

Halloween Fun!

1. First, review all the directions.
2. Get started by writing your name in the upper left-hand corner of the blank piece of paper.
3. Draw a huge pumpkin in the center of the paper. Don't forget a stem.
4. Add triangle eyes to your pumpkin.
5. Draw a circle nose.
6. Design a mouth for your pumpkin.
7. In or around your pumpkin's eyes write two Halloween similes.
Simile: A simile compares two things using the words like or as.
Example: The jack-o-lantern glowed like the twinkling stars.
8. In or around your pumpkin's nose write an example of Halloween personification.
Personification: Giving human qualities to things that are not human
Example: The witch's cauldron cackled in the moonlight.
9. Along the edge of your pumpkin write a sentence containing a Halloween hyperbole.
Hyperbole: Extreme exaggeration or overstatement
Example: The trick-or-treater's bag weighed two tons.
10. Near your pumpkin's mouth, write a sentence containing a Halloween metaphor.
Metaphor: Making a comparison by stating that one thing is another
Example: The haunted house was a nightmare.
11. Along the bottom edge of your paper write a four-line rhyming poem about Halloween. You can use any of the following rhyme schemes:
AABB ABAB ABCA ABBA
12. Draw a bat in the upper right-hand corner.
13. Write 'Trick or Treat' under your pumpkin.
14. Add a spooky title for your work over the pumpkin.
15. Circle the word 'Trick'.
16. Now that you are finished reading each step, do only steps one and two.

History of Halloween

Halloween is a holiday celebrated on the evening of October 31st. Traditional activities such as trick-or-treating, bonfires, carving jack-o-lanterns, and visiting “haunted houses” are part of the holiday. Versions of these activities were first carried to North America in the nineteenth century by Irish and Scottish immigrants. Halloween has its origins in the ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain. The festival was a celebration of the end of the harvest season. The ancient Gaels believed that on October 31st the boundaries between the worlds of the living and the dead overlapped. Masks and costumes were worn in an attempt to appease evil spirits.

Trick-or-treating is one of the main traditions of Halloween. It involves children proceeding from house to house in costumes, asking for sweet treats with the question, “Trick or treat?” Dressing in costumes is another key tradition of Halloween. The practice of dressing in costumes and begging door-to-door for treats goes back to the Middle Ages.

There are many legends and theories around the traditional Jack-o-Lantern carved as part of Halloween traditions. However, the tradition began when people believed that carving scary faces onto turnips would scare away evil spirits. The Celts believed that placing Jack-o-Lanterns outside helped guide lost souls home as they wandered the streets during Samhain. In the United States, the tradition turned to pumpkins because pumpkins were more plentiful and easier to carve.

Costumes are a key part of Halloween celebrations. During the Samhain festival, some people wore masks and other disguises to avoid being recognized by evil spirits. The rise in costume wearing as a major part of Halloween took off once it became more of a consumer holiday. The first mass-produced costumes date to as early as the 1930’s.

Orange and black are the traditional Halloween colors. Orange symbolized the vibrant colors of their crops and the work of the harvest season. Black stood for the death of summer.

Name _____



1. Why are pumpkins carved in the United States rather than turnips?
 - A. Pumpkins are more readily available.
 - B. It is believed that larger vegetables have a bigger impact on scaring away evil spirits.
 - C. Pumpkins honor the Celtic tradition.

2. Is the following statement true? _____

The practice of dressing in costumes and begging door-to-door for treats originated in the United States.

3. The Celts believed that placing Jack-O-Lanterns outside helped guide lost souls

- A. To the bonfire
- B. To the harvest
- C. Home

4. When did costumes become an essential part of Halloween?

- A. During the Samhain festival
- B. When Halloween became more of a consumer holiday
- C. In the Middle Ages

5. Orange symbolizes the _____ of the harvest season.

- A. Celebration
- B. Death
- C. Work

6. Why did people wear masks during the Samhain festival?

- A. To be unrecognizable by evil spirits
- B. To scare their neighbors
- C. To celebrate the end of the harvest

7. Write out the answers to 2, 3, and 5 on the line below.

Happy Halloween!