

What is Hallowe'en?

For Preview



Only
Happy Halloween



Traditions



Hallowe'en is on the 31st October every year. There are loads of Halloween traditions like:

- Scary fancy dress
- Making pumpkin lanterns
- Trick or treating
- Bobbing for apples
- Telling ghost stories



Happy Halloween



But not everyone agrees with Halloween. Some religious people believe that making a game out of evil spirits and witches is wrong.





How did Hallowe'en Begin?

Halloween began as the festival of Samhain. It was part of the ancient Celtic religion.

At the end of summer, the Celts thought the barrier between our world and the world of ghosts and spirits got really thin.





This meant weird creatures with strange powers could wander about on Earth.

The Celts had a big party. It was all about scaring away the ghosts and spirits.

All Hallows Eve
Later, with the Christian religion, the party stayed on the same day - but it was now called All Hallows Eve. It was the day before All Saints Day.





Pumpkins



Jack-o-lantern is the real name for the carved pumpkin. Its glowing face was supposed to scare away evil spirits. You carried it around the edge of your village or let it burn outside your house on Halloween night.





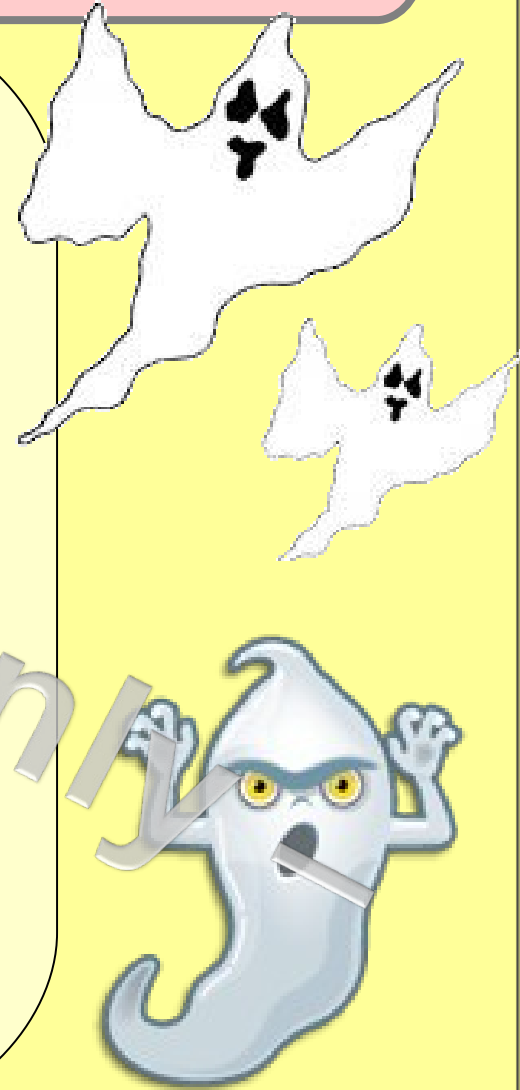
Trick or Treat?



Trick or treaters dress up in scary costumes. They knock on doors hoping to get sweets or money (a treat). If they get nothing or a lump of coal, they may play a joke on the people in the house.

History of Trick or Treat

This also started with the Celts. They believed that on Samhain some ghosts tried to return to their old homes. People tried to get the visiting ghosts in a good mood by offering them nice food. They put fruit, nuts and treats on their doorsteps. They thought if the ghosts were angry they would damage the farms and frighten the animals.





Costume Tradition



The Celts thought they had to protect themselves from ghosts and goblins. If you wore a really, really scary costume you would look like a demon or a spirit. That way none of the ghosts would pick on you. That is how wearing costumes started.