

The history of Halloween

Vocabulary



Bonfires

These are large fires, usually used for festivals such as Halloween.



Wear costumes

People wear clothing that they would not normally wear. It is usually worn during parties or special events.



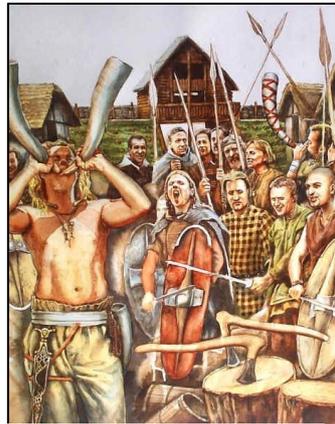
Ghosts

This is the soul of a dead person.



Romans

These were people from Rome, Italy, that controlled most of Europe.



Celts

A group of people that lived about 2000 years ago and came from Ireland, the United Kingdom and Northern France.

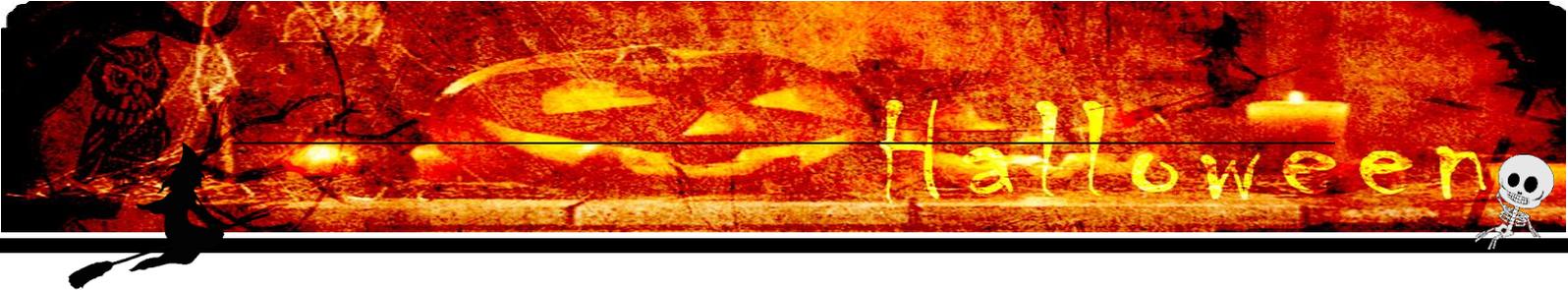


A Saint

A person who is recognised by the church and is dedicated to god. They are seen as having very high morals.

NicheEnglish

NicheEnglish



Vocabulary

Superstitions

This is a belief that is linked to culture. They tell you things that you must or must not do, and are believed to give you either good or bad luck. An example is the number 13. Many people believe that this is an unlucky number and will try to avoid it.

Originated from

This is where something came from or started from.

Ancient

Something that is thousands of years old.

Relatives

These are your family members such as your brothers, uncles, aunts etc.

Invaded

You go into someone else's land or country and take control of it by force.

Traditions

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 culture's belief. Another example is wearing scary costumes on Halloween night.

The pope

This is the leader of the Roman Catholic church, Vatican City, Rome.

The history of Halloween

Halloween is a time to celebrate the dead and is full of **superstitions** and scary stories. It is believed to have **originated from** the **ancient** Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in), when people would **light bonfires** and wear **costumes** to scare off **ghosts** and protect them in the winter.

The **Celts**, a group of people who lived 2,000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, celebrated their New Year on November 1. This day was to show the end of summer and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often linked with death. Celts believed that on the night before the New Year, October 31st, **ghosts** of dead **relatives** returned to walk the earth. As a way to scare away the ghosts, **bonfires** were lit everywhere.

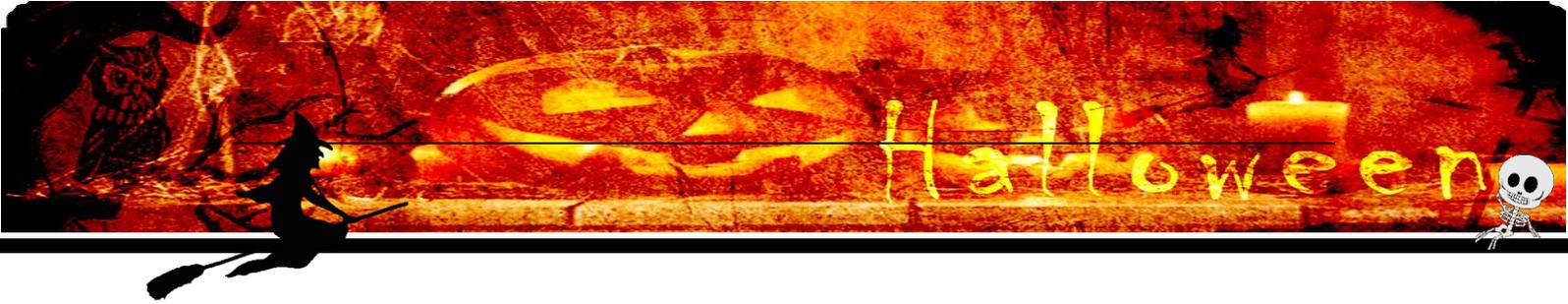
By 43 A.D., the **Romans invaded** the Celtic lands and took control. During the four hundred years that they controlled the Celtic lands, two Roman festivals were combined with the Celtic festival Samhain. The first was Feralia, a day in late October when the Romans remembered the dead. The second was a day to honor Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol of Pomona is the apple which explains the traditional game of "**apple bobbing**" on Halloween.



Festival of Samhain



Apple bobbing



NicheEnglish

NicheEnglish



Recent history

In the eighth century, **Pope Gregory III** chose November 1 as a time to honor all **saints**. The holiday, All Saints' Day, included some of the **traditions** of Samhain. The evening before was known as All Hallows' Eve and later became known as 'Halloween'. It became a fun festival with many fun activities for everyone to simply relax and enjoy.

In a number of countries around the world, as winter comes and the days grow shorter and colder, people continue to bring in the winter season with parties, **wearing fun costumes**, scaring each other, and giving each other sweets as a fun way to remember the dead and scare away the ghosts that hide in the night.



Let the journey of discovery begin