

HALLOWEEN TRADITIONS

On October 31st, we celebrate Halloween, thought to be the one night of the year when ghosts, witches, and fairies are especially active. So what do people do on Halloween Day in England?



Jack-o-lanterns

are hollowed out pumpkins with a face cut in one side and a candle put inside. In the old days people lit fires to scare away bad spirits. They believed light had power over darkness. Today Jack-o-lanterns are supposed to frighten away ghosts and witches.



TRICK OR TREAT



Apple Bobbing

One Halloween party game is called 'bobbing for apples'. Apples are put in a big bowl full of water. The players, sometimes blindfolded must take an apple out of the water without using their hands.



Dressing up

On Halloween, when it was believed that bad spirits came back to the earthly world, people thought they would meet ghosts if they left their homes. To avoid being recognized by ghosts people would wear masks when they left homes after dark so that the ghosts would mistake them for fellow spirits. That's why Halloween costumes are traditionally monsters such as vampires, ghosts, witches and devils.



Trick or Treat

Children in costumes go from house to house in their neighbourhood, often in small groups, in order to ask for treats such as sweets, lollipops, chocolates or money. When someone answers the door, the children say: "Trick or treat?" The "trick" is a threat to perform mischief on the homeowners or their property if no treat is given.



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Exercises

Answer the questions.



1. When is Halloween celebrated?

2. What is put in a bowl full of water?

3. What costumes do children usually wear on Halloween?

4. Why do people put a candle inside Jack-o-lantern?

5. What do children say when they call at people's door?

6. Why did people wear masks when they left houses in the past?

7. Is Halloween celebrated in your country?

8. What are the traditions and superstitions of Halloween in your country?

9. What's your favourite costume?

10. Do you go to Halloween parties?

11. Do you like Halloween? Why?/Why not?

TRICK
OR
TREAT

