

# Holidays

Celebrate

ALL YEAR LONG



# 1<sup>st</sup> January – New Year's Day

- People make resolutions and promises to change or improve their future lives



# 14<sup>th</sup> February - St. Valentine's Day

**Friends and lovers send one another letters or greeting cards expressing their love and affection**

**St. Valentine was a bishop, a Christian martyr, murdered by the Romans around the year 273.**

**Before he was put to death, he sent a note of friendship to his jailer's daughter signed**

**From your Valentine.**



# 17<sup>th</sup> March – St. Patrick's Day

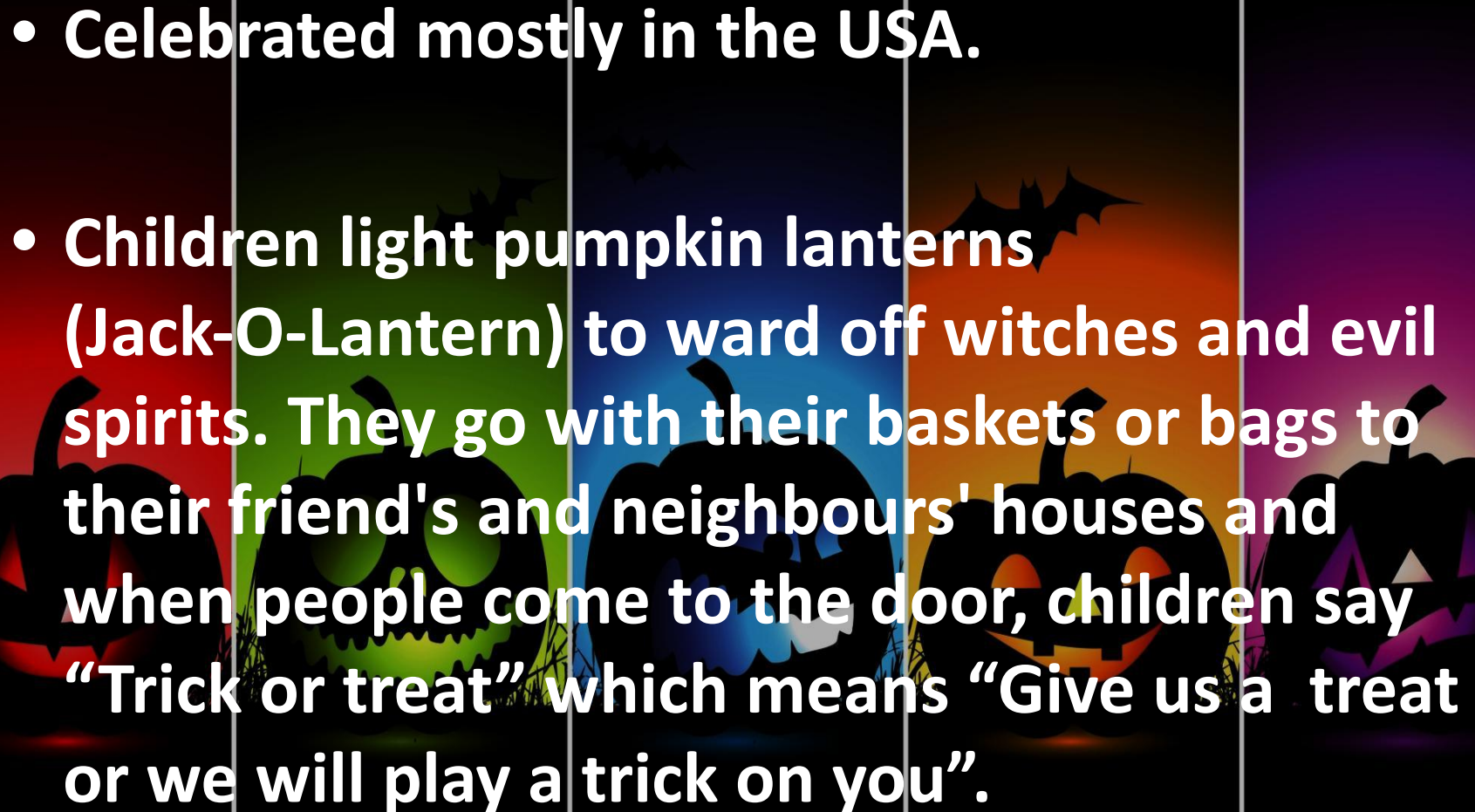
- **St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland who brought Christianity to Ireland.**
- **Many people worldwide dress in green, eat Irish food and drink Guinness. St. Patrick's parades are held in many towns and cities in Ireland and the USA.**



# Easter

- **Is a religious holiday. It is an ancient symbol of spring and new life. Christians remember Jesus Christ's death and his return to life.**
- **Children believe that while sleeping the Easter bunny has hidden eggs in the house and go searching for them. This is called egg hunt. The most famous is held in the White House. In Britain people eat Hot Cross Buns.**

# 31<sup>st</sup> October - Halloween

- Celebrated mostly in the USA.
  - Children light pumpkin lanterns (Jack-O-Lantern) to ward off witches and evil spirits. They go with their baskets or bags to their friend's and neighbours' houses and when people come to the door, children say "Trick or treat" which means "Give us a treat or we will play a trick on you".
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# 5<sup>th</sup> November – Guy Fawkes Night (Bonfire Night)

- **Guy Fawkes was a leader of a group of men who plotted against King James I. They decided to blow up the Houses of Parliament in London, with the king and his noblemen inside. But the plot was not successful. Guy Fawkes and his followers were arrested and later executed.**
- **There are bonfires and fireworks in every town and village in Britain.**

# Christmas

- **24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve – Some children hang a stocking at the end of their bed. Father Christmas or Santa Claus brings their presents at night.**
- **25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day – children get up early to open their Christmas presents. British families have Christmas dinner consisting of stuffed turkey, roast or mashed potatoes and Christmas pudding (contains a ring, a coin or a thimble)**
- **26<sup>th</sup> December – Boxing Day – people mostly visit other members of their families. In the past servants and salespeople got presents – they carried boxes to get tips.**



# 31<sup>st</sup> December - New Year's Day

- People stay up till midnight to welcome in the New Year. Many go to parties and balls. At midnight people drink champagne, propose a toast and wish each other Happy New Year. In the UK people sing „Auld Lang Syne“

# Other holidays

- 4th July – Independence Day in the USA – celebrates the independence of American colonies from the British (signature of Declaration of Independence)
- 4th Thursday in November – Thanksgiving Day- It remembers the first settlers – Pilgrim Fathers who came in 1620. Now it is an occasion for the whole family to be together and enjoy a traditional dinner (roast turkey).



# Other holidays

- 5<sup>th</sup> January – Twelfth Night, 6<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany,
- Shrove Tuesday (Pancake or Fat Tuesday) – 47 days before Easter
- Ash Wednesday
- 1<sup>st</sup> April - April Fool's Day
- Mother's Day, Father's Day
- St. Andrews's Day, St. David's Day, St. George's Day
- Remembrance Day
- USA – Veteran's Day, President's Day, Columbus Day, Martin Luther King's Day, Memorial Day

WE HONOR AND LOVE YOU