



## Common Halloween traditions

### Vocabulary



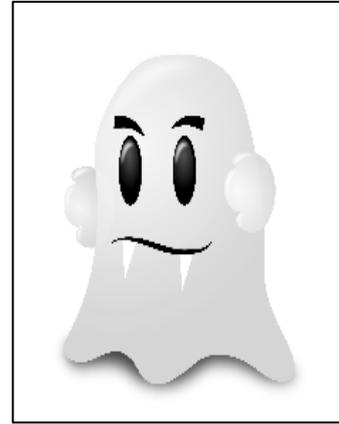
#### Halloween masks

During Halloween, people will wear these masks to scare away any ghosts.



#### 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.

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### Vocabulary

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

#### Beg for food

You ask people to give you food for free.

#### Relatives

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

#### Neighbourhood

This is your local area.

#### Superstition

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.

#### Wandering around

To walk around with no plan on where you are going.

#### Originated from

This is where something came from or started from.

#### Symbol

A symbol represents something. An example is '£', which a symbol for British money.

#### Cheating

If you cheat you don't follow the rules. You will do anything to win.



Soul cakes

**Trick-or-treating**

The Halloween **tradition** of “trick-or-treating” probably dates back as far as the 16th century in England. There was a festival called **All Souls’ Day**, where the poor people would sing or **beg for food**. Rich Families would give them food called “soul cakes” in return for their promise to **pray** for the family’s dead **relatives**.

The giving of soul cakes was encouraged by the church and eventually changed where children would visit the houses in their **neighbourhood** and be given drinks, food, or money.



Trick-or-treating

Today, children usually dress up in fun or scary **costumes** and when they knock on the door, they have to say ‘Trick or treat’. If the homeowner says trick, the children must perform a trick such as sing a song or tell a joke. However, the homeowner can simply say ‘Treat’, and just give the children sweets or money and wish them a happy Halloween. But for me, I always say ‘trick’ as I like to see them earn their sweets.

**Fancy dress & wearing masks**

The **tradition** of dressing in costume for Halloween dates back hundreds of years ago when winter was a dark and scary time, and people were afraid of the dark cold nights. On Halloween night, when it was believed that **ghosts** came back to scare us, people thought that they would see **ghosts** following them if they walked outside at night.

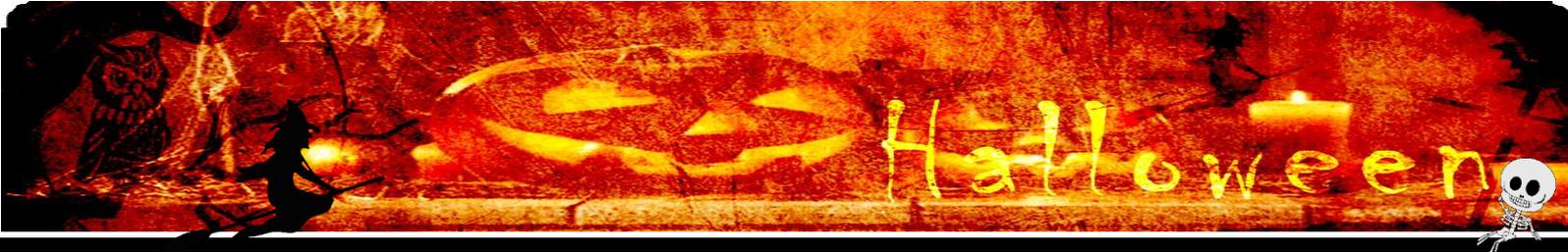
To stop themselves being seen by these ghosts, people would **wear masks** so the ghosts would think that they were ghosts too and leave them alone. Does it work you may ask? Well why not try it for yourself. Good luck and god bless.



Halloween masks



Halloween fancy dress parties



This **superstition** grew and now, all around the world on Halloween night there will be a **fancy dress party** where you will see many people dressed up in various **costumes** such as a dead doctor, a witch or a skeleton, and wearing **scary masks** to scare away any ghosts that might be **wandering around in the dark**. So be prepared if you go out on Halloween night!



### Apple bobbing

“Apple bobbing”, is thought to have **originated from** a Roman festival held on November first to celebrate Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. The **symbol** of Pomona is the apple which can explain the **traditional** game of “**apple bobbing**” on Halloween. However, no one can be sure where the idea came from, but one thing is true, it is a fun game for everyone to **let their hair down** [Relax] and go crazy.

The game is played by filling a **large basin** with water and putting apples in the water. Players then try to catch one with their teeth without using their arms. Sometimes the arms are placed behind their back to prevent any **cheating**. They then usually compete against each other to see how many apples they can get.

If you go to a Halloween party you will most likely see this game because when people think of Halloween, they think of the **traditional** game of “apple bobbing”.



Let the journey of discovery begin