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Halloween

Halloween is a popular holiday that is associated with ghosts, vampires, witches, and other mysterious creatures. How much do you know about this holiday's history and customs? Set off on a webquest to explore Halloween and find out!

First, log onto **www.worldbookonline.com**
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Find It!

Find the answers to the questions below by using the "Search" tool to search key words. Since this activity is about Halloween, you can start by searching the key word "Halloween."
Write the answers on the lines provided or below the question.

1. When does Halloween take place each year?

2. Halloween developed from an ancient pagan festival, called _____, which was celebrated by Celtic people over 2,000 years ago.

3. What did the Celtic festival of Samhain mark and when was it celebrated?

4. In the 800's, what holiday did the Christian church establish that was celebrated on November 1?

5. In the 1500's and 1600's, people in Europe believed that the devil made _____ do evil deeds.

6. In the United Kingdom, children ask, "_____" rather than demand, "trick or treat!"

7. In the 1800's, people in Louisiana cooked a dumb supper and watched for a _____ to join the table.

8. People in Scotland and Ireland once carved out large _____ or

   _____to use as lanterns on Halloween. Americans use pumpkins instead.

9. Halloween magic is associated with such foods as _____ and _____ .

***Users of the *Advanced* database can find extension activities at the end of this webquest.**

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True or False

Write "True" if the statement is correct. If the statement is not correct, write "False" and correct the statement in the space below.

_____ 10. It was once common for people to leave food out on a table as a treat for spirits believed to be about on Halloween.

_____ 11. In ancient Celtic stories, Samhain was a time when the barriers between the natural world and the supernatural were broken.

_____ 12. Halloween is also known as Mischief Night and Devil's Night.

_____ 13. Fireworks are a part of many Halloween celebrations in Ireland and Canada.

_____ 14. Halloween costumes were popularized in the United States by children in the late 1800's.

Find It!

15. How did Halloween get its name?

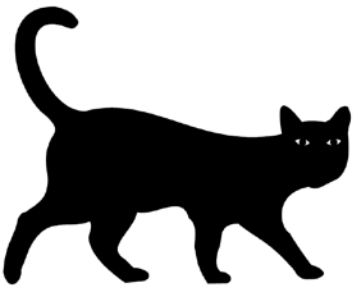
16. According to an Irish legend, who were jack-o'-lanterns named for?

17. List 2 ways that a child can prevent accidents while trick-or-treating.

    1. _____

    2. _____

18. What did the Celts believe that the dead could do during Samhain?



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Early November Holidays

Answer these questions about holidays celebrated around Halloween.

19. All Saints' Day is celebrated on November 1. Who does All Saints' Day honor? (Hint: For this question see the "All Saints' Day" article.)

20. All Souls' Day is celebrated on November 2. What was All Souls' Day set aside for? (Hint: For this question see the "History" section of the "Halloween" article.)

21. Día de los muertos is usually celebrated on November 2. Who does Día de los muertos honor? (Hint: For this question see the "Día de los muertos" article.)

Halloween Symbols

Answer these questions about these Halloween symbols.

22. How long did it take the ancient Egyptians to prepare a mummy? (Hint: For this question see the "Mummy" article.)

23. According to tradition, what is a ghost? (Hint: For this question see the "Ghost" article.)

24. What do spiders use their fangs and poison glands for? (Hint: For this question see the "Spider" article.)

25. What is a vampire? (Hint: For this question see the "Vampire" article.)

26. What is witchcraft? (Hint: For this question see the "Witchcraft" article.)

27. Where do vampire bats live? (Hint: For this question see the "Vampire bat" article.)

28. What is a jack-o'-lantern? (Hint: For this question see the "Jack-o'-lantern" article.)

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29. The character Dracula is loosely based on which historical figure? (Hint: For this question see the "Dracula" article.)

30. About how many bones does a human skeleton have? (Hint: For this question see the "Skeleton" article.)

Watch It!

In the "Images, Videos, and Audio/Media" section of the "Halloween" article, you will find the video "How did Halloween begin?". Watch the video and answer the following questions.

31. In ancient times, Samhain was considered _____.

32. What did the people who celebrated Samhain carve out, instead of pumpkins, when they made jack-o'-lanterns?

33. In medieval times, why were evil witches predominately thought of as women?

Extension Activity 1

Imagine that you are talking to somebody from a country where Halloween is not celebrated. Tell them about the holiday. Tell them about Halloween's history, its symbols, and how the holiday is celebrated in your country.

Extension Activity 2

Be a researcher! Halloween developed from an ancient pagan festival celebrated by the Celtic people. Use World Book Encyclopedia articles and the book *Myths and Legends of Ancient Britain and Ireland* from World Book's eBook collection and write a report about the Celts and their beliefs.

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