About Halloween



On the night of October 31 through November 1, you can see terrifying figures roaming the streets. The houses and gardens are decorated in a spookily beautiful way. Incidentally, this spooky holiday doesn't originate in the U.S., as many believe. It has its roots in Europe.

More than a thousand years ago, the ancient Celts in Ireland celebrated Halloween. On the night of October 31 through November 1, they bid farewell to summer. October 31 marked the end of the year. Back then, summer was the season of life and winter the season of death.

On the night of October 31 through November 1, these two worlds came together. Families offered delicious food to their deceased ancestors that night.

Over time, people began to dress up in spooky costumes on this evening. The idea was to make Death think that the people in costume had already died, so he wouldn't need to come and take them anymore.

Where the term 'Halloween' comes from:

On 1 November, Catholics celebrate All Saints' Day. In English, this day is called 'All Hallows'. The evening of 31 October is therefore known in English as 'All Hallows' Evening'. The abbreviation for this is Halloween.

In the 19th century, many Irish people - the descendants of the ancient Celts - emigrated to the United States. They brought their traditions with them - including Halloween. This custom then spread throughout the United States of America.

Every year, children and adults carve pumpkins and throw Halloween parties. Children dress up and go from house to house asking their neighbours for candy. Halloween didn't arrive in Continental Europe until about thirty years ago. Now, in most European countries, too, you can hear costumed children saying, *Süßes oder Saures! Des bonbons ou un sort! Dolcetto o scherzetto! ¡Truco o trato! Godis eller bus! Ne dați sau ne păcăliți! Karkkia vai kepposta! Trick or treat!*

Anyone who refuses to give a child sweets risks being punished. Children are then allowed to give these adults a fright. That's usually not necessary at all, because the bags are always filled to the brim with sweets after just a short while.

What is the opposite?

winter – dead – empty – children – down – the night – punishment – fetch – die – morning – say goodbye – the end – old – sweet

alive ...*dead*.....
adults .....
young .....
the day .....
upstairs .....
the beginning .....
reward .....
full .....
say hello .....
summer .....
be born .....
sour .....
evening .....
bring .....

Your pumpkin

Before you paint this pumpkin, plan it out!
Underline one of each of the adjectives:

Eyes: round, oval, triangular, rectangular, square, crescent-shaped...
Nose: triangular, square, round, oval...
Mouth: rectangular, crescent-shaped, oval...
Teeth: rectangular, pointed...
Overall impression: funny, menacing, sweet, evil...

