

# HALLOWEEN

On October 31, Americans celebrate Halloween. Halloween means “holy” (hallow) “een” (evening). This is the evening before the Christian holy day of All Saints Day. On All Saints Day, Christians remember the saints, but Halloween is even older than Christianity.



Before Christianity, people in Europe believed that on October 31 ghosts of dead people came back To scare the ghosts, people dressed like devils and were very noisy. They also made big fires to keep the ghosts away. Later, people did not believe in ghosts, but they kept the day of Halloween for fun.

Immigrants came from Europe to America and brought with them the custom of Halloween. Halloween has some strange symbols. One symbol is jack-o'-lantern in the window. The jack-o'-lantern is to scare ghosts. People cut the pumpkin, throw away all the inside, and cut a face in it. Then, they put a candle inside of it. Jack-o'-lantern usually looks scary too!



Today, in the USA, Halloween is very popular with the children. They wear masks and special customs. They go from house to house and say “Trick or treat!” People give them candies, cookies or fruit. When people give nothing, the children sometimes play tricks on them.

Answer the following questions.

- When do people celebrate Halloween?  
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- Why did people start to celebrate Halloween?  
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- What is jack-o'-lantern?  
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- What do children do in Halloween?  
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