

*Halloween*



Happy Halloween





# History of Halloween

Halloween is a holiday celebrated on the night of October 31. Traditional activities include trick-or-treating, bonfires, costume parties, visiting "haunted houses" and carving jack-o-lanterns. Irish and Scottish immigrants carried versions of the tradition to North America in the nineteenth century. Other western countries embraced the holiday in the late twentieth century including Ireland, the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and the United Kingdom as well as of Australia and New Zealand.

Halloween has its origins in the ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain (pronounced "sah-win").

The festival of Samhain is a celebration of the end of the harvest season in Gaelic culture. Samhain was a time used by the ancient pagans to take stock of supplies and prepare for winter.

The ancient Gaels believed that on October 31, the boundaries between

the worlds of the living and the dead overlapped and the deceased would come back to life and cause havoc such as sickness or damaged crops.



The festival would frequently involve bonfires. It is believed that the fires attracted insects to the area which attracted bats to the area. These are additional attributes of the history of Halloween.

Masks and costumes were worn in an attempt to mimic the evil spirits or appease them.

Trick-or-treating, is an activity for children on or around Halloween in which they proceed from house to house in costumes, asking for treats such as confectionery with the question, "Trick or treat?" The "trick" part of "trick or treat" is a threat to play a trick on the homeowner or his property if no treat is given. Trick-or-treating is one of the main traditions of Halloween. It has become socially expected that if one lives in a neighborhood with children one should purchase treats in preparation for trick-or-treaters.



*The history of Halloween has evolved. The activity is popular in the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, and due to increased American cultural influence in recent years, imported through exposure to US television and other media, trick-or-treating has started to occur among children in many parts of Europe, and in the Saudi Aramco camps of Dhahran, Akaria compounds and Ras Tanura in Saudi Arabia. The most significant growth — and resistance is in the United Kingdom, where the police have threatened to prosecute parents who allow their children to carry out the "trick" element. In continental Europe, where the commerce-driven importation of Halloween is seen with more skepticism, numerous destructive or illegal "tricks" and police warnings have further raised suspicion about this game and Halloween in general.*

*In Ohio, Iowa, and Massachusetts, the night designated for Trick-or-treating is often referred to as Beggars Night.*



**Part of the history of Halloween is Halloween costumes.**

**The practice of dressing up in costumes and begging door to door for treats on holidays goes back to the Middle Ages, and includes Christmas wassailing.**

**Trick-or-treating resembles the late medieval practice of "souling," when poor folk would go door to door on Hallowmas (November 1), receiving food in return for prayers for the dead on All Souls Day (November 2). It originated in Ireland and Britain, although similar practices for the souls of the dead were found as far south as Italy. Shakespeare mentions the practice in his comedy *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (1593), when Speed accuses his master of "puling [whimpering, whining], like a beggar at Hallowmas."**



Yet there is no evidence that souling was ever practiced in America, and trick-or-treating may have developed in America independent of any Irish or British antecedent. There is little primary Halloween history documentation of masking or costuming on Halloween — in Ireland, the UK, or America — before 1900. The earliest known reference to ritual begging on Halloween in English speaking North America occurs in 1911, when a newspaper in Kingston, Ontario, near the border of upstate New York, reported that it was normal for the smaller children to go street guising (see below) on Halloween between 6 and 7 p.m., visiting shops and neighbors to be rewarded with nuts and candies for their rhymes and songs. Another isolated reference appears, place unknown, in 1915, with a third reference in Chicago in 1920. The thousands of Halloween postcards produced between the turn of the 20th century and the 1920s commonly show children but do not depict trick-or-treating. Ruth Edna Kelley, in her 1919 history of the holiday, *The Book of Hallowe'en*, makes no mention of such a custom in the chapter "Hallowe'en in America." It does not seem to have become a widespread practice until the 1930s, with the earliest known uses in print of the term "trick or treat" appearing in 1934, and the first use in a national publication occurring in 1939. Thus, although a quarter million Scots-Irish immigrated to America between 1717 and 1770, the Irish Potato Famine brought almost a million immigrants in 1845–1849, and British and Irish immigration to America peaked in the 1880s, ritualized begging on Halloween was virtually unknown in America until generations later.





# Trick or treat, trick or treat



*Trick or treat, trick or treat, Give me something good to eat.*

*Trick or treat, trick or treat, Give me something good to eat.*

*The very first house is big and dark,...*

*Trick or treat, trick or treat, Give me something good to eat.*

*Trick or treat, trick or treat, Give me something good to eat.*

*The very next house is big and white,...*

*Trick or treat, trick or treat, Give me something good to eat.*

*Trick or treat, trick or treat, Give me something good to eat.*

*If you go out Halloween night,*

*I'll give you a tip that'll make it all right.*

*Smile at everyone that you meet.*

*Knock on the door and say...*

*Trick or treat, trick or treat, Give me something good to eat.*

*Trick or treat, trick or treat, Give me something good to eat.*



A black cat with large, bright green eyes is sitting on a large, carved jack-o'-lantern. The cat's tail is curled around the pumpkin. The jack-o'-lantern has a classic triangular-eyed, smiling face. The background is white with faint, large letters 'FP' and a square symbol.

Let's play

*1. Pin the Nose on the Jack-O-Lantern  
Printable Halloween Party Game*

*2. How to Set Up a Bobbing for Apples  
Game*

*3. Make A Mummy*





# *Fortune telling game.*

*Place four small saucers on a table in a line. Into the first put dirt; into the second, drizzle some water; into the third, a ring; into the fourth, a rag. Guests are blindfolded on at a time and led around table twice; then told to go alone and put fingers into saucer.*

*If they put their into dirt- divorce;  
into water-a trip across ocean;  
where the ring -to marry;  
where the rag - never to marry.*

