

# Halloween



# Ancient Origins of Halloween

Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1.

This day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death. On the night of October 31 they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. In addition to causing trouble and damaging crops, Celts thought that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Druids, or Celtic priests, to make



# Today's Halloween Traditions

- The American Halloween tradition of **"trick-or-treating"** probably dates back to the early All Souls' Day parades in England. During the festivities, poor citizens would beg for food and families would give them pastries called "soul cakes" in return for their promise to pray for the family's dead relatives.
- The tradition of **costume** for Halloween has both European and Celtic roots. Hundreds of years ago, winter was an uncertain and frightening time. To avoid being recognized by these ghosts, people would wear masks when they left their homes after dark so that the ghosts would mistake them for fellow spirits. On Halloween, to keep ghosts away from their houses, people would place bowls of

**Trick or treat!**



# Halloween Superstitions

- In Scotland, fortune-tellers recommended that an eligible young woman name a hazelnut for each of her suitors and then toss the nuts into the fireplace. The nut that burned to ashes rather than popping or exploding, the story went, represented the girl's future husband.
- Another tale had it that if a young woman ate a sugary concoction made out of walnuts, hazelnuts and nutmeg before bed on Halloween night she would dream about her future husband.
  - Young women tossed apple-peels over their shoulders, hoping that the peels would fall on the floor in the shape of their future husbands' initials; and stood in front of mirrors in darkened rooms, holding candles and



# Jack-o-lantern

People cut out eyes, a nose and a mouth on a pumpkin, put there a candle, turning a usual pumpkin into jack-o-lantern. It is very ancient Irish custom. The legend tells that there lived the person by name of Jack who was very avaricious. Therefore, when he died, it didn't get on heavens. As it didn't start up and to a devil. As a result, Jack has been compelled to go on the ground with the pumpkin till the Doomsday. Irish began to cut out terrible faces on turnip, a beet, a potato and a pumpkin, representing jack-o-lantern.



# Food

- Because Halloween comes in the wake of the yearly apple harvest, candy apples, caramel or taffy apples are common Halloween treats made by rolling whole apples in a sticky sugar syrup.
- At one time, candy apples were commonly given to children, but the practice rapidly waned in the wake of widespread rumors that some individuals were embedding items like pins and razor blades in the apples in the United States.
- One custom that persists in modern-day Ireland is the baking of a barmbrack which is a light fruitcake, into which a plain ring,











In this town we call home

Everyone hail to the

8) pumpkin song

In this town, don't we love it now?

Everybody's waiting for the next

9) surprise

Round that corner, man hiding in the trash can

Something's waiting now to pounce, and how  
you'll...

Scream! This is Halloween

Red 'n' black, slimy green

Aren't you 10) \_\_\_\_\_?

Well, that's just fine **scared**

Say it once, say it twice

Take a chance and roll the dice

Ride with the moon in the

11) \_\_\_\_\_

**dead of night**

Everybody scream! Everybody scream!

In our town of Halloween!

I am the 12) \_\_\_\_\_ with the tear-away

face **clown**





Here in a flash and gone without a trace  
I am the "who" when you call, "Who's  
there?"

I am the wind blowing through your hair  
I am the 13) shadow on the moonlit  
night

Filling your 14) dreams to the brim with  
fright

This is Halloween, this is Halloween  
Halloween! Halloween! Halloween! Halloween!  
Halloween! Halloween!

Tender lumpings everywhere  
Life's no fun without a  
15) \_\_\_\_\_

good scare  
That's our job, but we're not mean  
In our town of Halloween  
In this town

Don't we love it now?  
Everyone's waiting for the next surprise

**Trick or treat!**





16) Skeleton Jack might catch  
you in the back

And scream like a banshee

Make you jump out of your skin

This is Halloween, everybody scream

Won't ya please make way for a very

17) special guy

Our man jack is King of the Pumpkin patch

Everyone hail to the Pumpkin King

This is Halloween, this is Halloween

Halloween! Halloween! Halloween!

Halloween!

In this town we call home

Everyone hail to the pumpkin song

La lala la, la la la la...



4. Placed over your face

5. Human that transforms into a wolf

9. \_\_\_\_\_ or Treat!

10. Disguise

11. Night flying mammals

12. A house where ghosts live is considered \_\_\_\_\_

Across



Down

1. Dracula is one of these

2. Scary creatures, or \_\_\_\_\_, Inc.

3. Carved pumpkin

6. Web creator

7. Halloween month

8. Stirs potions in a cauldron

11. Ghostly talk





# SPOOKY HALLOWEEN QUIZ

1. When is Halloween celebrated?

- a) December 25<sup>th</sup>
- b) February 14<sup>th</sup>
- c) October 31<sup>th</sup>

2. What colours are associated with Halloween?

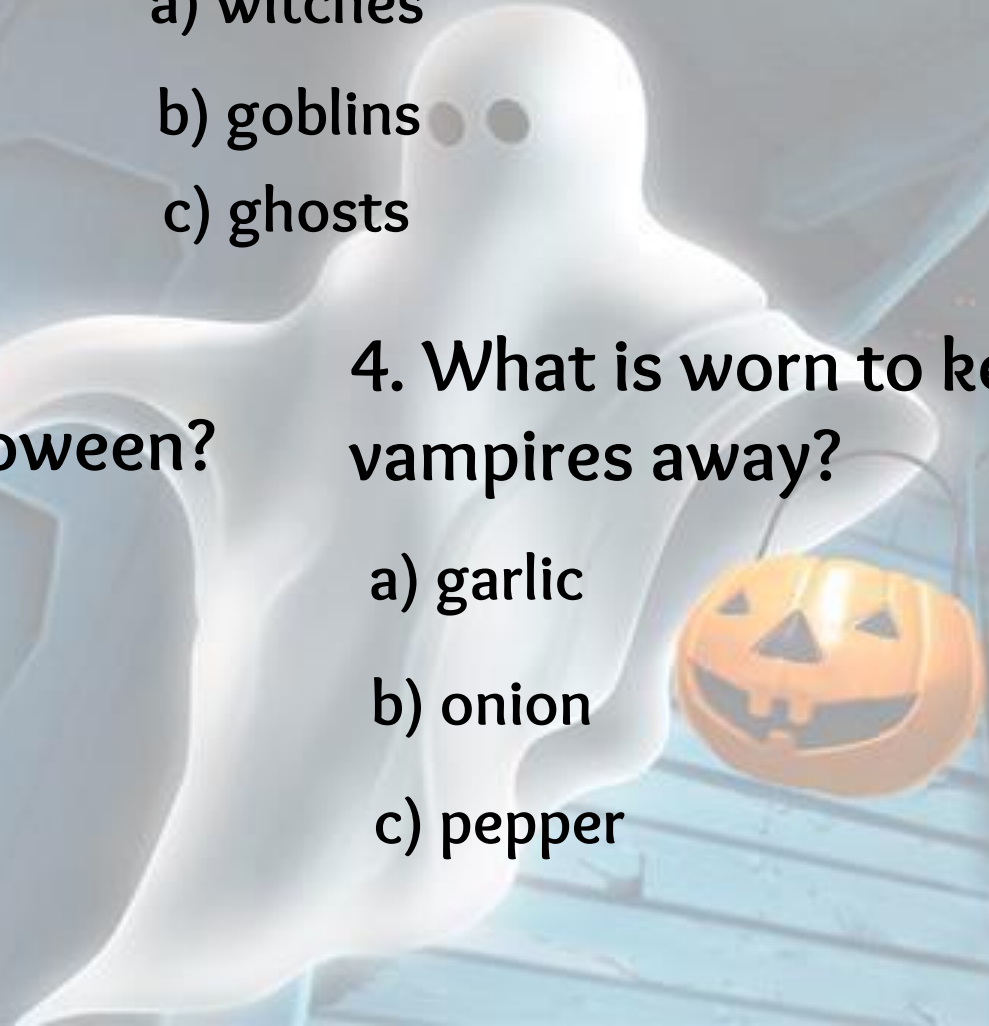
- a) red and green
- b) yellow and blue
- c) orange and black

3. Who can walk through walls?

- a) witches
- b) goblins
- c) ghosts

4. What is worn to keep vampires away?

- a) garlic
- b) onion
- c) pepper



5. When are werewolves supposed to come out?

- a) during a full moon
- b) after midnight
- c) on a Halloween night

6. What does a witch use for transport?

- a) a hat
- b) a motorbike
- c) a broomstick

7. What would you call a group of witches?

- a) coven
- b) gang
- c) mob





A Spooky Mama Girl