

Halloween Costumes Halloween Costumes Celebrations

National Holidays and Common Celebrations

What is Halloween?

I'm an Indian. I don't know what Halloween is. Can somebody explain it to me?

8 Answers



Balaji Viswanathan, Lived in US since 2004.

Written 29 Oct 2014

Harvest Origins

Around the world people celebrate harvest festivals that marks the arrival of a new crop and a new time of prosperity. Most agricultural societies had such a festival. For instance, North India celebrates [Holi](#) in March as the annual Wheat crop gets harvested in March. Tamil Nadu celebrates [Thai Pongal](#) in January righter after the Samba rice harvest in December. In case of Kerala, [Onam](#) festival is celebrated in August to mark their rice August after the monsoon.

In most agricultural societies in Northern Hemisphere, late autumn is one of the prime harvest seasons and thus it is the time for major festivals. This is the last opportunity to celebrate before huge snowstorms cover up the ground in the month of January.

Two such major autumn harvest festivals in the North America are [Halloween](#) and [Thanksgiving](#) - both with English agricultural roots. Halloween is the 31st October ever year and Thanksgiving is the last thursday of every November.

Halloween

Halloween is a corruption of "holy evening". The Celts believed that it is the time the dead would revisit their homes. They would lit bonfires and ask for purity.

After a few centuries, the belief in ghosts had gone away but people thought it was funny to dress up as one. Thus, from about 18th century people in Wales and other regions started dressing up as evil spirits and ghosts to make fun of the concept of bringing back the dead. To scare the dead, people also carry various lanterns such as the [Jack-o'-lantern](#).



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Halloween in the present day

1. It is the time people play with pumpkins. Everywhere around there are pumpkins.

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- 2. Adults dress up in various costumes - traditionally scary ones.
- 3. Kids move to other people's homes and ask for "trick or treat". You either show them a trick or give them chocolates.
- 4. Teens go and watch the scariest horror movies that will come on theatres.

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Catherine Beale, Go ahead. Make my day.

Updated 2 Dec 2014

In New York, *this* is Halloween:

Halloween is my favorite Holiday.

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The Empire State Building glows orange in the dark.

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On October 31 every year, all over the United States, children don costumes and walk all over the neighborhood ringing doorbells. When someone answers the door, they call out in unison: "*Trick or treat!*"

The neighbor drops little bags filled with candy -- chocolate Hershey kisses, Reese's Peanut Butter cups, M&Ms, miniature Milky Ways and Bazooka Bubble Gum -- into sacks and shopping bags and the children dash off to the next house. There are costume parties, costume parades, and costume contests.



Some Americans decorate their houses for this holiday.

Skeletons hang from trees and glow in the dark. Styrofoam headstones and crosses turn front lawns into cemeteries. Lifesized plastic skulls lie on steps, bats and spiders dangle from branches.

Haunted houses are popular -- and profitable. Lists like [15 Scary Real Haunted Houses](#) are updated every year.



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Pumpkins are to Halloween what roses are to Valentines Day and Christmas trees are to Christmas. The pumpkins are expensive this time of year. There are biggest-pumpkin

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contests for gardeners around the country.



Proud parents dress their babies as kittens, baby witches, and bananas.



Little girls dress up as princesses, the Little Mermaid, Snow White, or Cinderella.

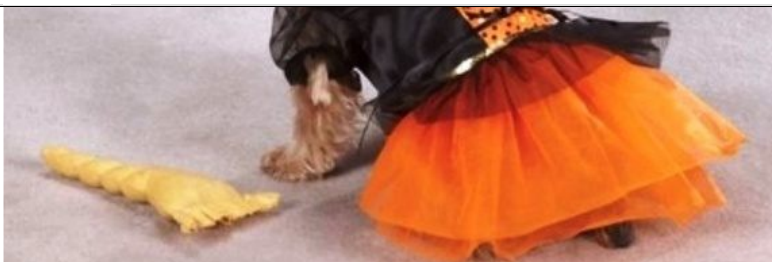
Little boys dress as monsters and pirates and baseball players.

You can buy costumes to make you look like Cookie Monster or a cat or a nurse. Older kids seek the fear factor, dressing as zombies and ghosts.



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The [top 15 Halloween costumes change](#) every year in search of the biggest profits.

On school days, children start as soon as they get home from school to maximize the number of hours they can trick-or-treat before dinner.

Capitalizing on the fear factor, Hollywood releases scary movies to keep teenagers occupied this time of year. Gore and guts designed to gross out the most stoic adolescent drives box office sales.

Haunted houses are popular -- and profitable. Lists like [15 Scary Real Haunted Houses](#) are updated every year all month long.

There are costume parties and parades. The Halloween Parade to end all Parades is held in Greenwich Village every year and televised -- but you really have to be there:



Uniquely American.



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Suresh Choudhary, I have got two cents for you.

Written 30 Oct 2014

[Evolving from the ancient Celtic holiday of Samhain, modern Halloween has become less](#)

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that this transition between the seasons was a bridge to the world of the dead. Over the millennia the holiday transitioned from a somber pagan ritual to a day of merriment, costumes, parades and sweet treats for children and adults.

[Bet You Didn't Know: Halloween Video - History of Halloween - HISTORY.com](#)

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Vikrant Badhani, Mocomi.com, Fun for kids

Written 27 Oct 2015

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October 31st, when you see children dressed in spooky costumes, going from one house to the other, trick or treating for candy and sweets. Then you know that this day is Halloween- a time of superstitions and celebrations. It is a festival observed in Western countries and falls on the Eve of All Saints Day. Kids and adults attend costume parties, make lanterns out of big pumpkins, visit haunted locations, tell scary stories to each other, play pranks and also watch horror movies. People light bonfires to ward off all evil spirits and ghosts.

History behind Halloween

Halloween is also known as All Hallows' Eve. Pope Gregory III, in the eighth century, assigned November 1st as a day to honor all saints and martyrs. This day was declared as a holiday and named as All Saints Day. The day before All Saints Day was known as Hallows' Eve and later came to be known as Halloween.

Why do we celebrate Halloween?

The very early celebration of Halloween was seen amongst the Celtic people who lived in areas now known as Great Britain and Northern France. The Celts were people who worshipped nature especially the Sun God. They also worshipped a God named Samhain who was believed to be the Lord of the dead and cold winter season. They believed in the Vigil of Samhain which said that on October 31st all dead souls would be summoned by Samhain and would take the body of the animals and roam around the Earth. The priests of the Celtic people would then build large fires on hilltops in order to give strength to the Sun God and remove the darkness. They sacrificed animals and burned dried crops in order to help the Sun God. They believed that this ritual would help the Sun God to overcome the winter season and shine again. At midnight they would start worshipping Samhain. This day would start the beginning of New Year. The ember from the bonfire would then be taken by the people to burn firewood at their own homes in order to ward off evil spirits.

This culture continued until the Celts were captured by the Romans Catholics. The Romans brought with them their own traditions and costumes. They had declared November 1st as a holiday for all martyrs and saints to honor them. But witchcraft came into existence at that time and witches would come out on 31st October and perform their rituals. The superstitions and beliefs continued and this day was termed as All Hallows Day.

More information here [What is Halloween?](#)

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Monica Clark, Halloween is the fav time for me. It makes me crazy. I write lots of stories

Written 28 Sep 2015

Halloween used to be a Samhain Holiday marking the end of harvesting season & beginning of winter. The period between these two seasons was also seen as a path to the world of dead. Later on, Halloween evolved to be a costume & candy festival from a festival about ghosts & spirits. Read Halloween stories @ [Page on bit.ly](#)

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Shikha Sharma, Writer by profession. Loves to write about halloween stories, horror stories

Written Sep 28, 2015

Halloween used to be a Samhain Holiday marking the end of harvesting season & beginning of winter. The period between these two seasons was also seen as a path to the world of dead. Later on, Halloween evolved to be a costume & candy festival from a festival about ghosts & spirits. Read Halloween stories @ <http://www.shortnscarystories.com/>

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Sundar Sudhagar

Written Oct 30, 2015

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decorate their homes with pumpkin, apple bobbings and various decorations. [I Wish You All A Happy Halloween](#)

49 Views



Aaron Johnson

Written Oct 30, 2014

an excuse to scare people :)

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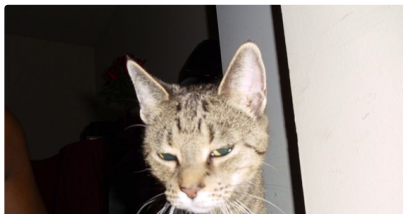
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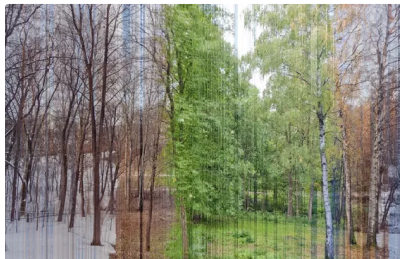
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Eirik Solheim, Geek
Updated Jul 7



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Andrew Weill, Student of politics and occasional activist
Written Aug 8

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Wall Street people are people, too.

And here's another big secret:

Lots of Wall Street people base their political decisions on issues other than personal

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