



Jack O' Lanterns

Vocabulary

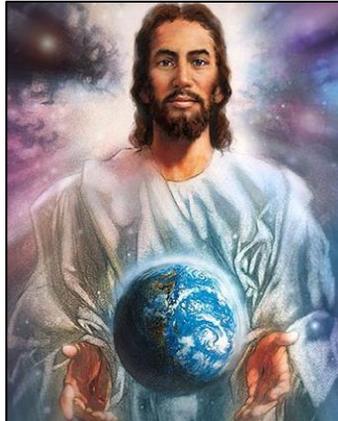
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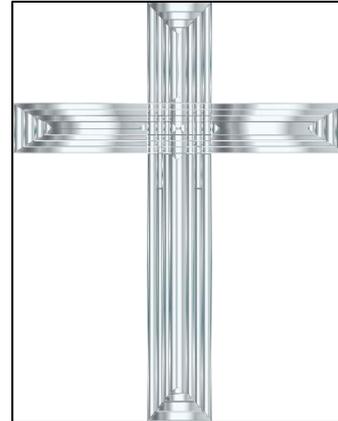
Devil / Hell

The devil is the prince of darkness. Hell is his home. It's where bad people go when they die.



God / heaven

God is the creator of life. Heaven is his home. It's where good people go when they die.



Silver cross

This cross is a sign of god and will protect you from the devil.



Carved out turnip

When you carve something, you cut out a shape, such as a scary face. They carved faces into the turnips.



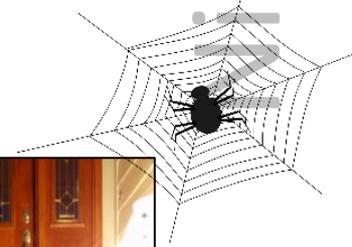
Burning coal

The burning coal was placed inside the turnip and used as a light.



On the doorstep

The "jack-o'-lanterns" are placed on the doorsteps to scare off ghosts.





Vocabulary

Originated in
Immigrants

This is where something came from or started from.
These are people who leave their own country and go and live in another country.

Tradition

These are related to the culture of a group of people. An example is opening Christmas gifts on Christmas Day. It has been done for a long time and is part of a cultures belief. Another example is wearing scary costumes on Halloween night. A very important part of something.

An integral part of
For centuries
He convinced him

For hundreds of years.
When you convince someone to do something, you make them agree to do it.

He set off
Roaming the Earth

He started his journey / He began to leave.
When you roam around you walk around but with no plan. You just walk around with no idea where you are going.

Legend
Native to America

This is a story that might or might not be true.
When you or something is native to somewhere, you or it comes from that place. The pumpkin is native to America, so it comes from America and is grown and produced there.

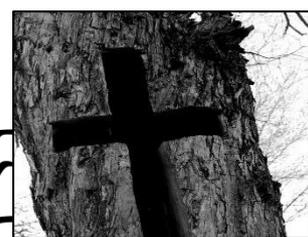


Introduction

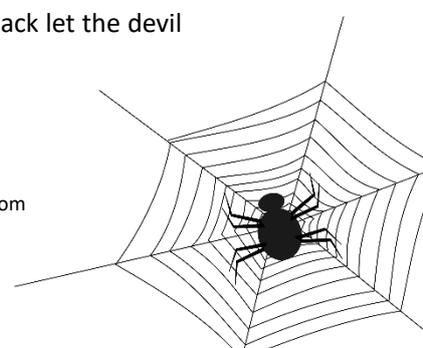
Every Halloween, pumpkins with scary and funny faces are seen **on doorsteps** and behind windows all over the world. The idea of the "jack-o'-lanterns" **originated in** Ireland and Irish **immigrants** brought the **tradition** to America, where it became **an integral part of** Halloween throughout the world.

The Legend of "Stingy Jack"

People have been making "jack-o'-lanterns" for **centuries**. But where did the idea come from you may ask. The idea comes from the Irish story about a man called "Stingy Jack." One day, Stingy Jack invited the **Devil** to have a drink with him. However, Stingy Jack didn't want to pay for his drink, so **he convinced** the **Devil** to turn himself into a **coin** that Jack could use to buy their drinks.



Once the Devil changed into a coin, Jack decided to keep the money and put it next to a **silver cross**, which stopped the Devil from changing back into himself. Jack made the devil promise that he would not see him for one year and if he should die, he would not take him to **hell**. After the Devil made the promise, Jack let the devil change back into himself.





The following year, Jack again met the devil and this time **convinced him** to climb a tree to get some fruit. While he was up the tree, Jack **carved a sign of the cross** into the tree so that the Devil could not come down, until he promised Jack not to see him for ten more years. Having no choice, the Devil agreed.

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Soon after, Jack died, but because he made an agreement with the **devil**, God would not allow Jack into **heaven**. The Devil, who was also unhappy with Jack, would not allow Jack into **hell**. Having no choice, he **set off** into the dark night with only some **burning coal** to light his way. Jack cut out the inside of a turnip and put the coal into it using it as a light. He has been **roaming the Earth** and scaring people with it ever since.

The Irish gave him the name “Jack of the Lantern,” and then, simply “Jack O’ Lantern.” **Legend** says that on Halloween night he will try and enter people’s homes, and only the “Jack O’ Lantern” can scare him away.

So, get to the shops, buy your Jack of the Lantern, and stingy Jack will keep his distance.

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How it spread around the world

In Ireland and Scotland, people began to make their own stories of Jack’s lanterns by **carving scary faces** into turnips or potatoes, and placing them near windows or near doors to scare away Stingy Jack and other ghosts from entering their home.

Immigrants from these countries brought the jack O’ lantern **tradition** with them when they **immigrated** to the United States. They soon found that pumpkins, a fruit **native to America**, made a perfect jack-o’-lantern.

It was from this time, that pumpkins were used to make the world-famous Jack O’ Lantern that we see today. Remember, to always place your pumpkin outside your door or near the window to make sure that “Stingy Jack” cannot enter. Good luck, keep calm, and carry on!



Let the journey of discovery begin