
Holiday Facts & Fun:
HALLOWEEN

Second Edition



Teacher's Guide

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Produced

by

Colman Communications Corp.

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HALLOWEEN

SECOND EDITION

From the
Holiday Facts & Fun
Series

Grades K-4

Viewing Time: 15:00

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Intended Audience and Uses

Halloween, 2d Edition has been produced for students in grades K-4. This video has several classroom uses. First, it can be used to help students understand and appreciate the holiday. Second, the historical section on the genesis and development of Halloween can be used as part of primary-intermediate social studies units that cover Europe and European history. This program meets McREL K-4 History Standard 1, Level I, Benchmark 5 (Understands cultural heritage through stories, songs, and celebrations); McREL U.S. History Standard 1, Level II, Benchmark 8 (“Understands the historical events... commemorated by major...holidays”); and McREL K-4 History,

Topic 4 (“The history of Peoples of Many Cultures Around the World”).

Program Synopsis

Halloween, 2nd Edition is divided into five sections. After the introduction, the program provides an animated overview of the holiday’s history, beginning with the ancient Celts almost 3,000 years ago. It then discusses ancient Roman and early Christian influences on Halloween. The second part covers symbols associated with the Halloween – witches, black cats, bats, spiders and owls. During this sequence, students learn how and why these symbols are often seen on Halloween. The third part of the program shows activities that we often see and do on Halloween – trips to pumpkin farms, haunted houses, and community centers with Halloween programs. The fourth part of the program discusses trick or treating in detail, with special emphasis on safety issues. After a brief discussion of the history of jack-o’-lanterns, viewers are taken to several home Halloween parties. Games such as bobbing for apples and activities such as doing magic tricks are placed into historical prospective in this final section of the program.

VIEWER OBJECTIVES

After viewing this video and participating in the suggested activities, viewers should be able to do the following:

1. Trace the history of Halloween.
2. Name five symbols of Halloween and tell why they are associated with the holiday.
3. Name three activities, other than trick or treating, people often participate in during Halloween.
4. Tell where trick or treating began and recount 7-9 safety rules to follow when trick or treating on Halloween.

5. Recount the tale of Jack and his lantern, and tell why people bob for apples and perform magic tricks on the holiday.

The producers encourage you to make adaptations and changes to the following lesson plan whenever you feel it will enhance your students' learning experiences. Only by tailoring the material to your unique classroom situation will you be able to maximize the educational experience afforded by these materials.

SUGGESTED LESSON PLAN

Viewing Strategies

Various strategies may be employed when showing this video to your class. If you wish to use the video as a way to give general information about the holiday, you may find it useful to show the entire program in one screening, then follow up with appropriate questions (see the ***Suggested Discussion Questions*** blackline master) and/or activities suggested in this guide. Alternately, you may wish to show only the first several sections of the video if presentation time is limited, or if your class is using the video to learn about the historical background of Halloween.

Introduce the Program

The producers encourage you to prescreen the program to familiarize yourself with its content.

Ask the class to draw pictures of their favorite Halloween activities. They can draw themselves as they trick or treat, paint pumpkins, eat candy – or whatever else comes to mind. As an alternative, have the children draw pictures of Halloween symbols, such as black cats, owls and bats. After the children have

drawn their pictures, ask them show and discuss what they've illustrated. You may, of course, place the pictures on a special Halloween bulletin board in your room.

Pre-Viewing Activities

Now ask the class if anyone knows why we celebrate Halloween. When and where did the holiday start? Tell the class that they're going to see a video that will answer those questions. Finally, tell everyone that one section of the video discusses Halloween safety and that you will ask some questions about that section.

Post-Viewing Activities

Discuss the program, using the *Suggested Discussion Questions*, if you prefer.

DESCRIPTION OF BLACKLINE MASTERS

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Gives questions that may be asked after each segment is viewed.

HALLOWEEN SYMBOLS – An activity that reviews four of the holiday's symbols and why they are associated with Halloween.

TRICK OR TREATING SAFETY – Reviews safety rules for Halloween.

ANSWER KEY

Video Quiz: 1. False 2. b., Feralia 3. c., spiders, bats, witches
4. Pomona 5. Halloween 6. b., Ireland 7. False 8. Any five of the following: Trick or treat with an adult; when it's daylight; don't take shortcuts on lawn, in alleys, or in unlit areas; put on masks so you can see clearly; make sure your costume fits properly; never go inside a

house when trick or treating; carry flashlight, etc. when trick or treating when it's dark; stay away from jack-o'-lanterns with candles in them; don't eat unwrapped goodies. 10. Any three of the following: flash light, reflective tape, light sticks, glow bracelets. 10. True

TRANSCRIPT OF THE VIDEO

There are ghosts!

There are wizards and witches, too, as well as monsters and people with funny faces!

A cold wind blows and leaves skitter off the trees.

Birds fly south.

It gets dark early, and in our imaginations, strange things may begin to happen.

It must be Halloween!

Every October thirty-first, many neighborhoods around the country look a lot like this. Perhaps yours does, too.

Dressed in costume, children go from house to house and almost always come away with a tasty treat to bring home – or trade.

Halloween is a fun holiday almost everyone can enjoy -- both children and adults.

It's a very old holiday, too.

In fact, our celebration of Halloween has its beginnings almost three thousand years ago, in what would some day become the country of England.

The people who lived there – the Celts – dreaded winter.

For in those days, there was no electricity for lights and heat. And food became scarce as the cold season wore on.

So the Celts held a festival in late October to cheer themselves and to help them face the grim days ahead.

Called “Samhain,” the festival marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter.

During Samhain the Celts – who believed in magical creatures – lit bonfires and torches to drive away what they thought were evil spirits that visited the earth for two days, beginning October 31st.

To the superstitious Celts it was easy to imagine everyday things as nighttime ghosts and goblins.

Samhain began to change about a thousand years after it began, when soldiers from Rome conquered the Celts.

The Romans had their own holidays that marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter.

One of those celebrations honored Pomona, the Roman goddess of food such as apples and nuts.

The Romans also celebrated a festival called “Feralia,” a holiday that honored the memory of those who had died.

In time, the three celebrations – Samhain, Feralia, and the festival of Pomona – became one. But it still wasn’t Halloween as we know it.

Something else was needed, something that was provided by the early Christians.

About 1,200 years ago, they also celebrated a holiday as winter grew near – “All Saints’ Day.” The holiday was held to honor Christian holy people who had died, or “saints.”

The early Christians celebrated this “All Saints’ Day” on November first.

The night before – October 31st – was known as “All Hallows’ Even,” which meant “the evening before All Saints’ Day.” In time, it was shortened to “Halloween.”

Many early Christian leaders tried to outlaw the old Celtic customs and holidays, including Samhain, but they were never completely successful.

And so we still see many Celtic symbols, such as witches and black cats, on Halloween. In some cases, however, the meaning of those symbols has changed over the years.

In Celtic times, for instance, witches weren't believed to be evil. Instead, they were seen as healers, those who knew how to use herbs and other plants to cure diseases.

As time passed, however, people began to see witches not as healers, but rather, as wicked magicians.

In days of old, black cats – another Halloween symbol – were believed to help witches cast their evil, magical spells.

Spiders, a third symbol, were also believed to be witches' helpers, probably because they look so creepy.

It was said that spiders could crawl to places where they wouldn't be noticed, gather information and then crawl back to their evil mistress to tell her what they had learned.

Bats are still another Halloween symbol from the distant past. Ancient people saw bats as ugly and mysterious night creatures whose wings were often used in magical potions.

Finally, in days of old, owls were believed to be witches who had changed themselves into birds.

The creatures' ghostly hoots probably had a lot to do with that superstition.

Today, of course, most of us aren't really frightened of those old wives' tales because we know they're not true. But on Halloween it can be fun to pretend that they are.

In make-believe haunted houses, for instance, we may see spooky sights.

Other ways people have fun on Halloween include shopping for harvest foods, such as squash – and pumpkins.

Pumpkins! Halloween just wouldn't be the same without finding that perfect one to sit on the front porch!

To many people, there seems to be something magical about pumpkins.

They just seem to make people happy – kids, grownups, and even little babies!

By the way, many people think that pumpkins are vegetables, but they're really fruits.

They help remind us of the ancient Roman harvest festivals.

Besides buying pumpkins and going to make-believe haunted houses, people often go on hayrides through cornfields or attend community events as the holiday nears.

Entertainers, make-believe fortune-tellers and others provide a fun time for everyone who attends.

Other activities at community celebrations of Halloween may include rope climbs and bouncy slides.

Participating in pumpkin painting contests is still another way we have fun on the holiday.

Painted pumpkins are similar to jack-o'-lanterns. But real jack-o'-lanterns are carved, not painted, of course.

So that's a job for adults because sharp knives must be used.

Jack-o'-lanterns were first made in Ireland, another country where Celts lived.

The lanterns were made after people heard the story of an Irishman named Jack. It's said that Jack used a lantern to lead people from pathways as they walked through spooky, foggy marshes and forests.

According to legend, those who followed Jack's lantern would never be seen again.

Of course, the most enjoyable Halloween activity for many children is trick or treating. It's fun getting all those goodies!

The tradition of wearing costumes comes from an old belief that people could fool evil spirits who came looking for them on Halloween night.

Those evil spirits, they believed, would pass them by, thinking they were *other* spirits.

The custom or trick or treating, like that of the jack-o'-lantern, also comes from Ireland.

Many years ago, Irish children went from house to house, asking for food and money in the name of a terrible Celtic god named Muck Olla.

If a person wasn't generous enough, it was believed that Muck Olla would destroy that person's home or barn.

Today, we don't have to worry about that, of course. But we do have other concerns on Halloween, mostly about safety.

That's why it's a good idea to trick or treat with an adult you know – a parent (or parents), a scout leader, an older brother sister, or another relative.

You should stay on the sidewalk, too, and never take shortcuts across lawns because if there are decorations or lights on them, you could trip or become entangled in wires.

Here's another safety tip: never take shortcuts through alleys or walk through unlit areas.

Of course, your mask – if you wear one – should be put on so you can see clearly. If not, you could bump into something, or trip on an unseen object, or wander dangerously into the street.

Also, your costume should fit properly. If it's too long, for instance, this could happen!

And here's something else to remember: never go inside a house when you trick or treat.

Woman: Oh, I forgot the candy. Do you want to come in while I get it?

Trick or treater: No, thank you. We'll stay here.

Woman: Okay, I'll be right back.

Trick or treaters: (together) Thank you.

It's also better to go trick or treating when it's still light outside – not at night.

If it might get dark while you're trick or treating, keep in mind that it could be difficult for drivers to see you.

So be prepared by carrying or wearing something that glows in the dark.

Flashlights, reflective tape, flashing light sticks and glow bracelets are a few examples!

Also, you should stay away from any jack-o'-lantern with a candle inside, especially if there's no top on it. It could be tipped over and your costume could catch fire!

Unwrapped goodies may not be safe, either.

Any candy that has been taken out of its wrapper or that's not been wrapped at the factory, such as these popcorn balls, shouldn't be eaten.

Of course, it's perfectly safe to eat unwrapped cookies, cake and candy at a friend's Halloween party.

Many of the games we play at these parties remind us of age-old customs and people.

Bobbing for apples, for instance, is a reminder of Pomona, who was – remember? – the Roman goddess of harvested fruits.

Telling fortunes is something else that recalls customs and people of by-gone days.

Today, when a person pretends to be a fortune-teller, she's doing what witches were supposed to be able to do long ago – look into the future.

Magic tricks are also part of many Halloween celebrations. They're performed to remind us of creatures who were said to have magical powers.

Reading or telling spooky stories is still another fun thing we may do on Halloween.

It's a way to be frightened in an enjoyable, make-believe way.

Halloween, then, is a wonderful and very old holiday.

It comes from the ancient Celts, Romans, and Christians.

We have many symbols of Halloween, symbols that have been handed down through the ages.

Halloween is a time to have fun.

Yet, it's also a time to be careful – by trick or treating with adults while it's still light outside, if possible; by wearing your mask correctly so you can see clearly; by making certain you can be seen in the dark if you're out past sunset; and by always staying outside the house where you're trick or treating.

In that way, Halloween will be what it's supposed to be – a great October 31st!

Web Resources

Halloween Online
www.halloween-online.com/

Halloween Crafts, Games and More for Kids
www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/halloween/

A Detailed History of Halloween
www.theholidayspot.com/halloween/history.htm

Suggested Discussion Questions – Halloween

1. How long ago did Halloween start? (About 3,000 years ago)
2. Who were the people that celebrated Samhain (pron. SAV-un)? (Celts)
3. Where did the Celts live? (England)
4. Why did the Celts celebrate Samhain? (To cheer themselves and help them face the grim days of winter)
5. Who did the Celts believe visited the earth for two days, beginning October 31st? (Evil spirits)
6. What two holidays did the ancient Romans celebrate at the end of the harvest season? (Festival of Pomona and Feralia)
7. Who celebrated “All Saints’ Day”? (The ancient Christians)
8. What was the night before “All Saints’ Day” called? (All Hallows’ Even)
9. How have people changed their views of witches from Celtic times to today? (Witches were first believed to be healers; now they’re viewed as wicked magicians.)
10. What did ancient people believe about black cats? (They helped witches cast spells.)
11. What did people once believe that spiders did for witches? (They served as spies.)
12. What part of bats were witches supposed to use in their magical potions? (Wings)
13. What did ancient people believe about owls? (They were witches who had changed themselves into birds.)
14. What kind of food are pumpkins? (Fruit)
15. Name four ways people celebrate Halloween? (Go to haunted houses; go on hayrides; go to community celebrations of the holiday; make jack-o’-lanterns)
16. What supposedly happened to people who followed Jack’s lantern into marshes and forests? (They were never seen again.)
17. Who was Muck Olla? (A terrible Celtic god who would destroy the homes or barns of people who weren’t generous enough on Halloween)
18. Name ways to trick or treat safely. (Keep on the sidewalk; don’t take shortcuts through unlit areas or alleys; be certain you can see through your mask; make certain your costume fits; never go inside a house where you’re trick-or-treating; trick-or-treat when it’s still light outside; have something that’s bright, such as a flashlight, if you’re trick or treating after sunset; stay away from jack-o’-lanterns that have candles in them; don’t eat any goodies that aren’t in their factory wrappings, or whose wrappings have been opened.)
19. Why do we bob for apples on Halloween? (Reminder of Pomona)
20. Why do we see “fortune tellers” on the holiday? (Witches were supposed to be able to see into the future.)

Name _____

Halloween Symbols

The video you just saw discussed symbols of Halloween. Write a sentence or two about each of the symbols seen below, telling why we see each one on Halloween. You may write your sentences below the pictures.



Name _____

Trick or Treating Safety

Before you go trick or treating this year, review the safety rules below, and follow them.



- Stay on the sidewalk. Don't run across lawns.
- Don't take shortcuts through unlit areas or alleys.
- Be certain you can see clearly if you wear a mask.
- Make sure that your costume fits properly.
- Never go inside a house where you're trick or treating.
- Wear or carry something that can be seen in the dark if you will be out after sunset (flashlight, light stick, reflective tape, glow bracelet).
- Stay away from jack-o'-lanterns with candles in them.
- Don't eat candy or other treats that aren't in their factory wrappings, or whose wrappings have been opened.
- If you're unsure about whether it's safe to eat a treat, ask an adult.