

# Halloween

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# *What is Halloween?*

Halloween is an annual holiday celebrated on October 31. It has roots in the Celtic festival of Samhain and the Christian holiday All Saints' Day.



# Who are Druids?

Celtic priests called Druids celebrated Halloween many centuries ago in Ireland and Scotland. The Druids thought that Halloween was the night when the witches came out. As they were afraid of the witches they put on different clothes and painted their faces to deceive the evil spirits. They also placed food and small gifts near the doors of their houses for the witches.



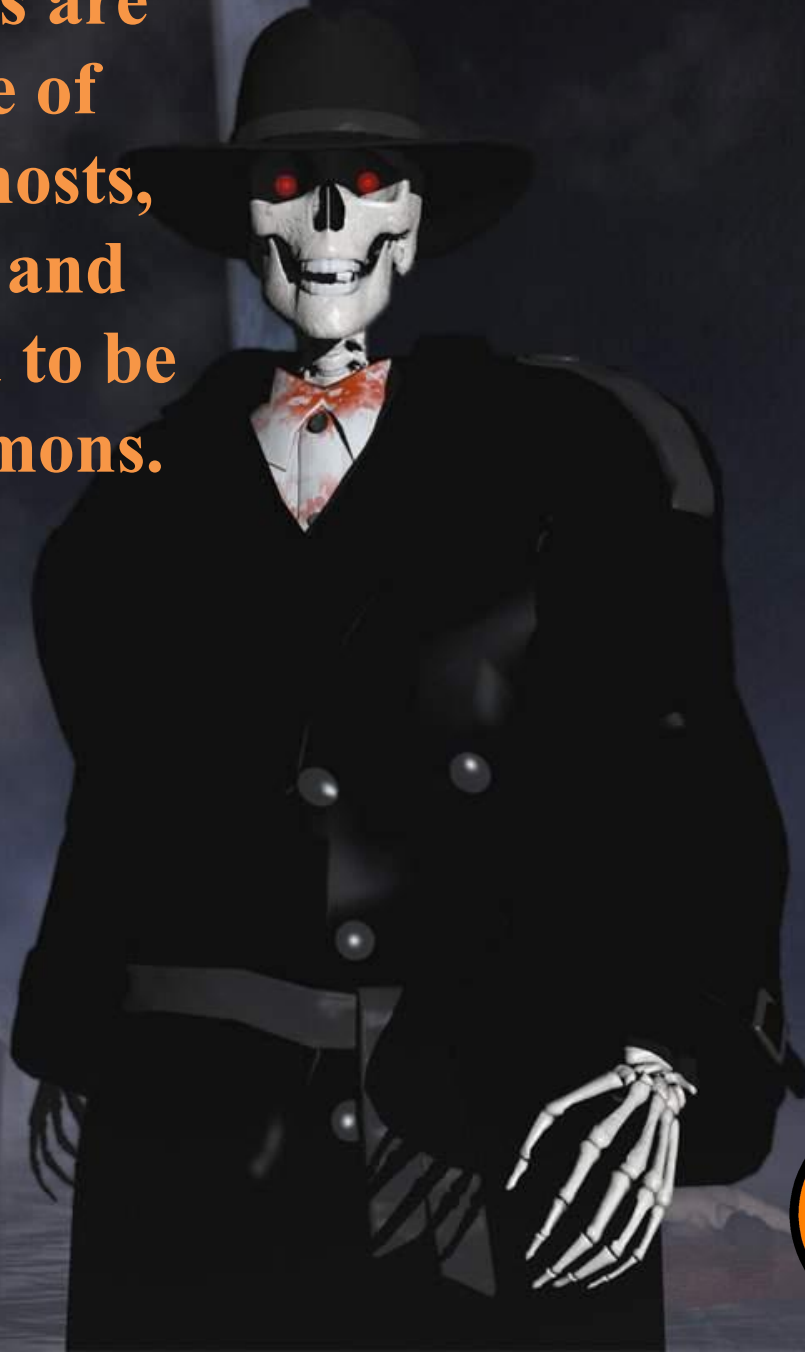
**No sun, no light,  
Not even a spark,  
The whole world  
Is completely dark.  
The clock strikes twelve,  
You hear it chime,  
Not one single person  
Is awake at this time.  
No other color  
Than black is to see.**



The old Celtic custom was to light great bonfires on Halloween, and after these had burned out to make a circle of the ashes of each fire. Within this circle, and near the circumference, each member of the various families that had helped to make a fire would place a pebble. If, on the next day, any stone was displaced, or had been damaged, it was considered to be an indication that the one to whom the stone belonged would die within twelve months.



**Halloween costumes are traditionally those of monsters such as ghosts, skeletons, witches, and devils. They are said to be used to scare off demons.**



**Long ago people  
believed in ghosts.  
They thought that  
the dead came back  
to their homes on  
Halloween and  
walked around all  
night.**



Ding, dang, dong!  
Crackle a little song!  
Use your bones  
As xylophones  
One went crack,  
what's wrong?





Witches have had a long history with Halloween. Legends tell about witches gathering on this night, arriving on broomsticks, to celebrate a party hosted by the devil. Superstitions tell about witches casting spells on unsuspecting people, transforming themselves into different forms and causing other magical mischief.



The black cat has long been associated with witches. Many superstitions have evolved about cats. It was believed that witches could change into cats. Some people also believed that cats were the spirits of the dead.



**One of the best known superstitions is that if a black cat was to cross your path you would have to turn around and go back because many people believe if you continued bad luck would strike you.**



**Jack-o-lanterns**  
originated in Ireland  
where people placed  
candles in  
hollowed-out turnips  
to keep away spirits  
and ghosts on the  
Samhain  
holiday. Some of them  
have scary and some  
have funny faces.



According to folklore, the jack-o-lantern got his name from a man named Jack who used to play practical jokes on the devil and was punished for it.



Trick-or-treating is a customary celebration for children on Halloween. Children in costumes go from house to house, asking for treats such as candy or sometimes money, with the question, "Trick or treat?"



# Menu

- o Halloween Witches Brew
- o Chocolate Spiders
- o Gingerbread Ghosts
- o Scary Faced Pizzas
- o Halloween Mix
- o Coco Lanterns
- o Vampire Punch
- o Witches Fingers
- o Night Crawlers
- o Candied Apples
- o Pumpkin Chips



# Fortunetelling

Apples were once thought to be a link between men and the Gods and were often used to tell the future. By putting an apple under your pillow you could dream a wish and eat the apple in the morning. Later people began to use apples in games.





# Superstitions

**A burning a candle inside a jack-o-lantern on Halloween keeps evil spirits and demons at bay.**

**If a candle suddenly goes out by itself on Halloween, as though by breath or wind, it is believed that a ghost has come to call. Always burn new candles on Halloween to ensure the best of luck.**

**It is not a good idea to burn Halloween candles at any other time of the year. It may bring bad luck or strange things will happen to you, over which you will have no control.**



# Superstitions

Gazing into a flame of a candle on Halloween night will enable you to peer into the future.

Girls who carry a lamp to a spring of water on this night can see their future husband in the reflection.

It is believed that if a person lights a new orange colored candle at midnight on Halloween and lets it burn until sunrise, he or she will be the recipient of good luck.



# Superstitions

If you hear footsteps trailing close behind you on Halloween night, do not turn around to see who it is, for it may be Death himself! To look Death in the eye, according to ancient folklore, is a sure way to hasten your own demise.

If a bat flies around a house three times, it is considered to be a death omen.

A person born on Halloween can both see and talk to spirits.



# Superstitions

If you see a spider on Halloween, it could be the spirit of a dead loved one who is watching you.

Put your clothes on inside out and walk backwards on Halloween night to meet a witch.

You should walk around your home three times backwards and counterclockwise before sunset on Halloween to ward off evil spirits.



*Halloween becomes more and more popular in Russia. Halloween is a fantastic holiday for children, young people and grown-ups. It is unusual, merry and dreadful.*



Ooo-oooo Halloween night  
Ooo-oooo Halloween night  
The moon is full and all is right



Ooo-oooo, it's Halloween night

