

# HALLOWEEN TRADITIONS

On October 31st, we celebrate Halloween, thought to be the one night of the year when ghosts, witches, and fairies are especially active. So what do people do on Halloween Day in England?



## Jack-o-lanterns

are hollowed out pumpkins with a face cut in one side and a candle put inside. In the old days people lit fires to scare away bad spirits. They believed light had power over darkness. Today Jack-o-lanterns are supposed to frighten away ghosts and witches.



TRICK OR TREAT



## Apple Bobbing

One Halloween party game is called 'bobbing for apples'. Apples are put in a big bowl full of water. The players, sometimes blindfolded must take an apple out of the water without using their hands.



## Dressing up

On Halloween, when it was believed that bad spirits came back to the earthly world, people thought they would meet ghosts if they left their homes. To avoid being recognized by ghosts people would wear masks when they left homes after dark so that the ghosts would mistake them for fellow spirits. That's why Halloween costumes are traditionally monsters such as vampires, ghosts, witches and devils.



## Trick or Treat

Children in costumes go from house to house in their neighbourhood, often in small groups, in order to ask for treats such as sweets, lollipops, chocolates or money. When someone answers the door, the children say: "Trick or treat?" The "trick" is a threat to perform mischief on the homeowners or their property if no treat is given.



TRICK OR TREAT



## ACTIVITIES

1. When is Halloween celebrated?

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2. Circle the correct answer:

- a. In a traditional Halloween game, people try to take **pears / apples** from a bowl of water.
- b. People put **candles / lamps** inside the Jack-O'-lanterns.
- c. People believed light **had / didn't have** power over darkness.
- d. Children go to other **neighbourhoods / houses** to trick or treat.

3. True or False?

- a. People wore masks and costumes so that they wouldn't be recognized by ghosts.    T / F
- b. Halloween's traditional costumes include firefighters, teachers and police officers.    T / F
- c. Children usually ask for cakes and pizza when they are trick or treating.    T / F
- d. Ghosts are especially active on October, 31st.    T / F

4. Is Halloween celebrated in Argentina?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is your favourite costume?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you like Halloween? Why? Why not?

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