What was Halloween originally called?

- a. All Saints Night
- b. All Hallows Eve
- c. Saint Eve Night
- d. Spirit Night

## 2. What is the old English word for 'Saint'?

- a. Eve
- b. Hallow
- c. Halloween
- d. Spirit

## 3. What did the Celts believe about black cats?

- a. They were good luck charms
- b. They could speak to the dead
- c. They contained the souls of dead friends
- d. They were guardians of the underworld

## 4. Why did villagers put out the fires in their homes on Halloween?

- a. To save fuel
- b. To make their homes undesirable to spirits
- c. To signal the start of the festival
- d. To attract more spirits

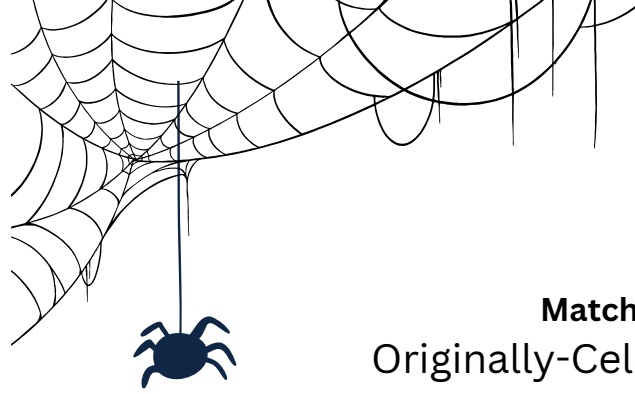
## 5. What activity do children typically do during modern-day Halloween?

- a. Play games at home
- b. Trick or treat
- c. Visit a haunted house
- d. Paint pumpkins



HALLOWEEN





# HALLOWEEN

**Match the words to their definitions:**

Originally-Celebration-Ancient-Symbol-Spooky

- a. A sign or object that represents something else .....
- b. Very old .....
- c. The act of marking a special event .....
- d. In the beginning .....
- e. Scary or eerie .....

**Fill in the Blanks**

Complete the sentences with the correct vocabulary word:

- 1. Halloween is an annual \_\_\_\_\_ that takes place on October 31st.
- 2. The Celts believed that \_\_\_\_\_ friends would return as black cats.
- 3. People dress up in \_\_\_\_\_ costumes to scare away spirits.
- 4. The \_\_\_\_\_ name for Halloween was 'All Hallows Eve'.
- 5. Pumpkins are a common \_\_\_\_\_ of Halloween.

**Sentence Creation**

Use each vocabulary word in a sentence:

- 1. Originally \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Celebration \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Ancient \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Symbol \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Spooky \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion Questions**

- 1. What are some modern symbols of Halloween?
- 2. How do people in your country celebrate Halloween?
- 3. Why do you think ancient traditions like Halloween are still celebrated today?



TRICK  
OR  
TREAT



# Answer Key

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**Answer Key (Always review AI generated answers for accuracy - Math is more likely to be inaccurate)**

**b**

**b**

**c**

**b**

**b**